



**WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33**

Kristina Davis Ed.S., Superintendent  
April 18, 2024, Board Briefs

Rita Balgeman, Board President  
Morgan Banasiak, Board Vice President  
Tom Doyle, Board Secretary  
Chad McLean, Board Treasurer

Felicia Gills, Board Member  
Sandra Garcia, Board Member  
Janette Hernandez, Board Member

The Board of Education's regular meeting was held at Lemay Middle School on Thursday, April 18, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance**

Mrs. Rita Balgeman, Mrs. Morgan Banasiak, Mr. Chad McLean, and Mrs. Sandra Garcia. Absent: Mr. Tom Doyle, Mrs. Janette Hernandez, and Mrs. Felicia Gills

**Changes or Additions**

The Board voted Chad McLean as Pro Tem Secretary.

An addition to Close Session of Reason 2 - Student Discipline was added.

**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**

No shared agreements at this time.

**Recognition/Showcase/Presentation*****Recognition******Superintendent for the Day***

On March 22, 2024, students Jatziry C.P. and Eliana R. participated in Superintendent for the Day, observing the Preschool students. Jatziry and Eliana shared what they learned about Ms. Davis. They also learned that most preschoolers know how to count to 10 or more and know most of the letters of the alphabet. They suggest that students who need additional support should be paired into partners or work in groups with teachers.

***Recognition******Get Involved, D33 Winners***

Get Involved, D33 is a districtwide initiative to encourage and recognize parent engagement in their children's education. We ask that parents check into events to collect participation data and acknowledge their commitment to their child's education. We select three raffle winners each trimester: one from early childhood, elementary school, and middle school. This trimester's winners are:

- Celina Rubio from the Birth to Three Program
- Matthew Wistrand from Turner Elementary School
- Leila Trepanier from Lemay Middle School (present at the board meeting)

We thank our winners and all parents who participated in activities this trimester. You are your child's first and most important teacher, and we are happy to partner with you in their educational career.

***Recognition******Illinois School Psychologist of the Year Anais Arias***

At the April Illinois School Psychologist Association meeting, Anais Arias, school psychologist at Pioneer School, was honored with the Ted Smith Practitioner of Year (POTY) Award.

The POTY award recognizes the ISPA member who is most outstanding in the practice of school psychology each year. Nominees are nominated by their colleagues, making this quite the honor. Some of the comments received from her colleagues:

“Anais is bilingual and uses her language talents to support many families in our community. Anais has stayed late many nights to meet with parents after work hours. She has also taken the time to sit with parents who struggle with reading or language barriers to complete student questionnaires so that they can have an active voice in their child's evaluations and services.”

“Anais works with teachers of students in 1st through 8th grade to provide support in implementing MTSS Tier 1 interventions. An example is that Anais recently attended Specials PLC to talk to the Music, Art, P.E., and Health teachers about creating a calm area in their classroom to support students who need a space to take a break during class to be successful. She provided them with materials and visuals to create the space.”

***Showcase******Pioneer School Showcase Unique Week***

Unique week was held from April 9 through 12, focusing on empathy. Mr. Dan Guerrero, Ms. Gianna Deluca, Ms. Vanessa Gorgas, and Ms. Samantha Morgan presented to the board the different daily activities students participated in throughout the week. All students also heard daily read-out louds recorded by the showcasing students.

Students Solash P., Axel Q.M., Julissa C.-P., Julius M., Annaleigh M., Robert H., Angel G., and Lindsay R.M. shared the books they read and what they learned from each story. Some activities included kindness notes to fill each other's buckets, creating safe spaces, and practicing guided meditation. Empathy Week helped students see how everyone is unique and how they must accept people's similarities and differences. Students and staff created a giant puzzle with puzzle pieces created by students and staff. The Giant puzzle will be displayed at Pioneer School and added to the time capsule. Students also distributed puzzle pieces to administrators and board members to fill out and add to the giant puzzle.

**E.T.A.W.C. Statement**

No E.T.A.W.C. statement at this time.

**Public Comment**

No public comment at this time.

**Follow-up to prior statements**

No follow-up at this time.

**Superintendent News - Pioneer 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**

This year, Pioneer prepared their students for IAR in various ways. All 3rd-5th grade Teachers utilized the IAR Practice Calendar sent out through Teaching & Learning. The Tech Coach also created an IAR Boot camp for all the students. The boot camp consisted of a slideshow that was presented to the students. This consisted of the types of questions they would see on IAR and the formatting of the questions. It also explored all the tools they could have seen on IAR. And finally, it contained test-taking strategies for IAR and goal setting. They were also given a student workbook to write down test-taking tips, their top three navigation tools, and their IAR goals. "We are confident that all these strategies used during testing will have helped our students improve their learning and scores."

**Goal #4: Family Engagement and Community Partnerships**

On April 25th, Pioneer will host Family Reading Night. The theme is "We Can Be Heroes!" They will be hosting dinner and literacy activities for all the families. They will also hand out books for all students to take home and keep. Every teacher will have a

reading activity going on in his or her room. Some activities will be phonics, fluency, writing, music, art, SEL, and library activities with a reading theme. They will also have CAPE, the afterschool program, hosting an activity, and the West Chicago Library will have a table set up with information on how to get a library card and summer programs. They will also have some raffles for the students and families to participate in. Last year, a significant number of families showed up. They hope to continue this success with the families this year. “We would love to invite all of you to stop by that night.”

### **Consent Agenda**

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

- Approved the Board meeting minutes of March 7, 2024, March 21, 2024 and April 4, 2024;
- Approved the list of bills dated April 6, 2024, through April 19, 2024, in the amount of \$1,006,238.71;
- Approved payrolls of March 15, 2024, in the amount of \$1,939,643.81, and March 22, 2024, in the amount of \$1,887,581.43;
- Approved imprest account from March 22, 2024, to April 18, 2024, in the amount of \$530.00;
- Approved the disposition of the audio tape of the Board of Education’s regular closed session dated October 6, 2022 (1st session); October 6, 2022(2nd session); and October 20, 2022. Meetings that are at least 18 months old and meet the State criteria are disposed of;
- Approved the personnel report;
  - 1 Administration: Morgan Efrom, Principal at Turner, effective July 1, 2024;
  - 3 Certified: Ashley Fowler, Learning Behavior Specialist at IK, effective 2024-2025 School Year; Christine Goolish, Learning Behavior Specialist at Turner, effective 2024-2025 School Year; Janeth Carrasco, Dual Language Teacher at IK, effective 2024-2025 School Year;
  - 5 Classified: Susan Salak, Paraprofessional at LMS, effective April 9, 2024; Nicholas Kobriger, Head Custodian at ESC, effective April 22, 2024; Emily Pliego, Temp Custodian at ESC, effective May 13, 2024; Ariadna Ballines, Temp Custodian at ESC, effective May 13, 2024; Daniel Guzman, Temp Custodian at ESC, effective May 13, 2024;
  - 4 Resignations: Rosa Benitez Acosta, Paraprofessional at IK, effective June 25, 2024; Elizabeth Teevans, LBS1 at Gary, effective end of the 2024-2025 School Year; Lizbeth Lopez, Paraprofessional at Wegner, effective April 30, 2023; Lisa Rodriguez, Kindergarten Teacher at Wegner, effective end of the 2024-2025 School Year;
  - 2 Retirements: Lourdes Alvarado, Reading Aide at Wegner, effective June 11, 2024; Maria Cruz, Paraprofessional at Gary, effective August 1, 2024;
  - 1-Year Contract NonRenewal: Laurel Bollenberg, Speech Language Pathologist Assistant at ELC, effective June 11, 2024;
  - 2 Leaves: Keziah Silva, Paraprofessional at Pioneer Prek, effective April 29, 2024; Rosa Benitez Acosta, Paraprofessional at IK, effective May 13, 2024;
  - 0 Job Abandonment:

### **New Administration Biographies**

Kristina Davis read the Biography of Morgan Efrom, Principal at Turner School, who was present at the meeting.

### **Financial Reports**

- The Board of Education reviewed the Treasurers' Report and Budget Report as of March 29, 2024, along with the financial charts;
- The Board of Education received a financial report from Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, stating that the district received \$2,401,814.00 in evidence-based funding since the last meeting.
- The Board of Education received a summary of each school's monthly activity accounts as of March 29, 2024.

### **Discussion of New /Ongoing Business with Possible Action**

- *Leadership Transition* - The Board received information regarding the reduction of central office administration positions beginning with the 2024-2025 school year and the plan to promote 2 current Assistant Directors to Director positions. The Board will review the information and vote at the May 2, 2024, board meeting.
- *Copy Paper Bid* - A joint bid between District 33, District 34, and District 25 was made public through publication in the Daily Herald newspaper and on the D33 Website. No vendor representatives attended the bid opening. Awarded paper bids are as follows: School Specialty in the amount of \$1,533.02; Murnane in the amount of \$78,735.70; Staples in the amount of \$1,563.77; Garvey's in the amount of \$ 2,185.00; Midland in the amount of \$ 4,408.90; and Quill in the amount of \$8,541.48. A total of \$96,967.87 and District 33 portion of \$84,344.55. The board will review the information and vote at the May 2, 2024, board meeting.
- *Disposal of Undeeded Equipment* - The Board was provided with information on disposing of 5 old strength equipment pieces (bench press, chest press, shoulder press, lat pull-down, and lat press). The Board will review and vote on this matter at the May 2, 2024, board meeting.
- *IASB School Board Governance Recognition* - Kristina Davis and the board continued discussing the school board's governance recognition application. They will continue discussing and reviewing questions during the next board meetings.
- *Resale of District Laptops* - The Board received information regarding the sale of used administrator laptops that will have been erased to factory settings and are of grading quality A or B at \$125.00. The Board will review and vote at the May 2, 2024, board meeting.
- *Strategic Management Group* - The Board of Education will review the information to partner with Perry Soldewel of Soldewel Consulting, LLC, to provide strategic management development training and coaching to district administrators, principals, and staff. The board will review and vote at the May 2, 2024 board meeting.

### **Action Items**

- *Custodial Supplies 2024/2025* - The board voted to approve the awarded supply bids to Central Poly Bag Corp. in the amount of \$16,997.50, Chemcraft Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$4,515.00, Staples in the amount of \$3,505.75, and Warehouse Direct in the amount of \$51,513.70, for a total of \$76,513.95.
- *iTouch Biometrics* - The board voted to approve the contract with iTouch Biometrics for the 24/25 school year.

### **Information Items**

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

- ALC Update
- Food Procurement Process
- Most current posting of available job positions in School District 33;
- Freedom of Information Act Report noting there are no new requests since the last board meeting;
- Out of District placement of Students with Disabilities report stating that 27 special education students and 4 general education students have been placed out of the district as of April 18, 2024;
- Short-term maternity leave report was shared;
- Student Chronic Absentee from March 14, 2024, through April 10, 2024, the percentage of students chronically absent district-wide is 21%;
- Student Suspension Report for March indicated 2 out-of-school suspensions, 13 in-school suspensions, and 0 Bus suspensions;
- The Board of Education was provided with the School newsletters from the buildings;
- Truancy Referral Report for March 2024, indicating that 12 new students were referred to the Regional Office of Education, and 13 students continue to be listed on the Regional Office of Education 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**

- The Board received the Opportunity for Influence update.
- 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