



**WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33**

Kristina Davis Ed.S., Superintendent
March 2, 2023, Board Briefs

Rita Balgeman, Board President
Felicia Gills, Board Vice President
Tom Doyle, Board Secretary
Phebe Balzer, 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, March 2, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance

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

Public Hearing: Physical Education Waiver Public Hearing

The Board of Education held a public hearing on the Physical Education Waiver. Gloria Trejo, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, explained the process of the 5-year waiver the district has been implementing for the past 20-plus years. There were no questions or comments from the public. This concludes the Public Hearing on the Physical Education Waiver.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Appoint President Pro-Tem - The board voted to approve Felicia Gills as President Pro-Tem in the absence of Board President Rita Balgeman.

Appoint Secretary Pro-Tem - The Board voted to approve Morgan Banasiak as Secretary Pro-Tem in absence of Secretary Tom Doyle.

No additional changes to the agenda.

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 Felicia Gills shared her statement: Commit to Shared Leadership

“Leadership is more than an ideal. It is a commitment to becoming a community of leaders: with mutual accountability, vision, goals, trust, blame, and rewards.” -Dr. Bill Donohue

“We are here tonight as leaders. Parents, Teachers, Cabinet members, Administrators, and Board members with a **vision** for our Children in the D33 community. We hold each other **accountable**; we have the **vision** to make education attainable for all children regardless of where they are in their educational journey. We have a collaborative **Goal** to meet and exceed every State of Illinois benchmark of Learning. To do that, we have to **trust** that everyone in this room and in the District as a whole has our students' best interests at heart. We have to all be willing to take the blame when our students are not performing at the height of their potential. Lastly, we are here to recognize and reward those who go beyond the title, job description, and/or blood relationship to serve every child as if they were their own. In D33, we agree to this Shared Leadership model in order to Win. Now, let's finish 2022-2023 Strong.”

Recognition/Showcase/Presentation

Recognition - No recognition at this time.

Showcase – Preschool Showcase

Principal Brenda Vishanoff presented Ms. Lupita Ms. Lupita presented to the Board Ms. Lupita and Ms. Josie’s classroom and the mission of her class. Students were able to select what they wanted to be called from a word bank and picked superheroes. Ms. Lupita also had 2 of her students reside on the mission to the Board “Nosotros somos los niños superhéroes del salón de la maestra Lupita. Venimos a la escuela a escuchar y a jugar. Hoy tomaremos buenas decisiones y jugaremos juntos.”

Presentation – Winter Benchmark & School Goals 2022-2023

Gloria Trejo, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, presented Winter Data to the board. Building principals shared their strategies, percentage comparison from fall to winter for their students in literacy and math, along with Studer survey scores. Student data reviewed included Dictado, SMART goals, literacy and math growth, and mid-year attainment by grade level and as a district.

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: Urooj Shafi, paraprofessional, Currier School

Submitted by: Anna Leuer, Teacher, Currier School

Mrs. Shafi works with a 5th-grade student with special needs. She is kind and patient and really understands how to support this student. Mrs. Shafi also works in the CAPE program preparing lessons for first graders. She set up a showcase at Currier School. Hope you can take a look at what the CAPE students have accomplished. It is my honor to nominate a Board Salute for Urooj Shafi!

Salute to: Katey Baldassano, Program Supervisor, Early Childhood Education, Birth to Three Program

Submitted by: Piedad Ahmad, Family Liaison
Evelyn Soberanis Molina, Family Liaison
Rafael Tunarosa, Case Manager
Jenn Brennan, Family Liaison

Piedad, Evelyn, and Rafael shared that Katey is a great leader and supervisor who has helped us become better in how we support families through our work. She exemplifies honesty, compassion, and hard work, and she cares for all staff and families in the program. Other words used to describe Katey are knowledgeable, resourceful, respectful, and a community leader. Jenn Brennan shared, “After having been in the field for 14 years, I’ve had various managers, and Katey’s leadership skills are above all the rest. Although our position can be challenging at times, Katey holds her employees to a high standard, she also holds herself to the same standard and shows her staff respect by trusting us to do our job without micromanaging, and asking for their ideas/thoughts/concerns so that she can become even better. She doesn’t just ask for feedback, but she takes action. She is constantly asking parents for feedback on how our program can better serve our community and adjusts our program to fulfill these requests as best she can. She knows her job well, communicates with her staff, and provides data to show how we are doing and how we can improve both individually and as a program. Katey allows her staff to take charge, which gives us the ability to gain confidence and grow professionally. Katey is a strong leader, confident, and professional, and works hard to create a successful program.”

Salute to: Katey Baldassano, Program Supervisor, Early Childhood Education, Birth to Three Program

Submitted by: Luciana Poulterer, Family Liaison, Birth to Three Program
Yanira Perez, Case Manager, Birth to Three Program

Luciana shared, “The Birth to Three Program has won the quality approval seal from Baby Talk. We are now the largest program in the state implementing this curriculum. The seal of approval also automatically satisfied ISBE requirements during our last audit. Katey’s leadership has built a reputation of excellence for this program.”

Yanira shared, “Katey is an amazing supervisor for the Birth to Three programs and a strong administrator for District 33. She supports her staff to become even better in their knowledge of child development and how to better support families and encourages her staff to become a stronger, more collaborative team. She always makes time for our questions, comments, and ideas. She makes herself available even on her days off. She is always striving to make this one of the best Birth to Three programs in the state by staying current on the latest information and best practices. She’s receptive to the needs of the community and aligns our programming around those needs, so we are always making sure we are working alongside families. Some of the groups we offer to serve not only the families in the Birth to Three program but also the community of West Chicago. Katey makes an impact on her staff, program, district, and the West Chicago Community through her commitment to Early Childhood Education and her genuine passion for children and families.

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 - Preschool 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 #1: Student Growth and Achievement

We must ensure all students are meeting challenging academic, physical, and social-emotional standards. The foundation of all student learning is the ability to relate and cooperate well with peers and adults, understand one's own and other's feelings, and, for children PreK through 3rd grade, engage in symbolic and imaginative play.

Our Units 1 and 2 provide the roadmap for staff to ensure these critical standards and attributes are secure. Creating and maintaining expectations for classroom behavior and a classroom community as well as problem-solving, are key to ensuring a high-quality learning environment. From this foundation, our staff leads read-aloud, small group literacy, numeracy activities, and science experiments to ensure our students have rich exposure and successful academic results prior to kindergarten.

We are deeply encouraged by our winter data and the data of how our graduates are doing in Kinder. However, we are focusing on the 5-15% of our students who are not meeting kinder-level readiness expectations so we can provide as much support and resources as possible through the MTSS tiers to ensure equitable support is given to each student based on his or her need.

Goal #4: Family Engagement and Community Partnerships

We continue to collaborate and communicate with our families to build strong relationships and increase equitable opportunities in these partnerships. Students and families thrive under these conditions. In addition to continuing our Academic Parent Teacher Teams, APTT, 3 times a year, where we work together with the families to create and reflect on how their child is doing in their literacy, math, and play goals, we have also re-introduced Parent-Child days. During a Parent-Child day, parents come to the classroom and experience portions of their child's classroom routine while also doing some "make and take" activities to extend the same learning to the home. On January 21, we hosted our first Parent-Child Day of the school year and had 82% of our families attendance.

Goal #5: Effective and Innovative Use of Resources

We are thankful to have been considered for a permanent district-owned and managed learning environment in the future.

Discussion of New /Ongoing Business with Possible Action

- *Presentation follow-up* - No presentation follow-up at this time.
- *Finance/Facilities* – Karen Apostoli, 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, \$199,151.71 for the National School Lunch Program, and \$91,885.20 for the School Breakfast Program.
- *Agency Nurse Contact-Maxim* – The Board voted to approve the contract with Maxi to fill 3 current open positions in the district.
- *New Pioneer Boundaries* - The Board voted to approve the new Pioneer boundaries for the 2023/24 school year.
- *Physical Education Waiver* - The Board voted to approve the physical education waiver modification valid through the 2026/27 school year.
- *Staffing Needs* - Karen Apostoli, Director of Business, and Mark Truckenbrod, Director of Human Resources, presented to the board the staffing needs for the 2023/24 school year. Family Liaison, Assistant Director for Preschool Programming, Assistant Director of Athletics & Activities, Middle School Student Supervisors, Lead GATE Teacher, Enrichment Science, and Social Studies Teacher. The Board will vote at the March 16, 2023, board meeting.

Action Items

- The Board of Education took action on the following items:
Approved the Personnel report:

0 ADMINISTRATION:

0 CERTIFIED:

1 CLASSIFIED: Maria Vargas, Lunchroom Supervisor at Currier, effective March 3, 2023;

0 TRANSFER:

4 RESIGNATIONS: Azucena Morales, Paraprofessional at Turner, effective February 10, 2023; Jennifer Stavrou, Preschool Teacher- Self Contained at ELC, effective February 14, 2023; Shaban Coku, Custodian at LMS, effective March 3, 2023; Dana Weber, Lead Technology Teacher at LMS, effective end of the 2022-2023 School Year;

1 RETIREMENT: Rachel Kimball, Building Secretary at Pioneer, effective July 31, 2023;

0 TERMINATIONS:

1 LEAVE: Maria Fernandez, Lunchroom Supervisor at LMS, effective February 17, 2023;

0 FTE Change:

- The Board voted to approve the Middle School Student Supervisors.

Information Items

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

- State Mandated Testing for the Spring of 2023.
- Most current posting of available job positions in School District 33;
- No suggested Board items at this time.
- No Board outreach at this time.
- Maggie Lay provided an update on Future Problem Solvers, the National Honor Society, and Scholastic Bowl.
- Kristina Davis shared with the board how the district will share student academic achievement in all schools around the community.

Report of District Committee Meetings

- Kristina Davis provided an update on SASED.
- 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

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