



**WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33**

Kristina Davis Ed.S., Superintendent
March 21, 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, March 21, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance

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

Changes or Additions

No action under student discipline will be taken after closed session.

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

Showcase

Turner School Showcase

Jami Murphy, Jenny Totman, and Mary Zonca presented Turner's Academic Family Night. Turner hosted their Camp Learn-A-Lot, which hosted 57 families, 75 students, several teachers, and staff. They had 12 stations with several activities for students to

participate in. Each grade level had a prize basket that included donations from families. Students handed out catapult-building projects to board members, where they could test and see how they were used.

Recognition

D33 Pride Award Winners

The #D33Pride Awards are given to individuals who have significantly impacted the students, staff, and families of the District 33 community.

Nominations are accepted and presented at the end of each trimester. The members of the Recognition Committee judge the nominations, and winners are selected in each category. All names are removed from the nominations before being given to the committee members for judging.

While only one winner is selected in each category (unless there is a tie), the committee feels it is important to recognize all nominated individuals. **A total of 27 nominations were submitted.**

Nominees:

Certified Staff

Jessica Valdez - Early Learning Center
 Jasmin Donley - Early Learning Center
 Irma Maciel - Gary
 Rachel Ruschmeyer - Lemman Middle School
 Brad Rathe - Lemman Middle School
 Sara Smith - Lemman Middle School
 Jen Swzaya - Early Learning Center
 Angeles Godoy - Lemman Middle School

Classified Staff

Jeanine Contreras - Birth to Three
 Humberto Benitez - Currier
 Urooj Shafi - Currier
 Jennifer Brackmann - Early Learning Center
 Arely Alfaro - Educational Service Center

Students

Nicole A. 4th -5th grade - Wegner
 Sergio G. - 4th- 5th grade - Pioneer

Winners:

Student #D33Pride Award K-1

Quentin C., a kindergarten student at Wegner School, was nominated by Andrea Gustafson, an SLP at Wegner School.

Student #D33Pride Award 4th-5th grade

Jesus L. M., a fourth grade student at Wegner School, was nominated by Lisa Jirovec, a fourth-grade teacher at Wegner School.

#D33Pride Award middle school

Vanessa M. M., an eighth-grade student at Leman Middle School, was nominated by Bonnie Ryan, an art teacher at Leman.

#D33Pride Award Organization

Turner Elementary and Leman Middle School Ballet Folklorico, nominated by Violetta Diego.

#D33Pride Award Classified Staff

Yanira Perez, a Birth to Three Program case manager, nominated by Esther Romo-Ortiz, Jenn Brennan, Evelyn Soberanis Molina, Marie E. Torres, and Silvia Carrasco, staff in the Birth to Three program.

#D33Pride Award Certified Staff

Dan Guerrero, a Teacher on Special Assignment and an MLL coach at Pioneer School, was nominated by Courtney Daily as an instructional coach.

ISBE Those Who Excel Award - Araceli Orozco

Sherri Massa, Director of Student Services, shared, “It’s my honor to recognize Araceli Orozco, who recently received the Meritorious Service Award within the Illinois State Board of Education’s Those Who Excel Awards.

The Award of Meritorious Service is given to individuals who have improved their school community. These educators frequently employ their talents and passions but also strive to serve in unfamiliar domains.

As Deborah Borges, a nurse at Leman Middle School, shared, ‘Araceli demonstrates leadership and a positive attitude in her role as a district nurse. She has guided nurses pursuing an advanced degree or obtaining a school nursing certification (their PEL). In addition to her extraordinary clinical skills, she helps maintain a healthy and safe school environment for students.’

Mr. Maurice McDavid, principal of Turner School, added, ‘Araceli is available to speak knowledgeably about the needs of students and how those needs can be addressed within the school setting. Her greatest strength is the compassion she shows to our families. Araceli truly sees her job as a service to the families in our community. Being a school nurse is truly a labor of love for her.’

District 33 is fortunate to have Araceli leading our district nurse team. Congratulations, Araceli!”

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 - Turner 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 accomplish the goals of the District Strategic Plan.

Goal #4: Family Engagement and Community Partnerships

Turner hosted our Family Academic STREAM Night on January 25th.

- ❖ Families and students were invited into the building for academic fun.
- ❖ Families could attend the different classrooms with mini-lessons and activities in science, technology, reading, engineering, art, and math.

We hosted our first Parent Advisory Committee.

- ❖ They hosted 16 parents at Turner on Monday, February 12th.
- ❖ They had four English-speaking parents and 12 Spanish-speaking parents, including three parents new to the country.
- ❖ Parents could give feedback on events that have already happened and offer opinions for future events and ways for parents to get involved.

Consent Agenda

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

- Approved the Board meeting minutes of February 15, 2024;
- Approved the list of bills dated March 9, 2024, through March 22, 2024, in the amount of \$1,468,905.54;
- Approved payrolls of February 15, 2024, in the amount of \$1,988,912.32, and February 29, 2024, in the amount of \$1,950,458.55;
- Approved imprest account from March 8, 2024, to March 21, 2024, in the amount of \$1,225.00;
- Approved the disposition of the audio tape of the Board of Education’s regular closed session dated August 18, 2022; September 1, 2022; September 15, 2022-1st session; and September 15, 2022-2nd session. Meetings that are at least 18 months old and meet the State criteria are disposed of;
- Approved the personnel report;

0 Administration:

0 Certified:

1 Classified: Sandra Gonzalez, Paraprofessional at Prek, effective March 11, 2024;

1 Resignations: Kaylee Neylon, Speech Language Pathologist at LMS, effective end of the 23-24 School Year;

0 Job Abandonment:

3 Retirements: Lisa Hennessy, Library Assistant at LMS, effective end of the 2023-2024 School Year; Lori Johnson, Financial Literacy and Community Relations Teacher at LMS, effective end of the 2026-2027 School Year; Denise Lemon, Reading Interventionist at LMS, effective end of the 2025-2026 School Year;

3 Contract Non Renewal: Laurel Lebo, LBS1 at Pioneer, effective June 11, 2024; Ruth Bovey, Dual Language Teacher at Pioneer, effective June 11, 2024; Crystal Gutierrez, Preschool Teacher at Preschool, effective June 11, 2024;

0 Leaves:

Financial Reports

- The Board of Education reviewed the Treasurers’ Report and Budget Report as of February 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 since the last meeting, the District received \$48,937.00 payment for Title II-Teacher Quality and \$90,819.00 for Other Federal Programs.

- The Board of Education received a summary of each school's monthly activity accounts as of February 29, 2024.

Discussion of New /Ongoing Business with Possible Action

- *Amended 2024 Calendar*—Based on feedback from ETAWC, it has been recommended to move the parent-teacher conferences back to Thursday evening from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The recommendation comes after a lower-than-expected turnout from D33 families at the Monday conferences in 2023. The board will vote at the April 4, 2024 board meeting.
- *Continuous Employment of Administrative Staff*- The board voted to approve the continuous employment of the following administrators: Megan Bartlett, Dean at LMS; Hannah Christie, Assistant Principal at LMS; Morgan Efrom, Assistant Principal at Turner; Carmela Getz, Assistant Principal at Currier; Amy Martensen, Assistant Principal at LMS; Mathew Mordini, Assistant Principal at LMS; Jessica Raiser, Assistant Principal at Gary; Kelly Reinmann, Dean at LMS; Stephan Rogers, Dean at LMS; Brittany Smith, Assistant Principal at Wegner; Katey Baldassano, 70% - Supervisor Birth - 3 at St. Michael's; Anthony Hugelier, Principal at Currier; Amie Correa, Principal at Gary; Whitnie Del Toro, Principal at Indian Knoll; Jamee Kenney, Principal at Wegner; Margaret Lay, Principal at LMS; Brenda Vishanoff, Principal at ELC; District Administrators, Arely Alfaro, Assistant Director of Facilities and Grounds; Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations; Kellie Barros, Director of Multilingual Learners; Sarah Burnett, Assistant Director of Human Resources; Fred Cadena, Director of Facilities and Grounds; Lea DeLuca, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning; Lauren Dixon, Assistant Director of Student Services; Sherri Massa, Director of Student Services; Penny Munoz, Interim Community School Administrator; Sarah Norton, Assistant Director of Partnerships; Julie Odom, Assistant Director of Athletics and Activities; Tiffany Posey, Community School Administrator; Jennifer Rutkas, Assistant Director of Preschool Programming; Matt Ryan, Assistant Director of Technology and Infrastructure; Gina Steinbrecher, Assistant Director of Communication and Community Relations; Mark Truckenbrod, Director of Human Resources.
- *Continuous Employment of Certified Staff* - The board voted to approve the continuous employment of the following certified personnel Current School Year Positions: PART TIME CONTRACTS: Tamar Friedman, 60% Social Worker; Lindsay Sharp, 60% Psychologist: FIRST YEAR CONTRACTS: Brian Barry, Science Teacher: SECOND YEAR CONTRACTS: Jessica Ascencion, DL 5th Grade Teacher: Amber Astroth, 3rd Grade Teacher; Taylor Bassett, Enriched Science: Perla Benitez, DL ECE Teacher: Guadalupe Calderon, DL 3rd Grade Teacher: Catalina Castorena De Carnana, Advanced Spanish; Elizabeth Conroy, Speech/Lang. Pathologist; Jaqueline Desiderio, Learning Behavior Specialist; Gisel Espinoza, DL ECE Teacher; Carol Fisher, Extended Day ECE Teacher; Viviana Flores, Learning Behavior Specialist; Daniella Fox, ELL Teacher; Mario Garcia, DL 3rd Grade Teacher; Kaitlin Gaynor, Band Teacher; Sara Gillmar, IEP Specialist; Karoline Giza, LA/Literature Teacher; Angeles Godoy, Learning Behavior Specialist; Chantal Gonzalez, Physical Education Teacher; Tanaya Harrington, Learning Behavior Specialist; Yvette Hernandez, Social Worker; Beth Hyde, Science Teacher; Sierra Jacobs, Health Teacher; Stephanie Jaskiewicz, Instructional Technology Coach; Charles Klapp, Orchestra Teacher; Lauren Kroscher,

LA/Literature Teacher; Meghan Lange, LA/Literature Teacher; Katharyn Mattern, LA/Literature Teacher; Denisse Murillo, Social Worker; Heidi Nordin, Social Worker; Kristina Paruolo, Psychologist; Michelle Peterson, Learning Behavior Specialist; Jose Rivera, Newcomers 7/8 Teacher; Christian Rivera Rivera, Advanced Spanish; Joseph Ruddy, LA/Literature Teacher; Bonnie Ryan, Art Teacher; Ashley Samata, LA/Literature Teacher; Sarah Schrandt, Learning Behavior Specialist; Jenna Spaniol, Learning Behavior Specialist; Aranza Sparks, DL Kindergarten Teacher; Macormick Thom, Enriched Science; Jennifer Thueson, Enriched Social Studies; Maria Vargas Rangel, DL ECE Teacher; Robert Weis, Physical Education Teacher; THIRD YEAR CONTRACTS: Maricel Abbagu, Early Childhood Teacher; Veronica Alarcon, Art Teacher; Jazmine Barajas, DL 5th Grade Teacher; Jennifer Barbato, Math Teacher; Carli Benn, Learning Behavior Specialist; Callum Casey, DL 5th Grade Teacher; Christina Christodoulou, SEL Teacher; Andrea Dakuras, Learning Behavior Specialist; Melissa Day, Learning Behavior Specialist; Maria De Prado Dieguez, Social Studies Teacher; Sarah Epich, Social Studies Teacher; Vicki Hartwig, Behavior Specialist; Crystal Hernandez, Interventionist; Brett Jacobson, Social Worker; Melanie Keane, Speech/Lang. Pathologist; Michele Lesak, Science Teacher; Roben Magnaye, 4th Grade Teacher; Gabriela Mancera, Learning Behavior Specialist; Morgan McCann, 2nd Grade Teacher; Samantha Morgan, 2nd Grade Teacher; Sandra Perez, Social Worker; Brandon Reyes, Math Teacher; Edith Rios, LA/Literature Teacher; Emily Rivera, DL 4th Grade Teacher; Roberto Rodriguez, DL 4th Grade Teacher; Taylor Rosko, 1st Grade Teacher; Lizeet Sepulveda, Psychologist; Brenda Silva, Instructional Technology Coach; Victoria Studer, LA/Literature Teacher; Alejandra Vargas, DL 4th Grade Teacher; Lauren Wencewicz, Speech/Lang. Pathologist; Monica Williams, Social Studies Teacher; FOURTH YEAR CONTRACTS: Nancy Andrade, DL 3rd Grade Teacher; Kelsey Armstrong, DL 2nd Grade Teacher; Jose Bermudez, Math Teacher; Lillian Brandt, DL 4th Grade Teacher; Jennifer Buchanan, Learning Behavior Specialist; Shaquita Cargo, Early Childhood Teacher; Nicole Cervantes-Carrillo, Psychologist; Megan Devine, Learning Behavior Specialist; Danielle Drumm, LEA; Breanna Evola, 4th Grade Teacher; Amanda Fratinardo, Kindergarten Teacher; Swati Gadhvi, ESL Teacher; Evelyn Gallardo, DL 1st Grade Teacher; Maria Gonzalez-Magana, DL 3rd Grade Teacher; Erika Jimenez, DL 1st Grade Teacher; Demetra Kontakos, 1st Grade Teacher; Kirsten Lamborn-Schoenke, Interventionist; Tanner Longfellow, Orchestra; Colleen McGraw, 4th Grade Teacher; Maribel Montoya, Foreign Language Teacher; Kristie Morrison, Early Childhood Teacher; Michelle Nava, DL 1st Grade Teacher; Rosalinda Nino, Social Worker; Brenda Perez, DL 2nd Grade Teacher; Marta Podbielska, 3rd Grade Teacher; Lisette Robles, DL 3rd Grade Teacher; Archana Shukla, Learning Behavior Specialist; Linda Sloan, ELL Teacher; Stephanie Spoerl, 5th Grade Teacher; Jennifer Szwaya, Lead GATE Teacher; Kristine Turner, Learning Behavior Specialist; Jasmine Velazquez, Learning Behavior Specialist; Alicia Voss, DL ECE Teacher; Keely Walker, Art Teacher; Jobeth Wilson, Social Worker; Nina Yevdash, GATE/Differentiation Teacher; TENURED CONTRACTS: Guadalupe Aguillon, Instructional Coach; Rosmeri Ayala, DL 1st Grade Teacher; Gloria Azpera Campos, DL 1st Grade Teacher; Jeana Brown, Orchestra Teacher; Rebecca Camargo Diaz, Advanced Spanish; Colleen Dewan, Psychologist; Patrick Jecmen, Behavior Support Advisor; Keith Lavin, Learning Behavior Specialist; Ashtyn Lee, Learning Behavior Specialist; Carolyn Lekousis, LA/Literature Teacher; Alexis Long, Speech/Lang. Pathologist; Megan Miller, Learning Behavior

Specialist; Christine Nelson, Social Worker; Julie Pavon, Psychologist; Connor Peterson, GATE/Differentiation Teacher; Carolyn Reddick, Math Teacher; Kim Rivera, SEL Teacher; Ilona Truckenbrod, Literacy and Numeracy Resource Teacher; Jessica Tynan, Social Worker; Janie Wilson, 1st Grade Teacher; Janie Wood, Math Teacher; Marilyn Zable, DL 5th Grade Teacher; Kristin Zimbelmann, Math Interventionist; Mary Zonca, Instructional Coach; Jovany Zuniga, Latinos in Action.

- *IASB School Board Governance Recognition*—Kristina Davis led the conversation about the school board governance recognition application. The board will continue to discuss this at future board meetings.
- *Interfund Transfer*—The board voted to approve the public hearing for the inter-fund transfer, which will be held on April 4, 2024.
- *Staffing Services* - The Board of Education will review the information to hire an SLP for 40 days and SASED for approximately 10 days for high-needs students. The board will review and vote at the April 4, 2024 board meeting.
- *Tax Abatement Greco/DeRosa*—The Board will review the resolution providing for real estate tax abatement for the Greco/DeRosa property and vote on it at the April 4, 2024, board meeting.
- *Violation of Tax Abatement*—The board will review the violation of the Discovery Drive tax abatement and vote at the April 4, 2024, board meeting.

Action Items

- *ClearGov Strategic Plan Dashboard & Digital Budget Book* - The board voted to approve the contract with ClearGov.
- *Physical Education and Athletics Materials* - The board voted to approve the purchase of TVs to project heart rates, strength equipment, cardio equipment, basketball nets (stationary and movable), and wrestling mats for the fitness center at Lemman Middle School.

Information Items

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

- Whole Child Wellness - Family Event that will be held on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at Lemman Middle School;
- Most current posting of available job positions in School District 33;
- Freedom of Information Act Report noting there was 1 new request since the last board meeting;
- Out of District placement of Students with Disabilities report stating that 28 special education students and 3 general education students have been placed out of the district as of February 15, 2024;
- Short-term maternity leave report was shared;
- Student Chronic Absentee from February 15, 2024, through March 13, 2024, the percentage of students chronically absent district-wide is 20%;
- Student Suspension Report for February indicated 4 out-of-school suspensions, 23 in-school suspensions, and 0 Bus suspensions;
- The Board of Education was provided with the School newsletters from the buildings;
- Truancy Referral Report for February 2024, indicating that 5 new students were referred to the Regional Office of Education, and 8 students continue to be listed on the Regional Office of Education truancy referral report;

- No suggested items at this time.
- Board Outreach: Felicia attended the BTAGG Trivia Night event. Sandra attended BPAC through Zoom.
- No Parking lot at this time.

Report of District Committee Meetings

- The Board received the Opportunity for Influence update.
- Chad received thank you cards from the kinder classes at Wegner after he volunteered to read to them.

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

ag