



**WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33**  
Kristina Davis Ed.S., Superintendent  
November 7, 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, November 7, 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**

The Board voted to approve Sandra Garcia as Pro Tem Secretary.

**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**

No shared agreement at this time.

## **Recognition/Showcase/Presentation**

### ***Indian Knoll Superintendent for the Day***

On October 30, 2024, students Leonardo P., Olivianna M., Angel G., and Gillian P. were superintendents for the Day at Indian Knoll. The students met with Mrs. Davis and observed several classrooms. Leonardo learned that the superintendent helps with changes when unexpected things happen. She is also responsible for strengthening the students while having fun and provides several resources to improve our district. Olivianna enjoyed listening to other students and liked hanging out with Mrs. Davis. She liked having her Superintendent shirt and wore it with pride while collecting data from the school. Angel learned more about Amplify and the challenges of teaching students. Gillian learned the superintendent is responsible for keeping everyone safe and spoke on the math core values. Superintendent Davis thanked the students and their parents, congratulated them on their amazing vocabulary, and looks forward to seeing what great leaders they will become.

### ***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.

**Board Salute Salute to:** Silvia Carrasco, Family Liaison, Birth to Three Program

**Submitted by:** Esther Romo-Ortiz, Family Liaison, Birth to Three Program

“I’d like to take a moment to give a heartfelt shout-out to Silvia Carrasco. She truly cares about our families, and many stay in touch even after leaving the program, highlighting the deep bonds she creates. Silvia is kind, understanding, and incredibly patient. She goes above and beyond to accommodate families she works with. In one instance, recognizing how much a particular family would benefit from the program, she met with them on Saturdays twice a month when weekdays were challenging for their schedule. She’s always ready to help the Birth to Three program implement strategies from the curriculum, and her dedication to our community is inspiring. With over 20 years of service, Silvia is an outstanding family liaison, and we are lucky to have her! Thank you, Silvia, for all that you do!”

### ***Showcase - Indian Knoll - Early Math Activities***

Brenda Silva, Technology Instructional Coach; Berenice Magana, second-grade teacher; second-grade students Jack S., Sawyer S., Sophia R.M., Julian G., Juan PNA, and Hannah G. presented Integrating Technology with Early Math. The school’s improvement plan goal is that by the spring of 2025, 62.3% of the students will be at or above the 50th percentile on the MAP math from a baseline of 55.7% from the spring of 2024. There are several technology tools and a variety of kits students can use. Ms. Silva highlighted the Math Wizard kit with the different objectives and skills. The students interacted with the administrators and board members and demonstrated how to measure the dragons precisely using a ruler.

### ***Presentation - Summative Designation***

Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability, presented the summative designation and school report card 2024. Mrs. Park shared the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 scores with an overall increase from fall to spring in literacy and math. Mrs. Park also

explained the difference between growth (measures the student's change in knowledge or skills over time) and proficiency (measures whether a student has mastered a common standard). Illinois assessments use both growth and proficiency to calculate summative designations, describing how well a school meets its students' needs. A summative designation comprises 75% academic indicators (such as ELA and math growth, ELA, math, science, and English learner proficiencies) and 25% school quality and student success indicators (such as chronic absenteeism and climate survey). All schools in District 33 are commendable. Mrs. Park also provided the improvement plans and district-wide action plans.

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

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

### **Public Comment**

James Murray, a West Chicago resident, addressed the Board of Education regarding the proposed Turner Elementary School parking lot and the roadway improvement project.

Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, also spoke regarding the November 6, 2024, zoning commission meeting. Karen, Fred Cadena (Director of Buildings and Grounds), Dan (civil engineer from RA Smith), and Criag with ARCON attended the meeting and acknowledged all the questions and concerns raised. The long-range facilities committee has started to work on addressing the concerns and will be posting updates on the district website.

### **Superintendent News: *Indian Knoll***

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.

#### **Goal #1: Student Growth and Achievement School Improvement Plan Goal**

By Spring 2025, 62.3% of students will be at or above the 50th percentile on MAP Math from a baseline of 55.7% in Spring 2024.

Indian Knoll strives to continue the great work in math this school year. Their focus this year is on implementing guided math with purpose and fidelity, honing in on the specific needs of their students to close the gaps, challenge their learning, and help the students meet their individual goals.

They have begun this year by studying the district-guided math checklist. Teachers completed a self-assessment using the checklist, and the Building Leadership team developed a professional development plan. Each month, they focus on one part of the guided math checklist to dig deeper into it through professional development.

The building strategy for guided math is implementing math talks. Math talks support students with problem-solving, flexible thinking, oracy, and explaining/justifying. Students then extend this to writing about math, identifying strategies, and explaining how they solved a problem. This practice will prepare them for the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) math test, which requires students to develop a written explanation demonstrating their understanding of grade-level math standards.

In a concerted effort to meet the math and culture goals, the teachers are working towards engaging in collaboration rounds focused on math. This will allow teachers to collaborate with their colleagues while also supporting the building implementation of the guided math framework. Mrs. DelToro is excited about the great work the IK teachers and staff are doing and looks forward to watching our Timberwolves grow.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

- Approved Imprest account from October 17, 2024, to October 30, 2024, in the amount of \$240.00;
- Approved the list of bills dated October 20, 2024, through November 7, 2024, in the amount of \$610,965.25;
- Approve the contract renewals with the following vendors: Chicago Arts Partnerships in Education (CAPE) and Youth Guidance;
- Approved the personnel report;

#### 0 Administration:

1 Certified: Laurel Lebo, Learning Behavior Specialist at Pioneer Preschool, effective November 1, 2024;

4 Classified: Genesis Zapata, Lunch Supervisor at Pioneer Preschool, effective October 28, 2024; Alma Garcia, Paraprofessional at IK, effective November 7, 2024; Diamond Jones, Systems Analyst at ELC, effective November 1, 2024; Honie Mills, Paraprofessional at Wegner, effective November 4, 2024;

5 Resignations: James Heinze, Paraprofessional at Wegner, effective October 25, 2024; Eduarda Bolitho, Reading Aide at Currier, effective October 25, 2024; Belitza Contreras-DeLeon, Family Liaison at Gary, effective November 1, 2024; Roben Magnaye, Elementary Teacher at Wegner, effective November 22, 2024; Katherine Fortuna, Library Aide at Currier, effective November 4, 2024;

#### 0 Retirement:

#### 0 Leaves:

\*Felicia Gills arrived at 7:41 p.m.

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

- *1st Reading of Policies* - The Board of Education reviewed the 1st 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. The board will review the policies and vote at the November 21, 2024, board meeting.
- *2025 Employee Health Benefits Renewal* - Karen Apolstoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, shared with the Board 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. The Board will vote at the November 21, 2024 board meeting.

- *Participation in SASED* - Sherri Massa, Director of Student Services, provided the board with the current contract SASED provides along with some challenges. West Chicago District 33 has been a member of SASED, School Association for Special Education in DuPage County, since 1982. Further discussion will continue at the November 21, 2024, meeting to include all board members.
- *Board Listening Posts* - The Board proposed a possible two-way communication with the public through listening post sessions. Further discussion will follow at the next board meeting to discuss the structure of this communication plan.
- *ClearGov Budgeting Software* - The Board of Education was provided with information on 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). The Board will review and vote at the November 21, 2024 board meeting.
- *Employee Appreciation and Retention Efforts* - The Board of Education was provided with subscription information to Access. To fill teacher vacancies and improve retention rates, District 33 would like to partner with Access to provide employees with discounts at many places. The Board will review the information and vote at the November 21, 2024 board meeting.
- *Finance/Facilities* - Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, stated that the district has received \$48,343.00 in Federal Social Education IDEA Flow Through and \$8,720.00 in other Federal Programs since the last board meeting.
- *Skyward Migration* - The Board of Education was provided information on canceling the contract with Skyward to migrate from the current system (SMS) to Qmlativ. The Board will review the information and vote at the November 21, 2024 board meeting.
- *Taxi Transportation* - The Board of Education was provided with a new transportation company, Everdriven, for McKinney Vento students within District 33. Karen Apostoli will bring back further information and contracts for the Board to review. The Board will review the information and vote at the November 21, 2024 board meeting.

### **Action Items**

- Appointment of District 33 Delegate to the 2024 IASB Delegate Assembly- The Board approved Tom Doyle as District 33 delegate to the 2024 IASB delegate assembly.
- Proposed Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Resolutions for Consideration at the 2024 IASB Delegate Assembly - Kristina Davis and the Board of Education discussed all of the proposed resolutions. Further discussion and voting will occur on the November 21, 2024 board meeting.
- Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Constitutional Amendment for Consideration at the 2024 IASB Delegate Assembly - Kristina Davis and the Board of Education discussed the constitutional amendment proposed. Further discussion and voting will occur at the November 21, 2024 board meeting.

### **Information Items**

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

- IEP and 504 Comparisons
- D33 Joint Annual Conference Presentation
- Veterans' Day
- Most current postings of available job positions are in School District 33.
- No suggested items at this time.
- Board outreach - Morgan Banasiak attended the GPAC (Gifted Parent Advisory Committee) meeting.
- No parking lot at this time.

**Report of District Committee Meetings.**

- Open comments - Rita Balgeman commented on Wegner's Potato Olympics, which her son was a part of.

**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

ag