



**WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33**

Kristina Davis Ed.S., Superintendent
May 18, 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,
May 18, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance

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

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Under IV. - No shared agreement in the absence of Board Member Sandra Garcia.
Under V.- Pioneer Superintendent for the Day has been postponed to the following meeting.
Under V.A. - An addition for Track and Soccer recognition.
V.C. - Board Salutes will be moved to V.D. after presentations.

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

D33 Pride Awards

The #D33Pride Awards are given to individuals who have made a significant impact on 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 Staff Recognition Committee judge the nominations, and one winner is selected in each category. All names are removed from the nominations before being given to the committee members for judging.

While only one winner is selected in each category, the committee feels it is important to recognize all nominated individuals. **Nominations were open for classified staff, certified staff, students, and volunteers/parents. A total of 13 individuals were nominated.**

This trimester's nominees were:

Certified Staff

Jeannette Hernandez
Angeles Godoy
Gianna DeLuca
Matthew Mordini
Rose Nino
Carmela Getz

Classified Staff

Belitza Contreras DeLeon
Maria Hernandez
Robert Vandermolen
Roy Rodriguez
Sabrina Williams

Certified Winner

Awardee: Anna Leuer, Certified Staff

Nominated by: Suzan Avila, Teacher, Currier Elementary School

Positive Impact through leadership.

Mrs. Anna Leuer has positively impacted the members of the District 33 community through her leadership in many ways. She has served on several district committees over the years. She was the chair of the Sunshine Committee of ETAWC for several years. She has taken it upon herself to help model leadership by having student-council-type meetings with 5th-grade students at Currier. Several years ago, she earned her Type-75 administrator's certificate, and for a while, she had the role of being the appointed "emergency" administrator in case the current principal was out of the building (this was before each building had an assistant principal). Anna was considered such a capable leader. She was chosen by district administrators to be part of the Incident Command Team. During the years that the 5th grade participated in outdoor education at Camp Duncan, she facilitated organizing the activities the students participated in. She is the unofficial "leader" of our 5th-grade team by being the initiator of ideas for our PLT agenda, team newsletter, pacing discussions, assessment analyses, assemblies/field trips, and conversations about classroom management, among others.

Positive impact through caring, kindness, and enthusiasm.

Anna has positively impacted the members of the District 33 community through caring, kindness, and enthusiasm in various ways. First, she has a constant smile and positive attitude every day, which is contagious for the people around her—both students and adults. While a chair of the Sunshine committee, she provided many D33 staff with get-well cards, bereavement plants, congratulatory notes, and small gifts on the birth of babies or the celebration of marriages. To this day, she often brings home-baked goodies as gifts for Currier staff for no reason other than to spread good cheer. She very often buys items for her students such as water bottles, sunglasses, desk organizers, and school supplies, as well as other gifts as rewards or to celebrate holidays. She volunteered to lead an after-school yoga class for staff to help them reduce stress and promote good health. She often brings unexpected treats or snacks to team meetings. She shows caring for the environment by taking her students out to pick up trash on Earth Day each year, participating in stewardship activities with the Mighty Acorns program, raising and releasing monarch butterflies with her class, and having her students plant seeds and care for their growing plants in the classroom. She has also volunteered for the food pantry and homeless shelter that serves the District 33 community. She is always one of the first to introduce herself to new staff members and ask how she can help them acclimate to Currier. These activities demonstrate her enthusiasm for the community in which she lives and works.

Positive Impact through dedication and devotion.

Anna has shown dedication and devotion to the D33 community throughout her 30-year career here. She has stepped up for bus duty and participated as a SAC committee member over the years, dedicating many hours after school and several weeks during the summer writing curriculum. She often invited community leaders into her classroom to share their knowledge and motivate her students, including Mayor Ruben Pineda, Illinois Representative Karina Villa, and former students now members of the military, among many others. She has demonstrated great devotion to her profession over the years by taking countless student teachers under her wing to nurture the next generation of educators. She has also shown dedication to improving her teaching and further enriching her students' experience by participating in about 12 week-long workshops during the summer through the National Endowment for the Humanities. Due to her longevity in West Chicago, she has had several children of ex-students in her class. In all the examples listed above, I believe her dedication and devotion to the students and staff of District 33 are obvious.

Classified Winner

Awardee: Teresa Ocon-Olhagaray, Classified Staff

Nominated by: Natalie Cabral, Lizzette Soto, Nathaly Franco, Belitza Contreras-DeLeon - Family Liaisons

Positive Impact through leadership.

In our team, Teresa is someone we all look up to and seek out for support when dealing with tough cases. Teresa always looks for the best interest of our team and has open communication with all of us. She works hard to build trusting and impactful relationships with all the parents and students she works with. This year she has taken on the role of organizing and handling the childcare for all of our community school events, such as the ESL classes at Currier as well as all the monthly parent cafes. Teresa is an amazing liaison that has helped so many families in need and crisis. Teresa shows lots of compassion and dedication to her family, school, and team. Teresa is always willing to take the lead in case any member of the Family Liaisons team can't complete his/her tasks and make sure things keep flowing, and tasks are completed as expected.

Positive impact through caring, kindness, and enthusiasm.

As a family liaison, she has always gone above and beyond. She had a family in crisis that was unable to pay for gas for her son's doctor appointments that were needed, and transportation reimbursement had not yet been given to us as an option. She anonymously donated to the

family gas cards. She also paid for a gift card to be raffled for her parent cafe. She is always very caring toward her families and goes the extra mile for many of these families. Teresa displays a kind and understanding disposition when working with the families and D33 staff. She has volunteered to help in the main office at Turner, monitor students at arrival/dismissal, and has been at the majority of the parent cafes that happen twice a month every month. Teresa is compassionate and supports families and staff who might be passing through difficult situations. She consults with administrators and the members of the Family Liaisons team to make sure all the resources are exhausted to help those individuals overcome barriers.

Positive Impact through dedication and devotion.

Teresa, on multiple occasions, has volunteered to host more than one parent cafe due to having new staff members. This year she also took on the childcare logistics for our team. This is something that the coordinators usually do. She handled all of their hours to ensure they were getting paid, taking care of having child care at all of our events for this school year, and even paying for a childcare appreciation gift for our childcare employees.

Student Recognition

Maggie Lay, Principal at LMS, shared with the board track and soccer news.

LMS girls' soccer won the IPAC conference championship, beating Hadley Middle School 2-0. They were undefeated this year, just like last year!

The track has nine students headed to the IESA state competition.

Those students are 8th grader Miguel B, who took 1st place in the 400m and 800m runs. He will compete in both events!

7th grade 4x100 relay team of Kadin A., Obi C., Gus Z., and Micah S., 3rd place and state qualifiers!

8th grade 4x100 relay team of Cesar M., Miguel B., Noah C., and Aiden N, who also took third and qualified to compete!

7th grader Obi C., who took first place in both the 100m and 200m races, he'll compete in both of these in Peoria!

8th grader Isaiah S. won second place in the 110m hurdles and will head downstate!

8th grader Noah C. and 7th grader Gus Z. will compete in the high jump. Noah was the sectional champion in this event!

Pioneer School Superintendent for the Day

Postponed to the June 1, 2023, meeting.

Showcase

Language Arts Showcase

Mrs. Rocha presented "7th Grade DLA Passion Projects" to the board. During 2nd trimester, students in Mrs. Rocha's 7th grade accelerated dual language arts participated in passion projects. Students researched any topic of their choice. Their research ranged from traditional online search engines, in-person interviews, and surveying the entire school. The students learned valuable information about their topic, research skills, and inquiry. Students had a voice and choice in how they tackled their topic's research and presented their report. Students Leah A., Silas G., Lincoln S., Harold M., Gilberto C., and Jennifer S. partnered with administrators and board members and presented their project topics.

Pioneer Showcase

4th Grade Dual Language Teacher, Vanessa Gorgas, presented the Pioneer School ARC Unit: Historical Fiction. "I wanted to have the students really understand all the parts that go into historical fiction (i.e., character analysis, the importance of setting, and how to turn an actual event from history into a story, etc.), and I thought the best way to do that was through a book study. I read the class a very age-appropriate book about the Holocaust called Number the Stars. We read a chapter a day with a different focus until each focus became a natural conversation. I

have never seen a group of students SO excited about a read-aloud. They were annoyed when the chapter was over. We had AMAZING in-depth conversations about characters and why characters possessed certain traits using evidence from the book. We then watched the movie *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* (with parent permission) to not only see the historical event but also to see how the creator used their own fictional creativity within a real-time period. We compared and contrasted the book to the movie. When we finished the book, their task was to write their own historical fiction book, using all the skills we learned along the way. When they turned them in, and I simply read their titles, I was already impressed. The creativity and understanding of historical fiction blew me away. I have invited students to share their stories with you today. I hope you enjoy them as much as I did.” Students partnered up with Board and Administrators to demonstrate their projects.

Presentation

Principals’ Advisory Committee - Leman Middle School Students.

Maggie Lay, Principal at LMS, and several PAC students presented the board with the final school year update. Students shared some of the things they would like adults to help them improve, such as food, safety, and time. They still need to continue to work on several projects next year.

ISBE’s Targeted Group School Improvement Plan

Maggie Lay, Principal at LMS, and Beth Walrath, Director of Assessment and Accountability, presented the Targeted Group Improvement Plan to the board. They spoke about the Black/African American student group’s performance and specific concerns in growth and proficiency on the IAR in math and reading and chronic absenteeism. They shared the improvement plan, goals, and action steps for the 23/24 school 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: Lupe Nieto, Lunchroom Supervisor, Gary School

Submitted by: Sra. Lopez/Grupo de Padres, Gary School

“We would like to express our gratitude to Mrs. Nieto through D33 for her work over so many years. She took care of our children and now our grandchildren. Mama Lupe is a special person. Thank you”

“Quisiéramos hacer llegar por medio del D33 un agradecimiento a la Sra. Nieto por su labor de tantos años. Cuido a nuestros hijos y ahora a nuestros nietos. Una persona especial es la mama Lupe. Gracias”

Salute to: Isabel Recendez, Student, Indian Knoll

Submitted by: Lesly Romero, Learning Behavior Specialist (LBS1), Indian Knoll “Isabel is the sweetest girl in the world! She is so kind to my students and is so caring and protective of them! Isabel always has a smile and gives hugs the minute she sees my students! She guides my students to participate in class and always makes sure they are getting help! Whenever she can, she peeks in the door of my classroom to say "Good morning" and give warm hugs! She is the kindest girl ever, and I will forever be grateful for her being there for my students when I am not there! Thank you, Isabel!!!”

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 -

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.

Pioneer School Superintendent News**Goal #3: Professional Culture of Teamwork & Continuous Improvement**

This year, we started the Fishbowl project. Teachers have a Fishbowl outside their room and a goldfish attached to the bowl. Any time a teacher has a strategy to share, they can put their goldfish in the bowl, and the other teachers can stop by to watch the strategy.

Earlier in the year, there was a designated week we concentrated on reading strategies. Every staff member chose another staff member to observe their strategies for either ARC conferencing or the ARC main lesson.

We will be doing another week like this but concentrating on math strategies.

Goal #4: Family Engagement and Community Partnerships

On April 12th, we had our Family Reading and Math Day/Night. We started the school day with assemblies and a guest author, John Schu, who wrote a special intro for the book *The One and Only Ivan*. Every student received a copy of this book in either English or Spanish. John Schu also gave away many other free books to the students and signed all of the books, including all of *The One and Only Ivan* books. Later that night, we held dinner and activities for all our families. Every teacher had an activity going on in his or her room that related to math or reading. It was a huge success. We had 318 people show up.

Consent Agenda

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

- Approved the Board meeting minutes of May 4, 2023;
- Approved the list of bills dated April 17, 2023, through May 15, 2023, in the amount of \$1,163,885.14;
- Approved payrolls of April 14, 2023, in the amount of \$1,979,113.56, and April 28, 2023, in the amount of \$1,971,486.11;
- Approved imprest account from April 9, 2023, to May 10, 2023, in the amount of \$715.00;
- Approved the disposition of the audio tape of the Board of Education's regular closed session dated October 21, 2021, November 4, 2021, and November 18, 2021. Meetings that are at least 18 months old, and meet the State criteria, are disposed of;
- Approved the personnel report:
 - 1 Administration: Anthony Hugelier, Principal at Currier, effective 23-24 School Year;
 - 1 Certified: Rachele Gleason, Science Teacher at LMS, effective 23-24 School Year;
 - 0 Classified:
 - 6 Resignations: Kimberly Vazquez, Dual Language Teacher at Pioneer, effective end of the 22-23 School Year; Anayansi Martinez, Custodian at ESC, effective May 15, 2023; Rosa Hernandez, Custodian at ESC, effective May 12, 2023; Kevin Bicek, K-2 Interventionist at IK, effective end of the 22-23 School Year; Eric Cuatle, Clerical Aide at Turner, effective May 17, 2023; Randy Ramirez, Family Liaison at ELC, effective May 27, 2023;
 - 0 Position Change:
 - 1 Leave: Lizbeth Gonzalez, Paraprofessional at Currier, effective May 13, 2023;
 - 1 Retirement: Sue Cox, Accounts Payable and Benefits at ESC, effective July 2, 2023;

1 Non Renewal: Jeffrey Cowart, Assistant Director of Technology and Infrastructure at ESC, effective June 30, 2023.

Financial Reports

- The Board of Education reviewed the Treasurers' Report and Budget Report as of April 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, \$1,222,412 for Early Childhood Block Grant, and \$108,315.54 for National School Lunch Program;
- The Board of Education received a summary of each school's monthly activity accounts as of April 30, 2023.

Discussion of New /Ongoing Business with Possible Action

- *Presentation follow-up* - No presentation follow-up at this time.
- *Targeted Student Group*- The Board voted to approve the Lemman Middle School improvement plan for the targeted student group.
- *2023-2024 Early Learning Center Renovations - Phase I* - The Board voted to approve the installation of a preschool playground and fence to accommodate the transition of preschool students to Pioneer School, awarding the bid to Abbey Paving and Sealcoating Co, Inc.
- *23-24 School Year Class Sizes* - The Board voted to approve to increase in the number of kinder sections at Gary School from 3 to 4, maintaining the soft cap of 20 students per section.
- *Board Member Adopted Schools for 2023/2024* - The board received the school list and signed up for the 2023/2024 school year.
- *Exempt Personnel Salaries* - The Board voted to approve extending continuous employment to exempt staff for the 2023-2024 school year with a 4.25% salary increase.
- *IASB Annual Dues* - The Board voted to approve the payment of the annual IASB dues.
- *Job Title and Job Description Revision-Coaches*- The Board voted to approve the title changes and new job descriptions for Instructional Coaches and Lead Technology department.
- *Music Staffing for Lemman Middle School* - The Board voted to approve repurposing the available staffing to increase a 1.0 FTE Band Director position for Lemman Middle School.
- *Newcomer Update and Grant* - The Board voted to approve the use of grant money to hire 2 newcomer teachers for middle school for one year only.
- *Spanish Language Arts Consultants* - The Board voted to approve hiring Lisa Black-Gomez and Danette Meyers to create the SLA curriculum for dual classrooms based on curriculum needs and the updated dual language program 50/50 language allocation model.
- *Summer Construction Update* - The Board received an update on the upcoming summer construction.
- *Tax Shelter Annuities* - The Board voted to approve the 3 TSA providers (AXA/Equitable, VOYA Financial, and PlanMember) as acceptable firms for employee participation in tax-deferred annuity plans for the 2023-24 term, effective July 1, 2023.

Action Items

No action items at this time.

Information Items

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

- Most current posting of available job positions in School District 33;
- Curriculum update and professional development information for the 2023-24 school year;
- American Rescue Plan (ARP) and the Elementary and Secondary Student Emergency Reliece (ESSER) Funding;
- The Board of Education received the Freedom of Information Act Report noting there were 5 new requests since the last board meeting;
- Joint Annual Conference information and sign-up.
- Out of District placement of Students with Disabilities report stating that 25 special education students and 5 general education students have been placed out of district as of May 18, 2023;
- Parent Session on Bullying and Discipline Policy;
- Review of policy 4:60- Purchasing and Contracts;
- The Board of Education was provided with the School newsletters from the buildings;
- Strategic Management Survey Results;
- Student Chronic Absentee Report from April 20, 2023, to May 10, 2023, which showed the percentage of students chronically absent district-wide to be at 24.9%;
- Student Suspension Report for April 2023, indicating 12 out-of-school suspensions, 25 in-school suspensions, and 0 Bus suspensions;
- Summer School Programming Plans;
- Summer Activities flyer;
- Short-term maternity leave report was shared;
- Truancy Referral Report of April 2023 indicating 4 new students were referred to the ROE, and 23 students continue to be listed on the ROE truancy referral report;
- 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 most recent 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