



**WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33**

Kristina Davis Ed.S., Superintendent
May 4, 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 Lemay Middle School on Thursday,
May 4, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance

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

Public Hearing - Inter-Fund Transfer

The Board of Education held a public hearing on the resolution to effect inter-fund transfers. Mr. John Haffner, Executive Director of Business and Operations, explained the money transfer from the Educational Fund to the Capital Projects Fund. There were no questions or comments from the public. The public hearing concluded with the resolution to effect inter-fund transfers.

Board of Education Election

- The Board of Education reviewed and accepted the April 4, 2023, Board of Education election results indicating that Rita Balgeman, Tom Doyle, and Janette Hernandez were elected to the West Chicago Elementary School District 33 Board of Education to serve 4-year terms from 2023 to 2027.
- The current board members approved the outstanding board minutes of the regular board meeting of April 20, 2023.
- The Board of Education adjourned *sine die* at 7:06 p.m. (the end of the Board as it exists).
- The Board of Education appointed Morgan Banasiak to serve as president pro-tem until a Board President was elected.
- President Pro Tem Morgan Banasiak administered the oath of office to Rita Balgeman, Tom Doyle, and Janette Hernandez.
- Roll call was taken at 7:09 p.m. of the new Board with the following members being present: Mrs. Rita Balgeman, Mrs. Felicia Gills, Mr. Tom Doyle, Mrs. Janette Hernandez, Mrs. Sandra Garcia, and Mrs. Morgan Banasiak. Mr. Chad McLean was absent.
- Election of Officers was conducted with Rita Balgeman elected as Board President, Morgan Banasiak as Board Vice-President, and Tom Doyle as Board Secretary to serve two-year terms.
- The board members reaffirmed the Code of Conduct for members of school boards to do their utmost to represent the public interest in education by adhering to specific commitments as outlined by the Illinois Association of School Boards.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

An addition under XIV: Close Session of Reason 3: Pending Imminent Litigation.

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 Vice President, Morgan Banasiak, shared her statement. “Change. Meaning to alter, modify or vary. If you look up change on the internet, you can easily become lost in an internet black hole. Many people have opinions as to what change means and how to deal with it. These are some of their thoughts. Nelson Mandela once said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Change is a word that often causes unease and fear. It is the unknown. But Winston Churchill has said, “To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.” And Abraham Maslow said, “In any given moment, we have two options, to step forward into growth or step back into safety.”

There are many changes coming to D33 in the next couple of years. Changes at Pioneer changes to the dual language program, and today changes to our school board - to name a few. John F. Kennedy once said, “Change is the law of life, and those who look only to the past and present are certain to miss the future.” Our past and present show that our students are not succeeding as we believe they can. The statistics are sad to look at. Bill Clinton said, “The price of doing the same old thing is far higher than the price of change.” And Barack Obama has told us, “Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”

I challenge each of us- board members, administration, teachers, and parents- to embrace change. John D. Rockefeller said, “Don’t be afraid to give up the good to go for the great.” I challenge us to change our definition of change to mean to improve, to build upon the new. Because as C.S. Lewis said, “There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind.”

Recognition/Showcase/Presentation

Recognition - Wegner Superintendent for the Day

Wegner students; Darshiv M., Bryan M., Vince P., and Julianna R. shared their experience as Superintendent for the day. They enjoyed their time as Superintendent and took their role very seriously.

Showcase – Wegner School Showcase

Assistant Principal Brittany Smith presented to the board APAC. APAC is Wegner’s Assistant Principal Advisory Committee, comprised of 3rd to 5th-grade students. They meet twice a month to collaborate, study building data, help others, make Wegner a better palace, and follow CHAMPS expectations. Each month students focus on a different Strategic Plan Goal.

Presentation – Special Education Audit 2022-2023

Sherri Massa, Director of Student Services, Lauren Dixon, Coordinator of Student Services, and Allison Moe, Coordinator of Student Services, presented the Special Education Audit to the Board. In this presentation, they reviewed the process and procedures of the West Chicago School District 33 Special Education Department. This included identifying areas that are working well and areas that need to be improved to serve the District’s students better. The Districts’ goals and strategies most relevant to this review are Goal #1, Student Growth and Achievement, and Goal #3, Professional Culture of Teamwork and Continuous Improvement.

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: Robert Vandermolen, Paraeducator, Wegner School

Submitted by: Jamee Kenney, Principal, Wegner School

“In December, our first graders moved from using Freckle for math practice to ST Math. Rob, a paraeducator in our building, saw the need for additional motivation for our young learners. Rob used some of his own money to design the Math Ninja program here at Wegner School. When our first graders complete all 3600 ST Math puzzles for first grade, he makes them a special ninja belt and bandana. The children enter their classroom to upbeat music where their name is announced as their classmates cheer them on! After the ceremony, they have their photo taken and displayed in the hallway on a special bulletin board for all of the math Ninjas! Our students have been HIGHLY motivated by this program! All of our first-grade teachers have jumped on board, and the kids can regularly be heard asking when they get to "do ninja math" each day. We are so proud to have Mr. V as part of our Wegner Family!”

E.T.A.W.C. Statement

“I would first like to introduce myself to the board, as we have a new member who begins her term this evening. I am Tristan Cure, and I am an Instructional coach at Turner Elementary School. I serve as the vice president of the teachers' union, ETAWC.

Next, I would like to welcome Jeanette Hernandez to the D33 School Board. Together the union with district administration and support from the school board have worked collaboratively together to improve the D33 schools and community. We look forward to working with you and continuing to strive for excellence.

Lastly, I would like to thank the tech department and facilities and grounds for their collaboration on upcoming events that will continue to support the needs of all students and staff. Together we can achieve excellence.”

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Prior Public Comments follow-up

No public follow up at this time.

Superintendent News - Wegner 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.

Goal #4: Family Engagement and Community Partnerships

We have welcomed families back into the building for evening events:

- 4th and 5th Grade Music Concert
 - We had so many parents attend that we had to bring in more chairs from classrooms!
- Math and Literacy Night
 - Families played math and literacy games together and read near our “campfires” or in tents for this camping-themed event.
- 2nd and 3rd Grade Music Concert
 - Choir and ensemble students also performed. The event was well attended by students and families.
- Family Art Night
 - Children and families visited various stations to create art together. There were many photo opportunities and the chance for each child to create a piece of artwork that gets combined into a large whole school art piece.

We have invited parents back into the building during the day:

- Assisting in art class
- Reading with students
- Volunteering in classrooms
- Classroom parties

Discussion of New /Ongoing Business with Possible Action

- *Presentation follow-up* - No presentation follow-up at this time.
- *Clartouch Boards for Lemman Middle School*- The board voted to approve the purchase of clartouch boards for Lemman Middle School.
- *Continuous Employment of Administrators*- The Board approved the continuous employment of the following Administrative Staff for the 2023-2024 school year.
 Katey Baldassano, Supervisor at Birth - 3; Hannah Christie, Assistant Principal at LMS; Morgan Efrom, Assistant Principal at Turner; Colleen Kelly, Assistant Principal at IK; Carmela Getz, Dean at LMS; Anthony Hugelier, Assistant Principal at LMS; Mathew Mordini, Assistant Principal at LMS; Jessica Raiser, Assistant Principal at Gary; Stephan Rogers, Dean at LMS; Brittany Smith, Assistant Principal at Wegner; Monique Wodzinski, Assistant Principal at Winfield; Kellie Barros, Principal at Currier; Jacqueline Campos, Principal at Indian Knoll; Amie Correa, Principal at Gary; Kathy Grogan, Principal at Pioneer; Jamee Kenney, Principal at Wegner; Margaret Lay, Principal at LMS; Maurice McDavid, Principal at Turner; Brenda Vishanoff, Principal at ELC; Arely Alfaro, Assistant Director of Facilities and Grounds; Karen Apostoli, Director of Business and Operations; Sarah Burnett, Assistant Director of Human Resources; Fred Cadena, Director of Facilities and Grounds; Lea DeLuca, Director of Instructional Technology & Innovation; Whitnie Del Toro, Assistant Director of Teaching & Learning; Lauren Dixon, Assistant Director of Student Services; Sherri Massa, Director of Student Services; Allison Moe, Assistant Director of Student Services; Penny Munoz, Community School Administrator; Sarah Norton, Assistant Director of Partnerships; Tiffany Posey, Community School Administrator; Gina Steinbrecher, Assistant Director of Communication and Community Relations; Gloria Trejo, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; Mark Truckenbrod,

Director of Human Resources; Elizabeth Walrath, Director of Assessment & Accountability.

- *Finance/Facilities* –John Haffner, Executive Director of Business and Operations, stated that since the last Board meeting, the district has received for Evidence-Based Funding in the amount of \$1,188,210.00; Early Childhood grant in the amount of \$341,611.00; National school lunch program in the amount of \$185,600.70; School breakfast program in the amount of \$91,011.11; and Other state (after school program) in the amount of \$13,261.00.
- *Planning Implementation and Evaluation Contract* – The Board voted to approve the MOU and Scope of Work agreements with PIE Org to serve as D33’s external evaluator for the ISBE Community Partnerships grant.
- *Policy 8:90 Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs* - Mark Truckenbrod shared the current policy, which was last revised on September 2, 2021. Recommendations are to discuss the current Board Policy and have SD33 Administrators develop procedures that will be consistently followed in each building that has formed PTOs. The Procedure will be shared with the School Board in early August.
- *Teacher Laptops* - The Board voted to approve the purchase of new laptops for certified staff for the 23-24 school year.

Action Items

The Board of Education took action on the following items:

- ***Approved the Personnel report:***
 - 0 ADMINISTRATION: Kellie Barros, Director of Multilingual Learners at ESC, effective July 1, 2023;
 - 0 CERTIFIED:
 - 5 CLASSIFIED: Victor Campos, Paraprofessional at IK, effective April 24, 2023; Beatriz Chavez, Paraprofessional at IK, effective May 1, 2023; Sean Gilliland, Temp. Custodian at ESC, effective May 1, 2023; Adamaris Coss, Paraprofessional at Wegner, effective May 5, 2023; Roberto Garcia, Temporary Custodian at ESC, effective May 5, 2023;
 - 10 RESIGNATIONS: Humberto Ayala, PE Teacher at LMS, effective end of the 2022-2023 School Year; Eric Cuatle, Clerical Aide at Turner, effective June 14, 2023; Cathleen Paullin, Psychologist at LMS, effective end of the 2022-2023 School Year; Isaias Santiago, Grounds Maintenance at ESC, effective April 28, 2023; Rebecca Mayton, Science Teacher at LMS, effective end of the 2022-2023 School Year; Jasmin Guzman Pineda, Dual Language Teacher at Wegner, effective end of the 2022-2023 School Year; Karina Bolivar, Instructional Coach at Indian Knoll, effective end of the 2022-2023 School Year; Kaelyn Phelps, Art Teacher at LMS, effective end of the 2022-2023 School Year; Liz Ester Ham Lee, Dual Language Arts at LMS, effective end of the 2022-2023 School Year; Lydia Holguin, Paraprofessional at IK, effective April 27, 2023;
 - 3 RETIREMENT: Irene Nelson, LBS1 at Gary, effective end of the 23-24 School Year; Lella Favia, Paraprofessional at Winfield, effective end of the 22-23 School Year; Guadalupe Nieto, Lunch Supervisor at Gary, effective May 12, 2023.
 - 0 TERMINATIONS:
 - 0 LEAVE:
 - 0 FTE Change:

Superintendent Kristina Davis read the bios of the new administrator, Kellie Barros.

- The Board voted to approve Karen Apostoli as the Executive Director of Business and Operations, effective July 1, 2023.

- The Board voted to approve the Inter fund transfer of \$10 million into the capital project fund from the education fund.

Information Items

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

- Most current posting of available job positions in School District 33;
- No suggested agenda items at this time.
- Morgan Banasiak distributed teacher appreciation gifts at ELC, and Rita Balgeman distributed teacher appreciation gifts at Gary School.
- No parking lot at this time.

Report of District Committee Meetings

- Kristina Davis provided an update on LEND.
- Morgan Banasiak thanked the administration for identifying students that will be celebrated at the National Junior Honor Society's first induction next week.

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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