



**WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33**

Kristina Davis Ed.S., Superintendent
June 15, 2023, Board Briefs

Rita Balgeman, Board President
Felicia Gills, Board Vice President
Tom Doyle, Board Secretary
Janette Hernandez, Board Member

Chad McLean, Board Member
Morgan Banasiak, Board Member
Sandra Garcia, Board Member

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held at Leman Middle School on Thursday,
June 15, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance

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

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 purpose of the shared agreement is to help maintain a positive environment in which to conduct board work. Board Secretary, Tom Doyle, shared his agreement.

No shared agreement was read at this meeting.

Recognition/Showcase/Presentation

Recognition

Word Masters Recognition

This year’s Gary fifth graders GATE students did an outstanding job and placed tenth in the nation in their division in the WordMasters Challenge, a national vocabulary competition that involves around 125,000 students annually. Throughout the year, the students studied and learned seventy-five new words and then demonstrated their understanding of the words through a series of tests consisting entirely of analogies!

Este año, los estudiantes de quinto grado de lectura de GATE han tenido la oportunidad de participar en World Masters Challenge, una competencia nacional de vocabulario en la que participan alrededor de 125,000 estudiantes cada año. Durante el año, los estudiantes estudiaron y aprendieron setenta y cinco palabras nuevas y luego demostraron su comprensión de las palabras a través de una serie de pruebas que consistían de analogías. Los estudiantes de quinto grado de Gary de este año hicieron un trabajo maravilloso y quedaron décimos en toda la nación en su división. ¡Este logro fue un esfuerzo de equipo y estoy muy orgullosa de todos!

The following students were a part of the team competition:

Los siguientes estudiantes quienes participaron en esta competencia:

Sven Axel Abasolo Holm, Yali Bovey, Kaylee Case, Ashley Castillo, Audrey Erickson, Alexa Gonzalez, Andy Huerta, Ian Hurtado, Addoline Kettering, Harrison Lara, Sheppard Littrell, Layla Martin, Samuel Morales, Zeke Odom, Theodore Penney, Nolan Sampson, Isabella Sumano, Anna Szacilowski, Alan Villafuerte, Livia Williamson, Sarah Wimbish.

Additionally, there were students who individually achieved a perfect score or near-perfect score on one of the tests. *Además, había algunos estudiantes que consiguieron una puntuación perfecta o casi perfecta en uno de los exámenes.*

Perfect Score of 20

Zeke Odom - Gary School

Theo Penney - Gary School

Kaylee Case - Gary School

Anna Szacilowski - Gary School

Near Perfect Score of 19

Sheppard Littrell - Gary School

Layla Martin - Gary School

Livia Williamson - Gary School

Sven Axel Abasolo Holm - Gary School

Leonardo Zavala - Turner School

Gideon Carroll Wegner School

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: John Haffner, Executive Director of Business and Operations

Submitted by: Karen Apostoli, Director of Business and Operations, ESC

“John Haffner began his administrative career with District 33 in January of 2013, and before that, served as a Board of Education member for 2 years. During his time with District 33, his focus has always been on providing opportunities and experiences that support our students’ learning. Through careful management of district finances, John has been able to support Board decisions to:

- remodel existing libraries and computer labs into stunning innovation centers providing relevant technology that supports learning,
- redesign the entranceway to each building in order to provide a layered entrance that increases security for students and staff,
- Increase the footprint of the Gary School office to meet the growing needs,

- Redesign the playgrounds at every school, including fencing
- And many, many more projects without borrowing money.

In addition to his dedication to the students of District 33, John has been an incredible mentor during my transition into this new role. He has taught me the specifics of this role, including the budget, the levy, the audits, and the many, many state reporting requirements. John has guided me through the role of the Chief School Business Officer in three separate collective bargaining agreements. Throughout the last two years, John has demonstrated patience, grace, and wisdom at the highest level. Patience while I learned a new concept or asked literally thousands of questions. Grace, when I made a mistake on something. And wisdom in sharing his experiences and suggestions for balancing such an important position and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. I can't thank the Board enough for allowing me the opportunity to learn this new role from an incredible mentor. John, there aren't enough words to thank you for the support, guidance, and wisdom you've shared with me these past two years. John often repeated that he "wanted to leave the District in a better place than when he arrived." I can confidently say that you have reached your goal, John. Thank you for all you've done for me and for the students and staff in District 33. We wish you a happy and healthy retirement. Cherish every moment of this time and revel in this new stage of your life."

Presentations

Department Goals

Directors from each department; Teaching & Learning, Student Services, Partnerships, Technology, Communications, Human Resources, Business & Operations, and Facilities shared their annual Department Goals Update results with the Board of Education.

Technology Update

Lea DeLuca, Director of Instructional Technology and Innovation, presented the Technology Update of the accomplishments and future goals.

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 May 18, 2023, and June 1, 2023;
- Approve the contract renewal with the following vendors: Studer Education, BrainPop, Newsela, Discovery Education, ProQuest LLC, Seesaw, NWEA, Mystery Science, AVID, Book Creator, BAM, Committee for Children, EllevationPlatform, Formative, The Forge, Music First, Finals+Blackboard, Frontline, PowerSchool, Pear Deck, Worldbook Online, and Kami;
- Approved the list of bills dated May 16, 2023, through June 15, 2023, in the amount of \$1,750,340.78;
- Approved payrolls of May 15, 2023, in the amount of \$1,967,317.87, and May 31, 2023, in the amount of \$1,949,901.90;
- Approved imprest account from May 11, 2023, to June 7, 2023, in the amount of \$405.00;
- Approved the disposition of the audio tape of the Board of Education's regular closed session dated December 2, 2021. Meetings that are at least 18 months old, and meet the State criteria, are disposed of;
- Approved the personnel report:
 - 3 Administration: Carmela Getz, Assistant Principal at Currier, effective July 1, 2023;
 - Matthew Ryan, Assistant Director of Technology and Infrastructure at ESC, effective July

1, 2023; Jennifer Rutkas, Assistant Director of Preschool Programming at ESC, effective July 1, 2023;

8 Certified: Jenna Spaniol, Self-Contained LBS1 at IK, effective 23-24 School Year; Perla Benitez, Preschool Teacher at Winfield, effective 23-24 School Year; Christian Rivera, World Language Teacher at LMS, effective 23-24 School Year; Carol Fisher, Self-Contained Preschool Teacher at ELC, effective 23-24 School Year; Karoline Giza, Language Arts Teacher at LMS, effective 23-24 School Year; Denisse Murillo, Social Worker at Indian Knoll, effective 23-24 School Year; Aranza Sparks, Dual Language Teacher at Turner, effective 23-24 School Year; Lisa Duewel, Enriched Science/Social Studies Teacher at LMS, effective 23-24 School Year;

3 Classified: Daniel Guzman, Temporary Custodian at ESC, effective June 12, 2023; Tanya Sierocuk, Clerical Aide at Pre K/Pioneer, effective 23-24 School Year; Sandra Ramirez Clerical Aide at Turner, effective 23-24 School Year;

13 Resignations: Fabian Diaz, Head Grounds at ESC, effective June 2, 2023; Joanna Brumbaugh, General Education Teacher at Pioneer, effective end of the Year 2022-2023; Laurel Bollenberg, Speech Language Pathologist Assistant at ELC, effective June 2, 2023; Ana Maria Cefaratti De Prieto, Paraprofessional at ELC, effective end of the Year 2022-2023; Keara Sheahan, LBS1 at IK, effective end of the Year 2022-2023; Ruben Nino, Dual Language Arts at LMS, effective end of the Year 2022-2023; Marcia Williams Social Worker at IK, effective end of the Year 2022-2023; Christina Alagna, Dual Language Teacher at Turner, effective end of the Year 2022-2023; Rebecca Camargo-Diaz, Dual Language Arts Teacher at LMS, effective end of the Year 2022-2023; Nancy Vivaldo, LBS1 at Pioneer, effective end of the Year 2022-2023; Kelly Konstant, LBS1 at Pioneer, effective end of the Year 2022-2023; Ellen Uhlir, Speech Language Pathologist at LMS, effective end of the Year 2022-2023; Oksana Paihr, Paraprofessional at Trinity, effective end of the Year 2022-2023;

0 Position Change:

0 Leave:

0 Retirement:

Financial Reports

- The Board of Education reviewed the Treasurers' Report and Budget Report as of May 30, 2023, along with the financial charts;
- The Board of Education received a financial report from Karen Apostoli, Director of Business and Operations, stating that since the last meeting, the District received \$1,188,210.00 payment for Evidence-Based Funding, \$107,639.70 in the National Breakfast Program, and \$220,400.78 for National School Lunch Program;
- The Board of Education received a summary of each school's monthly activity accounts as of May 31, 2023.

Discussion of New /Ongoing Business with Possible Action

- *Presentation follow-up* - No presentation follow-up at this time.
- *23/24 Calendar Amendment* - The Board voted to approve the amendment for the 23/24 school year.
- *AAPPL Assessment* - The Board voted to approve using the AAPPL test to assess listening, speaking, reading, and writing annually for all students in the dual language program.
- *Curriculum Night Schedule* - The Board was provided with the 23/24 curriculum schedule.
- *Treasurer's Bond & Appointment* - The board voted to approve Chad McLean as the appointed School Treasurer.
- *Smart Board Equipment* - The Board voted to approve keeping 7 SMART Boards from the previous D33 pre-k classrooms at Winfield for them to utilize moving forward.

Action Items

- *2023-2024 Tentative Budget* - The Board voted to approve adopting the Tentative Budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

- The Board voted to approve releasing the close session minutes of February 20, 2020, March 18, 2021, and May 20, 2021.
- The Board approved the Resolution for the Continuous Use of Mobile Classrooms.
- The Board approved the resolution for the Hazardous Bussing 2023/24 school year.
- The Board approved the Transfer of Working Cash Interest.

Information Items

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

- Most current posting of available job positions in School District 33;
- Freedom of Information Act Report noting there were 2 new requests since the last board meeting;
- Out of District placement of Students with Disabilities report stating that 27 special education students and 5 general education students have been placed out of district as of June 15, 2023;
- Short-term maternity leave report was shared;
- Student Chronic Absentee Report from May 18, 2023, to June 7, 2023, which showed the percentage of students chronically absent district-wide to be at 24.2%;
- Student Suspension Report for May 2023, indicating 19 out-of-school suspensions, 26 in-school suspensions, and 0 Bus suspensions;
- Truancy Referral Report of May 2023 indicating 0 new students were referred to the ROE, and 24 students continue to be listed on the ROE truancy referral report;
- The Board of Education was provided with the School newsletters from the buildings;
- No suggested items at this time.
- Several board members attended the kinder, 5th-grade, and 8th-grade promotions.
- No parking lot at this time.

Report of District Committee Meetings

- Rita Balgeman wished everyone a happy summer vacation.

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