



**WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33**  
Kristina Davis Ed.S., Superintendent  
April 4, 2024, Board Briefs

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

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

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held at Lemay Middle School on Thursday, April 4, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance**

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

**Additions/Changes to the Agenda**

Morgan Banasiak was approved as President Pro Tem.  
Item VII-Recognition will be postponed to the April 18, 2024 board meeting.

**Public Hearing - Interfund Transfer**

The Board of Education held a public hearing on the inter-fund transfer. In accordance with state law, notice of this public hearing was published in a local West Chicago newspaper on March 25, 2024, and also posted on the District 33 website. No public comment was made.

**Public Hearing - E-Learning Days**

The Board of Education held a public hearing on the emergency learning days. In accordance with state law, notice of this public hearing was published in a local West Chicago newspaper on March 22, 2024, and also posted on the District 33 website. No public comment was made.

**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 Chad McLean shared his statement. “Making decisions according to what is best for all district 33 students is becoming more difficult. The recent influx of students new to the country is being seen in our district. Their needs are often high and will require more help and cost us more. Our district is very experienced in educating students with these needs. This is the good part. District 33, as a Tier 2 district, is still considered underfunded. This is the downside of this new challenge. This challenge is the consequence of our leader's policies and our desire to help others. We need to make sure we support these students with the tax dollars we receive. This is support for the policies of our leadership regardless of our agreement with those policies. This is the difficulty of governance at the local level. Our financial wherewithal is limited, while the needs within our district are not within our control. Some of these growing needs have to be addressed based on legal precedent and requirements of legislation. The board continues to balance the remaining needs that are within our community with the remaining funds from our community.”

### **Recognition/Showcase/Presentation**

#### **Showcase**

##### *Currier School Showcase - Using Technology to Enhance Math Fluency*

Principal Anthony Hugelier introduced Ms. Barsotti and the little coders. Ms. Barsotti explained the different technology tools they use for the various grade levels: Beebots for Kinder, Osmos in 2nd grade, and Ozobots in 5th grade. Students Gustavo V. and Ryder R. demonstrated how they use Osmos in Kindergarten to the board members and administrators. Students Daniel M.T. and Avyn G. demonstrated how the Osmos are used in second grade, and students Ririko K., Alxex A., and Diego M.T. demonstrated how the Ozobots are used in fifth grade.

#### **Presentation** *ALC Update-Foundational Literacy in D33*

Lea DeLuca, Director of Technology and Infrastructure, and David Burns, Literacy Consultant with Principia Learning, presented an update on all the skill work David has been doing with teachers, including information on what they have completed and what they hope to accomplish in the future. Critical factors in biliteracy development include language comprehension and word recognition. The laser focus is a structured approach to foundational biliteracy with Cumulative, Explicit, Diagnostic, and Multilingual. Future work includes providing direct and continuous professional development to District 33 teachers and staff on evidence-based illiteracy instruction and assessment. Add additional curricular supports to English and Spanish to ensure teachers use the highest quality resources to instruct and assess students across English and Spanish, monitor students' language and literacy achievement on general outcome measures, and strategically respond to literacy and language needs.

**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**

Currier School Superintendent News

The Superintendent News updates the board and community on some of the many programs and activities occurring in the schools and departments determined to help us accomplish the goals of the District Strategic Plan.

**Goal #1: Student Growth and Achievement**

Strategy #1: Currier will implement a consistent, multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) across all ages and groups that promotes the holistic development of every student academically, physically, and social-emotionally.

They remain dedicated to the “Every Kid Writes, Everyday mission!”

- ❖ Highlighting student writers at every grade level monthly on the writing showcase board.
- ❖ Writer’s notebooks are used daily in the classroom.
- ❖ Grade levels K-2 use the notebooks for skill application and encoding.
- ❖ Grade levels 3-5 use the notebooks for writing ideas, response to reading, and skill practice.

Currier is planning for Literacy Night

- ❖ It will be on the evening of Friday, April 26th, from 6:00-7:30 PM.
- ❖ The theme will be “Camp Currier,” students can read under the stars, make smores, and dress in camouflage.
- ❖ Students will also get to take books to read at home, and parents will leave with strategies to support their children in reading.

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

Strategy #6: Currier will foster community partnerships to minimize non-academic barriers, engage families, and provide experiential opportunities for students.

Currier PTO will be official next year!

- ❖ They have an entire board of officers ready for fall 2024.
- ❖ Currier will continue to meet monthly to plan events and activities.
- ❖ PTO will partner with the school to organize and run family evening events.
- ❖ They look forward to sharing their growth and development with families.

**Consent Agenda**

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

- Approved the list of bills dated March 23, 2024, through April 4, 2024, in the amount of \$411,604.78:
- Approved the personnel report:
  - 2 Administration: Jenny Brunke, Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning at ESC, effective July 1, 2024; and Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability at ESC, effective July 1, 2024;
  - 9 Certified: Rosario Arteaga, Dual Language Kindergarten Teacher at Currier, effective 2024-2025 School Year; Jennifer Anthony, Speech Language Pathologist at LMS, effective 2024-2025 School Year; Beth Backstrom, Social Worker at

Currier, effective 2024-2025 School Year; Joelle Nelson, Library Media Specialist at Gary, effective 2024-2025 School Year; Olesia Mohline, Dual Language Teacher at Wegner, effective 2024-2025 School Year; Samantha Peck, Social Worker at Preschool, effective 2024-2025 School Year; Jennifer Brackmann, Self-Contained Preschool Teacher at Prek Pio, effective 2024-2025 School Year; Emily Ballines, Social Worker at Wegner, effective 2024-2025 School Year; Rachel Jankiewicz, Speech Language Pathologist at LMS, effective 2024-2025 School Year;

7 Classified: Ana Arriaga, Paraprofessional at Wegner, effective April 1, 2024; Maria Cielo, Paraprofessional at Preschool, effective April 1, 2024; Alyssa Parisi, Grant Specialist at ESC, effective April 1, 2024; Violet Duarte Quintero, Lunch Supervisor at Pioneer Preschool, effective April 1, 2024; Claudia Contreras, Paraprofessional at Currier, effective April 1, 2024; Cintia Ballines, Clerical Aide at LMs, effective April 1, 2024; Jatin Radadiya, Nurse Floater, effective April 1, 2024;

6 Resignations: Blaine Graham, Preschool Teacher at Preschool, effective end of 2023-2024 School Year; Samantha Morgan, Monolingual Teacher at Pioneer, effective end of 2023-2024 School Year; Miguel Cervantes, Interpreter at Wegner, effective March 29, 2024; Kelsey Armstrong, Dual Language Teacher at Wegner, effective end of 2023-2024 School Year; Marisa Hollister, Self-Contained Teacher at Currier, effective end of 2023-2024 School Year; Felicia Wells, Preschool Self-Contained Teacher at ELC, effective end of the 2023-2024 School Year;

1 Retirement: Penne Wood, Math Teacher at LMS, effective end of the 2023-2024 School Year;

1 Continuous Employment: Kevin Bicek, Teacher for Year 2 at Indian Knoll, effective 2024-2025 School Year;

0 Position Change:

0 Terminations:

0 Leave:

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

- *Board of Education Meeting Dates* - The board approved the revised 2024-2025 school year meeting dates.
- *Custodial Supplies 2024/2025* - The custodial supplies bid was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. No vendors attended the bid opening. The total bids were recommended to be awarded to the lowest bidders. The board will review the information and vote at the April 18, 2024, board meeting.
- *Disposal of Unneeded Equipment* - The board voted to approve the disposal of the following technology equipment: 1 charging station, 2 VHS Players, 3 Smart Speakers, 2 Smart Trays, 10+ projector bulbs, 7 projectors, 5 HP Printers, 10+ Toners, 10+ Chargers/cables, 1 Laser Jet Pro400, 1 Laser Jet P2015, 1 Canon F164002, 8 Chromebooks, 8 iPads, 1 iPad mini, 2 Dell Laptops, 1 VGA Multi-Switch, 1 Codec Camera, 10 Aver Cameras, 47 Dell WD15, 7 Dell Bricks, and 2 Dell Laptops.
- *Finance/Facilities*—Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, stated that the district has received \$1,209,557.80 for Evidence-Based Funding, \$64,879.62 for Special education Private Facility Tuition, \$137.20 for Special Education Orphanage, and \$524,609.24 for transportation since the last board meeting.
- *IASB School Board Governance Recognition* - Kristina Davis continued the conversation regarding the school board governance recognition application. The board will continue to review questions during the next few board meetings.

- *iTouch Biometrics*—The board received information about iTouch Biometrics, a state-of-the-art live scan fingerprinting service. The board will review and vote on it at the April 18, 2024, board meeting.

### **Action Items**

- *Amended 24/25 Calendar*—The board voted to approve the amended changes for the 24/25 school year, which will include moving the 8 am to 8 pm Parent-Teacher Conferences to Friday, November 22, 2024, moving Teachers Professional Development to Monday, November 25, 2024, and establishing Monday, February 17, 2025, as an Emergency Snow Day.
- *E-Learning Days*—The board approved the e-learning plan for the 24/25 school year, making the first day asynchronous. If additional emergency days are called, February 17, 2025 (Presidents Day) will be replaced as an emergency day, and school will be in session, avoiding an additional day at the end of the school year.
- *Interfund Transfer*- The Board of Education voted to approve the Resolution to Effect Interfund Transfers.
- *Staffing Services*—The board voted to approve an additional FTE to provide assistive technology services to meet students' needs.
- *Tax Abatement Greco/DeRosa* - The board voted to approve the resolution providing for real estate tax abatement for the Greco/DeRosa property.
- *Violation of Tax Abatement* - The board approved the Discovery Drive tax abatement violation.

### **Information Items**

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

- Academic Accolade Newsletters from all the schools.
- Bloomingfest information and sign up.
- Staff Appreciation Week
- Most current postings of available job positions are in School District 33.
- No suggested items at this time.
- Board Outreach.
- No parking lot items at this time.

### **Report of District Committee Meetings**

- 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