



**WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33**

Kristina Davis Ed.S., Superintendent
January 9, 2025, Board Briefs

Rita Balgeman, Board President
Morgan Banasiak, Board Vice President
Tom Doyle, Board Secretary
Chad McLean, Board Treasurer

Sandra Garcia, Board Member
Felicia Gills, Board Member
Janette Hernandez, Board Member

The Board of Education's regular meeting was held at Lemay Middle School on
Thursday, January 9, 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance

Rita Balgeman, Morgan Banasiak, Tom Doyle, Chad McLean, Sandra Garcia, and
Jannette Hernandez were present. Felicia Gills was absent.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

No changes were made.

Shared Agreements:

1. *Make decisions according to what is best for ALL District 33 students.*
2. *Respect staff and other board members and their opinions.*
3. *Be willing to see things from the eyes of seven (7) people, not just one (1).*
4. *Allow everyone to complete their thoughts.*
5. *Commit to shared leadership.*
6. *Respect confidentiality.*
7. *Adhere to our belief in our students' full potential and successful future.*

Strategic Plan Goals

Goal #1 – Student Growth and Achievement

Goal #2 – Learning Culture of Equity, Engagement & Agency

Goal #3 – Professional Culture of Teamwork & Continuous Improvement

Goal #4 – Family Engagement & Community Partnerships

Goal #5 - Effective and Innovative Use of Resources

Shared Agreements Reflection

At the July 18, 2013, meeting, the Board of Education finalized their “shared agreements” and agreed to begin each regular board meeting by reflecting on one agreement. The Board revised the shared agreements on November 6, 2014. The agreement's purpose is to help maintain a positive environment in which to conduct board work.

Board member Janette Hernandez shared her statement: “Good afternoon everyone,

I hope everyone started with a brand new positive perspective for this new year. Hello 2025! But I do want to reflect on 2024. One of our shared agreements is to Respect staff and other board members and their opinions. I really want to emphasize on the respect staff. I want to personally thank all of our amazing staff members who went above and beyond to help make the holidays just extra special. Some examples would be gift wrapping, playing games with students, dressing up, and being festive. You really help make the moment more magical. And it's not just in the holidays. It's being that "Good morning" or "Wow, I love your jacket" as they are getting out of the car or arriving from the bus. It's noticing that a student's attitude is off and asking them a simple "Are you okay." It's the cracking a joke when they see that a student is sad Or complimenting a student so the student can smile. The truth is we don't know how our students' mornings were before coming to school or how it is when they get home. So having an army of caring staff members, teachers, and administrators who truly understand the assignment WE RESPECT YOU, and WE THANK YOU!"

Recognition/Showcase/Presentation

Get Involved #D33 Raffle Winners

Get Involved, D33! is a districtwide initiative to encourage and recognize parent engagement in their children's education. We ask that parents check into events to collect participation data and recognize their commitment to their child's education.

Each trimester, we select three raffle winners: one from early childhood, one from elementary school, and one from middle school.

This trimester's winners are:

- Doreen Reyes from the Birth to Three Program
- Maria Leon from Indian Knoll Elementary School
- Antonia Arellano from Lemay Middle School

We thank our winners and all parents who participated in activities this trimester. You are your child's first and most important teacher, and we are happy to partner with you in their educational care.

Board Salutes

The Board Salutes will be a standing item on the agenda starting with the February 3, 2022, board meeting. The Board of Education would like to recognize individuals of the District 33 community - which includes all staff members, students, bus drivers, parents/guardians, and guardians - for actions that build a positive culture and climate in District 33. This "shout-out" will become part of the official Board minutes under Board Salutes on the bi-weekly agendas.

Salute to: Department for Partnerships Team & Community Partners

Submitted by: Sarah Norton, Director of Partnerships

"I would like to recognize the outstanding dedication and hard work of D33's Community School Administrators and Family Liaisons for making the holidays truly special for our students and their families. The Department of Partnerships team successfully coordinated and participated in six separate holiday gift and meal programs throughout November and December, ensuring that our families received support during this meaningful time of year.

Our exceptional Community School Administrators, Tiffany Posey and Penny Munoz led the effort by working directly with community partners to organize the logistics of these

programs. Their leadership and commitment were instrumental in making these initiatives a success. Additionally, the preschool through 8th grade Family Liaison team, including Martha Camarillo, Tanya Sierocuk, Gloria Cardenas, Natalie Cabral, Ricardo Dominguez, Luciana Poulterer, Maria Partida, Emely Garcia, Liz Soto, Nathaly Franco, and Maribel Rivera, played a crucial role in identifying and delivering gifts to students and their families with great care and efficiency. Thank you all for your tireless efforts and unwavering dedication.

Here are a few highlights from this year's distributions.

- 50 families received Thanksgiving meals in partnership with International Christian Fellowship Church
- WeGo Together for Kids provided 150 coats for students plus 150 for family members. FLs hand-delivered them.
- 130 hand-selected students received multiple gifts and stocking stuffers from the Humanitarian Service Project.
- 56 Pioneer preschool students received multiple presents, stocking stuffers, gift cards, and books from the Highland Hills Program
- 515 students received two gifts and stocking stuffers from Toys for Tots (150 Birth to 3 students, 365 PreK)
- 360 preschool students received gifts and new winter coats and gear from Mutual of Omaha Mortgage

In addition to these programs, our team connected families to other giving programs in the community, such as the annual Puente del Pueblo Christmas Store. I also want to recognize our amazing community partners' generosity and continued commitment to D33 students and families. Thank you all for making the holidays more magical for so many of our families.”

Salute to: The Pioneer Preschool Self-Contained Paraprofessional Team: Iza Orozco, Maria Cielo, Monica Alanis, Silvia Snell, Marisol Marquez, Maria Pacheco, Lupe Castillo

Submitted by: Jennifer Brackmann, Teacher, Pioneer Preschool

“The Pioneer Preschool self-contained paraprofessional team consistently goes above and beyond in their dedication to the students they support. In addition to assisting in their own classrooms, they also provide valuable support across other self-contained and general education classrooms within the preschool program. Each paraprofessional is fully aware of the unique plans for not only their own students but for those in other classrooms as well. The team is always ready to lend a helping hand, deeply invested in seeing every student succeed and treating them as their own. Our classrooms would not run as smoothly without their expertise and commitment, ensuring that students remain engaged, safe, and supported throughout the program.”

Presentation - 5 Essentials Pulse Survey Results

Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability, shared the pulse survey results that staff took in December 2024. The focus area is Effective Leaders. The broken-down data results were shared with building administrators, the Faculty Advisory Council, and the Classified Action Team. A total of 351 staff members responded to this survey. The 5 Essentials Survey will be open from February 28 to March 31, 2025, and will be offered to Certified and Classified staff, students in grades 4-8, and parents. Results will be brought to a future board meeting.

E.T.A.W.C. Statement

No E.T.A.W.C. statement at this time.

Public Comment

No public statement at this time.

Consent Agenda

The Board of Education conducted the following business on a consent agenda as follows:

- Approved the list of bills dated December 23, 2024, through January 9, 2025, in the amount of \$2,609,723.50;
- Approve the current imprest list from November 19, 2024, to December 31, 2024, in the amount of \$40;
- Approved the personnel report;
 - 0 Administration:
 - 0 Certified:
 - 3 Classified: Samantha Velazquez, Clerical Aide at Wegner, effective January 6, 2025; Diana Hernandez, Paraprofessional at Currier, effective January 6, 2025; Michael Webster, Network Engineer at ELC, effective January 1, 2025;
 - 3 Resignations: Odaly Medina, Family Engagement Specialist at Saint Michael's, effective January 3, 2025; Jennifer Rutkas, Assistant Director of Student Services at ESC, effective June 30, 2025; Jennifer Dalrymple, Assistant Principal at Turner, effective June 30, 2025;
 - 0 Retirements:
 - 1 Leave: Jennifer Wegloski, at LMS, effective January 10, 2025

Discussion of New /Ongoing Business with Possible Action

- *2025/2026 Student Fees* - The Board of Education received information on the 2025-2026 student fees to remain at \$50 K-8 Technology Fee and updated the sports fee to a \$50 one-time fee for unlimited sports. The Board will review and vote at the January 23, 2025 board meeting.
- *Center for Special Education Services Contract* - The Board voted to approve the contract with CSES Agency to fill one psychologist position for the 24-25 school year.
- *Finance/Facilities* - Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, reported that the district has received \$2,411,346 in Evidence-Based Funding, \$149,181.44 in the National School Lunch Program, and \$58,894.92 in the School Breakfast Program since the last board meeting.
- *Joint Annual Conference Presentation Topics* - Kristina Davis shared with the Board ideas for presentation topics for the 2025 IASB Joint Annual Conference. Specific topics will be brought to the March board meeting.
- *Middle School Soccer/Football Field* - Karen Apostoli shared with the board 3 different options for the Lemman soccer/football field. The 3 options include a

fenced-in field, a storage shed, and power installed. Option 1- grass soccer/football field (the field would be leveled, sodded, and striped and include a scoreboard). Work would likely be completed in the summer of 2025. Option 2- soccer/football field (field would be leveled, drainage, turf would be installed and striped). Refresh of the existing soccer practice field would be additional. Work would likely occur in the summer of 2026. Option 3- turf soccer/football field and track (field would be leveled, drainage and turf installed and striped). A track would surround the field. This option would eliminate the soccer practice field and create problems for multiple sports requiring a single field simultaneously. Work would likely occur in the summer of 2026. The Board will review the information and vote at the January 23, 2026 board meeting.

- *St. Andrew's Art Donation*—The Board voted to approve a \$2,500 donation (\$500 for each elementary school) from St. Andrew's Golf & Country Club in honor of the business's upcoming 100th anniversary. The donation would be for the art teachers and would have specific parameters.

Action Items

- *2025-2026 School Calendar* - The Board voted to approve the 2025-2026 school calendar.
- *2025-2026 Board of Education Meeting Dates* - The Board voted to approve the 2025-2026 Board meeting dates.
- *2nd reading of Board Policies* - The Board of Education voted to approve the board policies as follows: 2:105 - Ethics and Gift Ban; 2:120 - Board Member Development; 4:30 - Revenue and Investments; 4:60 - Purchases and Contracts; 4:150 - Facility Management and Building Programs; 4:170 - Safety; 5:10- Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment; 5:20- Workplace Harassment Prohibited; 5:90 - Abused and Neglected Child Reporting; 5:125 - Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct; 5:230 - Maintaining Student Discipline; 6:60 - Curriculum Content; 6:135 - Accelerated Placement Program; 6:270 - Guidance and Counseling Program; 7:10 - Equal Educational Opportunities; 7:100 - Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students; 7:160 - Student Appearance; 7:180 - Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment; and 7:200 - Suspension Procedures; 8:10 - Connection with the Community.

Information Items

The Board of Education received/reviewed/discussed the following informational items:

- Assistant Director/Director of Marketing, Communications, and Public Relations Search;
- Most current postings of available job positions are in School District 33.
- No suggested items at this time.
- Board outreach: Senator Villa and State Representative Hirschauer have received board salute invitations, which will be presented at the February 6, 2025, board meeting.
- Parking lot - A timeline for the book study was shared.

Report of District Committee Meetings.

- LEND update
- SASSED update
- No open comments at this time.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

The Board of Education members reviewed upcoming meetings and events.

Adjournment

The above review of action taken by the Board of Education at their regular meeting is provided in an attempt to keep you informed. If you have any questions regarding any of the information provided or wish to discuss any of the items, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,

Kristina Davis, Ed. S.

Kristina Davis,
Superintendent of Schools

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