



**WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33**

Kristina Davis Ed.S., Superintendent
September 1, 2022, 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, September 1, 2022, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance

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

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

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

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 Member, Phebe Balzer, shared a quote by Jim Rohn on Leadership tonight. I find it inspiring, challenging, and encouraging: “The challenge of leadership is to be Strong, but not rude; be kind, but not weak; be bold, but

not bully; be thoughtful, but not lazy; be humble, but not timid; to be proud, but not arrogant; have humor, but without folly.”

Recognition/Showcase/Presentation

Recognition – No recognition at this time.

Showcase – No showcase at this time.

Presentation –Department Directors shared their annual Department Goals for the 2022-2023 school year with the Board of Education.

The departments of Teaching & Learning, Business & Operations, Communications, Facilities & Grounds, Human Resources, Partnerships, Student Services, and Technology shared their future goals.

E.T.A.W.C. Statement

Karen Evans and Deb Taylor: We are excited about beginning a new school year and welcoming our students. We have been preparing to support our many new staff members, which brings us to an important concept we will focus on this year. With the current nationwide teacher shortage impacting districts across the county, we need to focus on recruiting and retaining top quality staff for our students. What makes District 33 a place where the best and the brightest would choose to work? The answer to this question is the culture and climate of our schools and of our district as a whole. This concept will be our top focus during all conversations with staff and administration this year. One major component of culture and climate is the accountability of all partners in education: teachers, support staff, students, parents, school board members, and administration. We are committed to honoring and upholding District 33 expectations as written in the contracts, handbooks (both teacher and student), and school board policies and code. We look forward to the same commitment from all stakeholders in District 33.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Superintendent News

No Superintendent news at this time.

Discussion of New /Ongoing Business with Possible Action

- *Presentation follow-up* - No follow up at this time.
- *Back to School Plan Update: COVID-19* – The Board voted to approve the updated guidelines for COVID-19.
- *Crossing Guards* – Karen Apostoli, Director of Business and Operations, presented to the Board the shared cost of Crossing Guards with the City of West Chicago and the West Chicago Police Department. The Board will vote on this at the September 15, 2022, meeting.
- *Security Cameras* - The Board voted to approve the purchase of additional security cameras.
- *Snow Removal Bid* - Fred Cadena, Director of Facilities and Grounds, presented to the Board the snow removal bid process and the need for a three-year contract due to the fact that the current provider, Shamrock Hardscapes, indicated they were unable to continue to

perform the contract at the current pricing. The Board voted to approve Semper Fi, Land Services, Inc. as the new provider.

- *Staffing and Enrollment Update* - Sarah Burnett, Employee and Labor Relations Coordinator, gave the Board of Education a staffing and enrollment update.
- *Building Utilization Study* - The Board voted to approve the Space Utilization Study.
- *Finance/Facilities*- Karen Apostoli, Director of Business and Operations, reported that since the last board meeting, the district received \$1,188,210.00 for Evidence Based Funding and \$50,000.00 for Early Childhood Block Grant.
- *Budget Review 2022-2023* Karen Apostoli, Director of Business and Operations, shared with the Board an update on the review from the last board meeting and gave an update on the proposed final operating budget for the 2022-2023 school year. The Board will vote on this at the September 15, 2022, meeting.

Action Items

The Board of Education took action on the following items:

Approved the Personnel report:

0 ADMINISTRATION:

9 CERTIFIED: Nidia Gonzalez Torres, Math Teacher at LMS, effective 22-23 school year; Christina Christodoulou, SEL Teacher at LMS, effective 22-23 school year; Roberto Rodriguez, Dual Language Teacher at Gary, effective 22-23 school year; Crystal Gutierrez, Preschool Teacher at ELC, effective 22-23 school year; Maricel Abbagu, Preschool Teacher at Winfield, effective 22-23 school year; Erin Underwood, Early Childhood Self-Contained Teacher at ELC, effective 22-23 school year; Daniel Limas, Dual Language Teacher at Indian Knoll, effective 22-23 school year; Kevin Bicek, Remote Teacher at Indian Knoll, effective 22-23 school year; Andrea Dakuras, Learning Behavior Specialist at LMS, effective 22-23 school year;

8 CLASSIFIED: Monica Ferreyra, Translator at ESC, effective 22-23 school year; John Trella, Utility Custodian at LMS, effective 22-23 school year; Lucy Toledo, Paraprofessional at Wegner, effective 22-23 school year; Florencia Leal, Head Custodian at LMS effective September 2, 2022; Jack Wittenmyer, Paraprofessional at Indian Knoll, effective 22-23 school year; Veronica Castaneda, Paraprofessional at Currier, effective 22-23 school year; Eva Barrientos, Reading Paraprofessional at Indian Knoll, effective 22-23 school year; Monica Alfaro, Paraprofessional at ELC, effective 22-23 school year;

3 TRANSFER: Samantha Morgan, Learning Behavior Specialist at Indian Knoll, effective 22-23 school year; Paige Valente, 2nd Grade Teacher at Wegner, effective 22-23 school year; Natalie Rinaldi, Lead Technology Teacher at LMS, effective 22-23 school year;

7 RESIGNATIONS: Monica Ferreyra, Paraprofessional at Trinity, effective 22-23 school year; Maricel Abbagu, Paraprofessional at ELC, effective August 24, 2022; Christina Gehrke, Paraprofessional at Currier, effective August 22, 2022; Florencia Leal, Utility Custodian at ESC, effective September 1, 2022; Jack Wittenmyer, Lunch Supervisor at Indian Knoll, effective August 25, 2022; Veronica Castaneda, Lunch Supervisor at Currier, effective August 29, 2022; William Altamirano, Head Custodian at LMS, effective September 1, 2022;

0 RETIREMENTS:

0 TERMINATIONS:

0 LEAVE:

0 FTE Change:

Information Items

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

- Most current posting of available job positions in School District 33;
- Suggested agenda items for future board meetings - most recent retention data from Human Resource department.
- No Board Outreach at this time.
- Curriculum Night - Kristina Davis, Superintendent, updated Board members on a table to be set up at each curriculum night for Board members to be recognized and to create outreach to parents.
- Parking Lot – Board members received an update regarding the Hazel street drop off and pick-up. The City Council will meet on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, and will vote on the Hazel Street one-way trial.

Report of District Committee Meetings

- Open Comments – Rita Balgeman commented on “Walk the Halls” at LMS; the halls were slightly warm. Fred Cadena clarified that air conditioning is inside all the classrooms, but some hallways do not have air conditioning, making them feel warm.
- Morgan Banasiak commented on parents asking about the blue things around the halls. Kristina Davis informed Board there will be a parent information night with all the security updates.
- Sandra Garcia commented on the greet and meet at Gary school.
- Rita Balgeman commented on the greet and meet at Wegner.
- Rita Balgeman attended the school Institute day on August 31, 2022, to welcome all D33 staff.

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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