



**WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33**  
Kristina Davis Ed.S., Superintendent  
October 3, 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, October 3, 2024, 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**

Item XVI. A - there will be no action after closed session.

**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*****Showcase - Early Literacy Activities***

Birth to 3 Supervisor Katey Baldassano presented the Early Literacy Activities to the Board of Education. The presentation included a video of several home visits, the importance of reading to babies at an early age, and feedback from Mrs. Proa about her daughter Kim. Early literacy helps to nourish a positive interaction with children and books. Two books are given each month to families, along with activities for the month. Parents and babies are encouraged to read books in different ways and create their own stories. Birth to 3 also hosts several events for families to attend throughout the year.

***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:** The D33 Tech Team

**Submitted by:** Matt Ryan, Director of Technology

“Today, I’m honored to take a moment to recognize the incredible work and dedication of our Tech Department. The D33 Tech Team consists of Daisy Fernandez, Debra Foreman, Debbie Fouts, Eddie Fuentes, Emmanuel Ortiz, Raymond Snowden, Leo Toxtel, and Michael Webster. In our ever-evolving landscape, the tech team has been the backbone of our success, navigating challenges with expertise and innovation. Their work every day, especially during the summer and the start of the school year, has been nothing short of outstanding. From solving complex problems to implementing cutting-edge solutions, they’ve demonstrated a level of skill and commitment that truly sets them apart. It’s not just about the big wins, though. The countless hours of troubleshooting, the seamless integration of new systems and equipment, and the constant support they provide have a profound impact on our daily operations. Their resilience, creativity, and collaborative spirit are key reasons we continue to thrive. These accomplishments are a testament to their hard work and ingenuity. But beyond the tangible results, it’s the dedication and passion of each member that truly makes a difference. The D33 Tech Department exemplifies what it means to be a committed and collaborative team. To the entire team: thank you. Your efforts do not go unnoticed. Your skills are critical to our success, and we are incredibly grateful for everything you do. Let’s continue to push the boundaries of what’s possible and keep driving forward with the same enthusiasm and excellence. Please join me in giving a round of applause to the Tech Department for their outstanding contributions and unwavering dedication.”

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

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

**Public Comment**

No public comment at this time.

### **Superintendent News: *Birth to 3***

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 Literacy**

In Birth to 3, we look forward to another great year with our young students and families. We are excited about the District's focus on oracy and how Birth to 3 Staff will help lay the foundation for hundreds of students attending D33 schools one day. It is our privilege to partner with parents in their role as a child's first, best, and most important teacher. We wanted to highlight some key strategies to continue to embed early literacy skills into every aspect of our work with families.

- West Chicago Library Partnership - We partner with the library for a weekly storytime group for families. Last year, we had over 200 attendees to Library Groups. The program uses grant funds to purchase a copy of the book for each family member who attends the group. We also offer monthly meet-ups at the Story Walk. Families attending the story walk also received a copy of the book. These are 2 ways we increase the number of age-appropriate books in the homes of our families.
- Activity Bags - Our Program distributed over 800 Activity Bags last year. These were curated bags of materials designed to promote parent-child interaction. This year, we plan to continue those bags and include items that promote storytelling and oral language.
- Events and Field Trips - This year, we plan to host a January and May Reading Celebration. We will recognize families for their reading efforts through our book-tracking program. Last year, we recognized multiple families who had read over 1500 books with their children during the 23-24 school year. Our Winter Reading Celebration will include activities aligned with a book, and all families will receive a copy of the book.  
We also have scheduled a yoga and literacy parent group as well as a music concert with a bilingual storyteller and musician to support parents using books and story telling in different ways. Of course, parents will go home with a yoga book and a music-themed book as well.
- Reading Program - The Birth to 3 gave families over 4000 books last year. Enrolled families will have the opportunity to pick 2 books each month. Unique to our Program is that we let families choose the types of books they think their child will like best. This means they pick the language and the type of book- the voice of the child and the parent is the priority. We use these books to help increase reading frequency, support parents in developing reading behaviors with their child such as asking questions, and support parent-child interactions during visits.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

- Approved the list of bills dated September 23, 2024, through October 3, 2024, in the amount of \$1,547,723.18:
- Approved the personnel report:  
0 Administration:  
0 Certified:

0 Classified:

2 Resignations: Jennifer Rodriguez, Family Liaison at Pioneer Preschool, effective October 11, 2024; Daisy Fernandez, Systems Analyst at Lemay Middle School, effective October 18, 2024

0 Retirement:0 Leaves:

- Approve the contract renewal with the following vendors: US Games-Fitness Gram and 7 Mindsets.

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

- *Finance/Facilities* - Karen Apostoli, Director of Business and Operations, stated that the district has received \$199,490.00 in Title I Low Income; \$62,169.00 in Title I - School Improvement and Accountability; \$400.00 in Title IVA - Student Support and Academic Enrichment; \$29,922.00 in Title IV - 21st Century Community Learning Centers; \$3,127.00 in Fed. Sp Education IDEA Flow Through; \$3,853.00 in Title III - Immigrant Education Program IEP; \$13,177.00 in Title III - Language Inst. Program Limited English LIPLP; \$15,188.00 in Title II- Teacher Quality; and \$514,934.00 in Other Federal Programs since the last board meeting.

**Action Items**

- *Equipment Disposal* - The Board approved the disposal at Indian Knoll of 1 broken chair, 4 2-drawer file cabinets, 4 metal bookshelves, 2 wooden teacher desks, 2 metal teacher desks, 2 wooden bookshelves, 10 4-drawer file cabinets, 2 sling bookshelves, 1 broken cube chair, 2 student privacy desks, 3 rolling red carts, and 1 rolling metal cart. At Pioneer, 30 child chairs, 118 adult chairs, 30 medium chairs for older primary, 13 rolling cabinets, 3 short file cabinets, 9 tall file cabinets, 2 round tables, 4 student desks, 1 rolling library cabinet, 2 teacher desks, 15 long tables, 2 small shelving units, 6 large shelving units, 1 child oven unit, 1 large rolling cabinet, 17 short stools, 2 desk toppers, and 2 easels. At Turner, 1 2-tier wooden bookshelf, 6 student desks, 1 plug-in wall fan, 1 2-drawer file cabinet, 1 wood teacher desk, 2 metal teacher desks, 1 SEL skeleton/wheel attachment, 5 tall wooden bookcases, 7 gray dividers/partitions, and 1 wooden bookshelf.
- *Wrestling Mat Donations* - The Board approved donating old LMS wrestling mats to Benjamin Middle School.

**Information Items**

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

- Bullying prevention month activities across the district.
- Curriculum night attendance.
- Most current postings of available job positions are in School District 33.
- No suggested items at this time.
- Board outreach - Chad attended the first BTAGG meeting.
- No parking lot at this time.

**Report of District Committee Meetings.**

- LEND update was provided.
- SASED update was provided.
- Open comments - Tom Doyle, “To Katey Baldassano’s presentation - we are fortunate to have this program and to have people running it. We appreciate all you do. We are one of a few districts to have the program.”

**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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