



**WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33**

Kristina Davis Ed.S., Superintendent  
November 21, 2024, Board Briefs

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

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

The Board of Education's regular meeting was held at Lemay Middle School on Thursday, November 21, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance**

Mrs. Rita Balgeman, Mrs. Morgan Banasiak, Mr. Tom Doyle, Mr. Chad McLean, Mrs. Sandra Garcia, and Mrs. Janette Hernandez were present. Absent: Mrs. Felicia Gills.

**Changes or Additions**

The Baseline Communication Assessment Results Presentation has been 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 Treasurer Chad McLean shared his statement: “When considering my reflections

on our shared agreements, I went to Alma's handy digital blue folder of information and looked at the IASB school board members' code of conduct.

The first point of the code is to represent all district constituents. We are doing what is best for all students, being fiscally responsible by leveraging all available resources and abating taxes for our constituents.

We share leadership, see through the eyes of seven people, and abide by the majority vote. This covers several points in the code of conduct.

One of the aspects of the code of conduct that we do not explicitly have in shared agreements is continuous learning. We are following the code and preparing for more intensive learning at the Triple I conference this weekend. I appreciate when Kristina highlights some issues that alert and inform the board.

As a board, we had a great year with our School Board Governance Recognition. I am looking forward to continuing to work with this board.”

## **Recognition/Showcase/Presentation**

### ***Recognition***

#### ***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:** Jose Correa, Paraeducator, Indian Knoll

**Submitted by:** Robyn Kimmel, Music Teacher, Indian Knoll

“Mr. Jose truly goes above and beyond for all students at Indian Knoll. As a paraprofessional in a self-contained classroom, he supports his students and lends a hand throughout the school—whether in the hallway, at lunch, or during recess. His bilingual skills are invaluable for translating between students and teachers. Kind, patient, and respectful, Mr. Jose handles every interaction with care, even in challenging situations. Plus, he’s pursuing his teaching certification! We are incredibly fortunate to have him at Indian Knoll.”

#### ***School Board Member Appreciation 2024***

Tonight, we take a moment to honor and celebrate the invaluable contributions of our school board members Chad McLean, Rita Balgeman, Tom Doyle, Felicia Gills, Morgan Banaziak, Sandra Garcia, and Janette Hernandez. Our community elects these dedicated individuals to ensure that the aspirations and expectations for our children’s education are met. They are responsible for overseeing the prudent use of resources, preserving our district’s facilities, and setting a clear vision for educational excellence. School board members provide vital leadership, setting policies that guide our district and entrusting their implementation to our staff and administration. Their countless hours of service, given selflessly and without compensation, reflect their unwavering commitment to the success of every student in our schools.

The leadership of the District 33 Board of Education has been instrumental in fostering student success and maintaining the strength of our educational community. Their decisions not only impact the quality of education but also the safety and well-being of our neighborhoods, serving as a cornerstone of local democracy.

In recognition of their exemplary governance, the District 33 Board of Education has been honored with the School Board Governance Recognition from the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). District 33 is one of only 46 school districts in Illinois to receive this prestigious recognition, a testament to the board's effective governance practices and their commitment to continuous improvement. This recognition highlights the board's dedication to acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary for effective leadership, ensuring the district's ongoing success.

The district administrative team would like to thank the board for their leadership. Embracing the role of a public servant can be very difficult, and you have collectively kept the best interest of our students, staff, and families in mind with every decision you have made. Thank you for ensuring we have the resources and support to do our jobs and make difficult decisions.

As a small token of our appreciation, we hope you and your families will enjoy this holiday gift box.

#### **Presentation - ACCESS Scores**

Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability, presented the 2023-2024 ACCESS district scores. ACCESS is an assessment tool for monitoring and reporting English Learner's progress toward English language proficiency. It tests students' language in the four domains: listening comprehension, reading, speaking, and writing. The ACCESS test and AAPPL assessment also help prepare students to gain the Seal of Biliteracy in high school. A deeper understanding of proficiency levels, exit data, literacy goals, and action plans were also shared.

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

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

#### **Public Comment**

No public comment at this time.

#### **Consent Agenda**

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

- Approved the board meeting minutes of October 17, 2024, and November 7, 2024;
- Approve the contract renewals with the following vendors: IXL, Quaver Ed, and Mind Education-ST math.
- Approved the list of bills dated November 11, 2024, through November 21, 2024, in the amount of \$410,212.81;
- Approved payrolls of October 15, 2024, in the amount of \$1,887,277.15, and October 31, 2024, in the amount of \$1,901,864.00.
- Approved imprest account from October 28, 2024, to November 11, 2024, in the amount of \$185.00;

- Approved the disposition of the audio tape of the Board of Education's regular closed session dated April 20, 2023. Meetings that are at least 18 months old and meet the State criteria are disposed of;
- Approved the personnel report;
  - 0 Administration:
  - 2 Certified: Joanna Hernandez, Bilingual Preschool Teacher at Pioneer Preschool, effective January 6, 2025; Rachael Hendricks, Elementary Teacher at Wegner, effective January 6, 2025;
  - 2 Classified: Tanya Sierocuk, Family Liaison at Pioneer Preschool, effective December 2, 2024; Monica Morales, Paraprofessional at Wegner, effective December 2, 2024;
  - 0 Resignations:
  - 0 Leaves:
  - 3 Retirements: Salvador Tamayo, Exploratory Teacher at LMS, effective end of 2025-2026 School Year; Elizabeth Walrath, LBS1 at Wegner, effective end of 2025-2026 School Year; Karen Evans, Preschool Teacher at Pioneer Preschool, effective end of 2025-2026 School Year.

### **Financial Reports**

- The Board of Education reviewed the Treasurers' Report and Budget Report as of October 31, 2024, along with the financial charts;
- The Board of Education received a financial report from Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, stating that the district received \$1,205,673.00 in evidence-based funding since the last meeting.
- The Board of Education received a summary of each school's monthly activity accounts for October 31, 2024.

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

- *Birth to 3 Family Liaison Update* - Sarah Burnett, Director of Human Resources, provided information to the Board of Education on the current job title and description and the request to update the title to Family Engagement Specialist with a new job description. The board will review the information and vote at the December 5, 2024, board meeting.
- *Board Listening Posts* - The Board of Education discussed the proposed listening posts and the rotation in buildings based on the student showcase of the month once a month. The board listening posts will allow the community to engage with the Board of Education and district leaders. The attendees will include the board representative for that building, the board secretary, and the Superintendent. The rotation of the board meetings will begin at the first January board meeting.
- *Data Backup System* - Matt Ryan, Director of Technology, provided the Board of Education with information regarding the current backup system and purchasing a comprehensive backup system to safeguard essential system restoration. The board will review the information and vote at the December 5, 2024, board meeting.
- *December 2024 Levy* - The Board of Education voted to adopt the resolution of intent to levy taxes.

- *Property Tax Abatement* - The Board of Education abated property taxes for the past 6 years. In 2018, the abatement was \$700,00. In 2019, the abatement was \$714,417. In 2020, 2021 and 2022, the abatement was \$400,000. In 2023, the abatement was \$1,000,000. For 2018 and 2019, these amounts represented the CPI (inflation) of 2.1%. In 2020, the BOE abated a smaller amount to step down gradually and free up more dollars for potential Capital Projects. In 2021 and 2022, the BOE abated \$400,000 based on the estimated revenue from new construction. Because of the continuing impacts of high inflation, continuing with a property tax abatement of \$650,00 will provide some relief to local taxpayers during these difficult economic times. Whenever an abatement occurs and is then adjusted upward, downward, or eliminated, it can affect future years' extension amounts. The board will vote at the December 19, 2024 board meeting.

### **Action Items**

- *2nd reading of Policies* - The Board voted to approve the 2nd reading of the policies as follows: Policy 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure; Policy 5:100 Staff Development Program; Policy 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited; Policy 7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited; Policy 2:265 Title IX Grievance Procedure; Policy 5:140 Solicitations By Or From Staff; and Policy 7:140 Search and Seizure.
- *2025 Employee Health Benefits Renewal* - The board voted to approve the renewal of health, dental, and vision for the 2025 calendar year. The renewal increase rate is 3.96% for health insurance with BCBS, a 0% increase and a 4-year rate guarantee to move to BCBS Vision, and a 7.27% increase to move to MetLife Dental.
- *Participation in SASSED* - West Chicago District 33 has been a member of SASSED, School Association for Special Education in DuPage County, since 1982. Sherri Massa will continue to gather information and bring back information comparing SASSED and CASE in January.
- *ClearGov Budgeting Software* - The Board of Education voted to approve the purchase of ClearGov Budgeting Software. Building and district office administrators will use the software for operation budgeting (purchase of goods and services) and personnel budgeting (salaries and benefits).
- *Employee Appreciation and Retention Efforts* - The Board of Education voted to approve District 33's partnership with Access to provide employees with discounts at many places.
- *Skyward Migration* - The Board of Education voted to approve canceling the contract with Skyward to migrate from the current system (SMS) to Qmlativ.
- *Taxi Transportation* - The Board of Education voted to approve a contract with a new transportation company, Everdriven, for McKinney Vento students within District 33.
- *Proposed Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Resolutions for Consideration at the 2024 IASB Delegate Assembly* – The Board voted to approve Tom Doyle authority to vote on the IASB resolutions at the 2024 Delegate Assembly solely in accordance with the consensus of the West Chicago District 33 school board on November 23, 2024.

- *Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Constitutional Amendment for Consideration at the 2024 IASB Delegate Assembly - IASB constitutional amendment.*

### **Information Items**

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

- American Education Week
- Most current posting of available job positions in School District 33;
- Freedom of Information Report;
- Out of District placements;
- Short-term maternity leave report was shared;
- Student Chronic Absentee Report;
- Student Suspension Report;
- Truancy Referral Report;
- School Newsletters;
- No suggested items at this time.
- No Board outreach at this time.
- No parking lot at this time.

### **Report of District Committee Meetings**

- Board members were provided with the committee update slideshow.
- 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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