



**WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33**

Kristina Davis Ed.S., Superintendent  
June 6, 2024, 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 regular meeting of the Board of Education was held at Lemay Middle School on Thursday,  
June 6, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance**

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

**Additions/Changes to the Agenda**

Janetter Hernandez was voted as secretary pro tem.  
Closed session was postponed.

**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 President Rita Balgeman shared her statement. “Tonight, I’d like to reflect upon our commitment to shared leadership. I like to think of us as a team. On a team, you don’t want everyone to have the same strengths or play the same role. Like a baseball team, you can’t have 9 pitchers. A team is composed of individuals who each bring their own strengths to the group, that compliment each other to ultimately make the whole better. As a board, I think that is how we share our leadership. We each bring our own strengths, but ultimately, it is all of us combined that are most effective.”

## **Recognition/Showcase/Presentation**

### **Superintendent for the Day - Wegner Elementary School**

On May 16, 2024, students Davianny H.B., Sandra F.S., and Adison F. participated in Superintendent for the Day. Adison shared that she learned Mrs. Davis asks questions to students, helps them be safe, and have fun while learning. Sandra shared that when she visited the classrooms, she noticed students were doing a good job in reading and math. Davianny was not able to attend the meeting.

### **D33 Pride Award Winners**

The #D33Pride Awards are given to individuals who have significantly impacted the students, staff, and families of the District 33 community.

Nominations are accepted and presented at the end of each trimester. The members of the Recognition Committee judge the nominations, and winners are selected in each category. All names are removed from the nominations before being given to the committee members for judging.

**A total of 24 nominations were submitted.**

#### **Winners:**

*Student #D33Pride Award PreK-1*

**Oliver O.**, a preschool student at ELC, was nominated by Laurel Bollenberg and Kristie Morrison.

*Student #D33Pride Award 4th-5th grade*

**Ahtziry G.**, a fifth-grade student at Turner School, was nominated by Callum Casey.

*Student #D33Pride Award 6th - 8th Grade*

**Max S.**, an eighth-grade student at Lemman Middle School, was nominated by Dr. Hannah Christie and Mr. Stephen Rogers.

*#D33Pride Award Classified Staff*

**Jennifer Rodriguez**, a preschool paraprofessional, was nominated by Jobeth Wilson, a preschool social worker.

*#D33Pride Award Certified Staff*

**Jacqui Zieche**, an art teacher at Currier School, was nominated by Kristine Mutchler and Doug Orlyk.

*#D33 Team Category*

**Anthony Hugelier and Carmela Getz**, Currier School administrative team, were nominated by Kristy Klich.

### **Showcase - Wegner School Showcase**

Mr. Tom Boyk, Instructional Technology Coach at Wegner, introduced Abby, Kamila, Calvin, and Joey. 4th grader Joey shared the collaboration and communication unit with the fishing challenge activity. Abby, a 1st grader, also shared the collaboration and communication unit with the sun, moon, and earth green screen. Calvin, a 3rd grader, shared the creativity unit with the weather report using a green screen activity. 5th-grade student Kamila shared the critical thinking unit with the floating field activity.

### **Presentation - School Goals and Benchmark**

Lea DeLuca, Director of Technology and Infrastructure, reviewed the past results, goals, and spring 2024 results. Building principals presented the fall baselines, winter and spring results in literacy, math MAP, ACCESS, and the culture strategy goals.

**Presentations - Literacy Resource Pilot**

Lea DeLuca, Director of Technology and Infrastructure, and Jenny Brunke, Lead Literacy Teacher, presented the literacy Resource Pilot of Amplify. Shared information included the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan, a timeline of the work, discussions in the Academic Leadership Council, and student data reports. Four companies provided a demo for their Spanish and English resources. The subject Area Committee utilized the Curriculum Resource Evaluation Tool as they took notes and asked questions. The Department of Teaching and Learning sent a survey to the Literacy Subject Area Committee to gather preliminary data on their first choice for literacy, and 52.6% chose Amplify. The pilot team will consist of 51 teachers in all grade levels, with representation from all five elementary schools. The structure with Amplify for the 24/25 school year would be utilized by the pilot teachers as the core literacy resource. Teachers who are not participating in the pilot will continue with the current resource as the control group. Student data will be tracked across all classrooms, and the results will be presented with a recommendation to the Board of Education in February 2025.

**E.T.A.W.C. Statement**

“Good evening as the 2023 2024 school year comes to an end, we wanted to share some changes and goals for the future. To begin with, we would like to thank the district for their time in collaboration during our three year term as ETAWC President and Vice President. Karen and myself will be stepping down at the end of the school year. Deb Taylor will continue to serve as president, and Kerry Duffy will serve as the new vice president. She is an SEL teacher at Indian Knoll and has been in the district for 24 years, and we know she’ll be an amazing asset to the union leadership team. In addition, we wanted to set a goal of continued collaboration and problem-solving, especially with the immense amount of support our staff and students need to feel safe and benefit from their educational experience. This year teachers receive Tier 1 behavior in academic support through various PD and coaching opportunities. However, there’s still much work to be done. As we have seen across the state, students are coming to school unable to regulate their emotions and express their wants and needs appropriately. We are looking forward to ongoing Tier 2 and Tier 3 training for staff and supporting, preventing, and de-escalating students in order for them to be actively involved in their education. The union has discussed with the district different styles of year-long training/cohort to support these goals. Our overall goal would be to align these trainings and educational sessions with the potential changes being discussed regarding Senate Bill 100. We know that from the continued support from our district's behavior specialist and the new district-wide MTSS/PBIS committee we can accomplish this goal together. Next year the union meetings and board statements will aim to present talking points and data to demonstrate our commitment and progress and achieve our goal. With the continued combined effort to ensure consistency and transparency, the union is looking forward to supporting our staff and district by discussing interventions and policies set forth by behavior specialists and the MTSS/PBIS committee to monitor the effectiveness of reliable and consistent implementation of the tier 2 and tier 3 strategies. We welcome and embrace the commitment the administrators have made to be present and supportive in the classrooms, and we look forward to achieving excellence together.”

**Public Comment**

No public comment at this time.

**Superintendent News**

The Superintendent News is to update the board and community on some of the many programs and activities occurring in the schools and the departments determined to help us accomplish the goals of the District Strategic Plan.

**[Wegner School Improvement Plan Goal #3: Staff Culture - Collaborative Teachers](#)**

At Wegner, we embrace a culture of collaboration and professional growth. We recognize that we have experts in our building and trust that they can develop a cohesive way to share their knowledge with their colleagues. We envision this system continuing to grow our incredible staff members into experts in many areas.

Before each monthly staff meeting, we send out a survey to our staff. In this survey, teachers share areas where they would like professional development or support. We use the survey results to build our agenda tailored directly to staff needs. The main portion of each Wegner staff meeting is set up in a rotation format. Multiple sessions are offered, leading to staff choice and opportunities for input and feedback. Some past rotations have included:

- Instructional coaches presenting a session on using UFLI as an intervention
- A pair of super-tech-savvy teachers presented two sessions- one on beginning CANVA skills and another on advanced CANVA skills.
- Our SEL Teacher- designed and implemented a staff and student positive messages bucket. This is placed in the back of her classroom for anyone having a bad day or just needing a “Pep Talk” (please enjoy yours!)

The options are endless, but we have learned that when we allow our staff to be the experts and share their knowledge, we build a more positive climate and culture, and naturally, teachers become more collaborative.

At Wegner, we believe in building our staff members and consider it a successful Professional Development rotation series when teachers do most of the talking.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

- Approved the list of bills dated May 20, 2024, through June 6, 2024, in the amount of \$983,875.25:
- Approve the contract renewal with the following vendors: Avantis and Bridges Math.
- Approved the personnel report:

#### **0 Administration:**

**6 Certified:** Sara Peace, Language Arts at LMS, effective 2024-2025 school year; Alexia Salzman, Dual Language Teacher at Turner, effective 2024-2025 school year; Jacob Kaufman, LBS1 at LMS, effective 2024-2025 school year; Stephanie Schmitt, Science Teacher at LMS, effective 2024-2025 school year; Moriah McRae, Kindergarten Teacher at Wegner, effective 2024-2025 school year; Jessa Mae Mendiola, Library Media Specialist at Wegner, effective 2024-2025 school year;

**7 Classified:** Andre Cargo, Paraprofessional at LMS, effective August 26, 2024; Camila Perezchica, Paraprofessional, effective 2024-2025 school year; Cynthia Bute, Library Aide at LMS, effective 2024-2025 school year; Andre Cargo, Temp Custodian at ESC, effective July 1, 2024; Andrew Apostoli, Temp Custodian at ESC, effective June 10, 2024; Alma Vargas, Family Liaison at B-3, effective August 5, 2024; Dulce Sosa De Herrera, Paraprofessional at IK, effective 2024-2025 school year;

**7 Resignations:** Evelyn Gallardo, Dual Language Teacher at Gary, effective June 11, 2024; Andre Cargo, Grounds and Maintenance at ESC, effective June 30, 2024; Robert Weis, Physical Education Teacher at LMS, effective end of the 2023-2024 school year; Laurel Bollenberg, Speech Language Pathologist Assistant at ELC, effective June 3, 2024; Heather Lucas, Paraprofessional at LMS, effective end of the 2023-2024 school year; Nicholas Duda, Exploratory Teacher, at LMS, effective June 11, 2024; Jessica Fitch, Paraprofessional at ELC, effective June 11, 2024;

**2 Retirement:** Laura Anderson, Library Media Specialist at Wegner, effective end of the 2023-2024 school year; Gayle Lasky, Reading Aide at Turner, effective end of the 2023-2024 school year;

**25 Teachers of Tomorrow at LMS:**

Dylan Aguilar, effective June 24, 2024 - July 25, 2024; Katherin Bertot Valdes, effective June 24, 2024 - July 25, 2024; Chase Carr, effective June 24, 2024 - July 25, 2024; Charlotte Conger, effective June 24, 2024 - July 25, 2024; Silas Gradl, effective June 24, 2024 - July 25, 2024; Alexis Granados, effective June 24, 2024 - July 25, 2024; Joseph Hayward, effective June 24, 2024 - July 25, 2024; Elmer Hernandez, effective June 24, 2024 - July 25, 2024; Zachary Kolode, effective June 24, 2024 - July 25, 2024; Weni Nemir (Koudi), effective June 24, 2024 - July 25, 2024; Chantal Martinez, effective June 24, 2024 - July 25, 2024; Zoë Marungo, effective June 24, 2024 - July 25, 2024; Evelyn Mondragon, effective June 24, 2024 - July 25, 2024; Geraldinne Murillo, effective June 24, 2024 - July 25, 2024; Nicholas Ojeda, effective June 24, 2024 - July 25, 2024; Oliver Ruiz, effective June 24, 2024 - July 25, 2024; Darielle Skinner, effective June 24, 2024 - July 25, 2024; Vaughn Smith, effective June 24, 2024 - July 25, 2024; Alyssa Apostoli, effective June 24, 2024 - July 25, 2024; Maya Boyd, effective June 24, 2024 - July 25, 2024; Sneha George, effective June 24, 2024 - July 25, 2024; Camila Perezchica, effective June 24, 2024 - July 25, 2024; Logan Bryson, effective June 24, 2024 - July 25, 2024; Amy Borja, effective June 24, 2024 - July 25, 2024; Jonathan Garcia, effective June 24, 2024 - July 25, 2024; 1 Termination: Maria Sanchez, Custodian at IK, effective June 6, 2024; 1 Job Abandonment: Emily Pliego, Temp Custodian at ESC, effective June 6, 2024; 1 Leave: Susan Sompolski, Preschool, effective 24-25 school year following 12 weeks of FMLA.

### **Discussion of New /Ongoing Business with Possible Action**

- *Consolidated District Plan* - Gloria Trejo, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, presented the Consolidated District Plan (CDP) for the 2024/2025 school year. The Board will review the information and vote at the June 20, 2024, board meeting.
- *District Website* - Gina Steinbrecher, Assistant Director of Communications and Community Relations, provided the board with information on the current website provider that will no longer receive updates and the proposed new provider (Finalsite) for a five-year contract. The board will review the information and vote at the June 20, 2024, board meeting.
- *Finance/Facilities* - Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, stated that the district had received \$1,200,907.00 for Evidence-Based Funding, \$3,596.72 for state Free Lunch & Breakfast, \$37,823.00 for Title I-School Improvement & Accountability, \$35,333.00 for Title II Teacher Quality, and \$11,826.00 in Other Federal Programs since the last board meeting.
- *IASB School Board Governance Recognition* - Kristina Davis and the Board continued discussing the school board's governance recognition application. They will review the final packet at the June 20, 2024, board meeting.
- *Elementary Literacy Pilot* - The Board voted to approve the Amplify pilot for the 24-25 school year.
- *Payment for Leman Athletic Officials* - Julie Odom, Assistant Director of Athletics and Activities, explained the current process for paying sports officials to the Board. Julie shared information about ArbiterPay, an online system that will streamline payment procedures to improve efficiency in managing athletic finances. The Board will review the information and vote at the June 20, 2024, board meeting.
- *Purchase of UPS Units* - The Board received information on Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS), a battery backup storage unit needed for each building. The Board will review the information and vote at the June 20, 2024 meeting.
- *1st Reading of Board Policies* - The Board reviewed the 1st reading of the policies as follows: Policy 7:60-Residence and Policy 5:30-Hiring Process and Criteria. The Board will review and vote at the June 20, 2024 meeting.

### **Action Items**

- *2nd Reading of Board Policies* - The Board voted to approve the 2nd reading of the policies as follows: Policy 2:40-Board Member Qualifications; Policy 2:260-Uniform Grievance

Procedure; Policy 2:265-Title IX Grievance Procedure; Policy 4:190-Targeted School Violence Prevention Program; Policy 5:10-Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment; Policy 5:20-Workplace Harassment Prohibited; Policy 5:300-Schedules and Employment Year; Policy 7:10-Equal Educational Opportunities; Policy 7-10E Exhibit- Equal Educational Opportunities Within the School Community; Policy 7:20-Harassment of Students Prohibited; Policy 7:18 -Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment; Policy 2:270-Discrimination and Harassment on the basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited; Policy 5:100-Staff Development Program; Policy 2:50-Board Member Term of Office; Policy 2:60-Board Member Removal from Office; Policy 2:140-Communication To and From the Board; Policy 2:140 E Exhibit-Guidance for Board Member Communication Including Email Use; Policy 4:20-Fund Balances; Policy 4:110-Transportation; Policy 5:35-Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act; Policy 5:40-Communicable and Chronic Infectious Diseases; and Policy 6:40-Curriculum Development.

- *Administrator Laptops and Desktops* - The Board voted to approve the lease of administrator laptops.
- *Juniper Upgrade* - The Board voted to approve the purchase of replacements for the out-of-date wireless access point system.

**Information Items**

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

- Most current postings of available job positions are in School District 33.
- No suggested items at this time.
- Board Outreach - Several Board members attended Bloomingfest, Janette attended Ballet Folklorico, and Rita attended the band, orchestra, and mariachi concerts.
- Parking lot - Karen Apostoli provided an update on the food procurement. Karen also provided an update on the Principal Advisory Committee and the ideas they presented at prior board meetings.

**Report of District Committee Meetings.**

- SASED update was provided.
- Open comments - A special recognition to Gloria Trejo, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, for her 23 years of service at District 33.

**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