



**WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33**  
Kristina Davis Ed.S., Superintendent  
March 7, 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, March 7, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

### **Board Members in Attendance**

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

### **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*

### **Additions/Changes to the Agenda**

Item XV- an addition to close session Reason 2-Student Discipline.

### **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 Morgan Banasiak shared her statement. “As many of you know, this is the time of year that I like to look back at our accomplishments. Leading a large group of people of varying backgrounds can be a daunting job and a continuous job of change, implementation, review, and change. However, I believe we should continue to

move forward in the best interests of the D33 children and employees. Some big changes have been made this year, and our teachers have done a wonderful job of working through these.

We changed the Dual Language program to a 50/50 model to better serve all the students in the program and hopefully allow all students to achieve when they enter high school. With this change, some of the classes at Lemman were also changed. An advanced Spanish class was added and students have the opportunity to take Civics in Spanish.

We also started moving the Preschool program to Pioneer School. Last year at this time, this program was located at three different sites, and we were paying rent at two of those sites. We moved the classrooms from the rented sites to Pioneer, and next year, the entire Preschool program will be under one roof. This can only help with the fidelity of services and should allow the teachers to share ideas better.

We were able to complete the air conditioning on three of our grade schools even though supplies were delayed, and this summer, we will be completing the air conditioning on the remaining grade schools. This should allow D33 to have air conditioning in all their classrooms starting next year. I know this has been discussed for many years, and I am pleased to see it finally come to fruition.

This winter, we approved work to begin at MaCauley School. This building has sat for many years and needs a great deal of work, but with help, D33 was able to acquire a grant to pay for 2/3 of the work needed to be done to make the building inhabitable for many years to come. When all is completed, the hope is to move the Birth to Three Program here so they can have their own space to work with our littlest students and parents.

A new position was created to help with after-school programming and Julie Odom has taken the reins. We were able to add flag football and the Scholastic Bowl. NJHS, as well as continuing The Lemman Unified Basketball team. A system has been set up online to help parents navigate programs and continues to be worked on.

In an effort to work more closely with the surrounding school boards, we hosted a joint board training called Trauma-Informed Practices with Benjamin, Winfield, and D94. We were able to work with D94 so that Lemman can have their 8th-grade graduation at their facilities. This allows all the 8th graders to participate in one ceremony with their friends. Ongoing discussions are occurring to better align academics between the two schools.

And much has happened behind the scenes. An upgraded Financial/Employee The management system was approved, and an upgraded Student Information system was approved, the School Board Protocols were revised, and the School Board Expectations were revised. Perfect Pass was added at Lemman to better track tardies and late arrivals and more adult hall monitors were added during passing periods to decrease negative behaviors. Destination D33 was launched to prepare for tomorrow teachers and to provide a supportive administrative tract for teachers wanting to move forward in their careers. Improvements have been made to the parent app to more easily navigate it as well as provide more information to parents, and an app has been added for parents to track their children's school bus.

I feel exhausted just listing these examples and know that I have missed many items. Needless to say, D33 is in constant motion to better improve the quality of education in this district as well as the lives of the families it supports.”

**Recognition/Showcase/Presentation****Superintendent for the day***Indian Knoll Superintendent for the Day*

On February 15, students Liliana F. and Camila G. participated in Superintendent for the Day. Liliana and Camila shared about their day as Superintendent. The students walked around 3rd grade classrooms and gathered information. During their visit, they collected information about reading and what students find fun during a school day.

**Showcase***Indian Knoll School Showcase - Dictado*

Mrs. Calderon and Ms. Mojica presented Dictado. Dictado is a way students recount stories and write them down with capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. Students Hugo E. and Marcos C. read several short stories so the board members and administrators could have an opportunity to write them down. Mrs. Calderon practices Dictado with students 3-5 times a week.

**Presentation ALC Update**

Whitnie Del Toro, Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning; Jen Szwaya, GATE/Differentiation Teacher; Jenny Brunke, Lead Teacher for Literacy; and Kate Mayster, Lead Teacher for Math, updated the board on the Academic Leadership Council (ALC). To help ensure adequate time, the ALC was restructured into two groups: Elementary and Lemay Middle School. ALC collaborates with the Curriculum Leadership Institute (CLI) to govern and manage curriculum, instruction, and assessment work. Information was provided to the board regarding report cards, science units, Advanced Spanish, and future plans.

**Presentation AAPPL Scores**

Kellie Barros, Director of Multilingual Learners, presented the first Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL). West Chicago Community High School uses the AAPPL as a way for students to demonstrate second language proficiency, which leads to the Seal of Biliteracy. Dual students in grades 3-8 participated in the AAPPL test and will be annually assessed. AAPPL scores provide the district with information about the student's command of the Spanish language and will help monitor student effectiveness in the dual program. This year's scores will be the baseline. Students are tested in interpersonal listening/speaking, presentational writing, interpretive listening, and interpretive reading.

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

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

**Public Comment**

No public comment at this time.

Public Comment Follow-up: Kristina Davis and Gloria Trejo met with the SLP's team on February 28 and will meet again tomorrow to address their concerns.

**Superintendent News**

Indian Knoll School 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**

By spring of 2024, 46.3% of students will be at or above the 50th percentile in MAP English Reading from a spring 2023 baseline of 34.3%.

**Focus on vocabulary with an action plan using the district strategy of Dictado.**

- At the February Staff Meeting, the Indian Knoll coaches presented vocabulary strategies. They learned that, on average, it takes students 12-20 exposures to learn a new vocabulary word. Staff walked through several activities, including “hexagonal thinking,” that can easily be replicated in the classroom.
- The IK Attendance Team closely monitors student attendance, and teachers have been asked to make personal calls home for those students missing more than 10% of the academic year. They also track classroom performance weekly and reward students in classrooms where they have met their 95% monthly attendance goal.
- Special teachers are assigned time to work 1:1 and in small groups with the newcomers. The arrangements have been working well, and the students are flourishing with the additional pull-out time assistance.
- Indian Knoll has taken Teacher Influence to guide our scheduled professional development days. They will present a training on our platform, Elevation, that focuses on different strategies for all learners. Teams will continue to collaborate to focus on vocabulary and other strategies that will enhance student growth to meet their goal for the end of this year.

**Consent Agenda**

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

- Approved the list of bills dated February 17, 2024, through March 7, 2024, in the amount of \$1,498,403.28:
- Approve the contract Renewals with the following vendor: Planning Implementation Evaluation (PIE);
- Approved imprest account from February 15, 2024, to March 7, 2024, in the amount of \$85.00;
- Approved the personnel report:
  - 2 Administration: Daniel Guerrero, Assistant Principal at Indian Knoll, effective July 1, 2024; Samantha Battaglia, Assistant Director of Student Services at LMS, effective July 1, 2024;
  - 1 Certified: Elizabeth Walrath, LBS1 at Wegner, effective 2024-2025 School Year;
  - 2 Classified: Vianney Moreno, Paraprofessional at IK, effective March 4, 2024; Sandra Munoz, Lunch Supervisor at IK, effective March 11, 2024;
  - 28 Resignations: Emily Majkrzak, Social Worker at Preschool, effective June 30, 2024; Rosa Borjon, Family Liaison at B-3, effective March 1, 2024; Elizabeth Walrath, Assistant Director of Assessment and Accountability at ESC, effective end of the 2023-2024 School Year; Wilyna Frankel, Social Worker at Wegner, effective end of the 2023-2024 School Year; Alma Vargas, Preschool Teacher at Preschool, effective end of the 2023-2024 School Year; Carrie Gerry, TOSA at ELC, effective end of the 2023-2024 School Year; Darlena Gomez, Spanish Teacher at LMS effective end of the 2023-2024 School Year; Kristine Mutchler, Music Teacher at

Currier, effective end of the 2023-2024 School Year; Ariana Moschini, LBS1 at Turner, effective end of the 2023-2024 School Year; Erin Underwood, Self-Contained Teacher at Preschool, effective end of the 2023-2024 School Year; Krysta Schoenecker, Science Teacher at LMS, effective end of the 2023-2024 School Year; Jean-Pierre Battistini, LBS1 at Currier, effective end of the 2023-2024 School Year; Cassandra Payne, Dual Language Teacher at Turner, effective end of the 2023-2024 School Year; John Hilliard, PE Teacher at Pioneer, effective end of the 2023-2024 School Year; Andrew Van Gorp, Dual Language Teacher at Turner, effective end of the 2023-2024 School Year; Dana Ibrahim, Math Teacher at LMS, effective end of the 2023-2024 School Year; Deirdre Jakabcsin, 5th Grade Teacher at Wegner, effective end of the 2023-2024 School Year; Wendy DeGeorge, LBS1 at LMS, effective end of the 2023-2024 School Year; Emy Bacheller, Social Worker at Currier, effective end of the 2023-2024 School Year; Maurice McDavid, Principal at Turner, effective June 30, 2024; Lizbeth Gonzalez, Paraprofessional at Currier, effective March 14, 2024; Joseph Winters, Library Media Specialist at Gary, effective end of the 2023-2024 School Year; Jennifer Nagle, Art Teacher at Pioneer, effective end of the 2023-2024 School Year; Aila Hoori, Speech Language Pathologist Assistant at Preschool, effective March 4, 2024; Mireya Garcia-Carrasco, Clerical Aide at LMS, effective March 12, 2024; Joelle Nelson Library Media Specialist at Pioneer, effective June 11, 2024; Marjhe Mason, Choir Teacher at LMS, effective June 11, 2024; Olesia Mohline, Dual Language Teacher at Pioneer, effective June 11, 2024;

0 Terminations:

0 Position Change:

0 Leave:

1 Retirement: Teresita Gaitan, School Nurse at Turner, effective end of the 2023-2024 School Year:

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

- *ClearGov*—Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, provided information to the board of ClearGov, an online platform for collaborative budgeting, budget transparency to the public, Strategic Plan development, and Strategic Plan Dashboards. The Board will review the information and vote at the March 21, 2024, meeting.
- *Finance/Facilities* - Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, stated that the district has received \$1,200,907.00 for Evidence-Based Funding, \$2,253.16 for State Free Lunch and Breakfast, \$1,064,200.00 for the Early Childhood Block Grant, \$15,000.00 for Other State Programs, \$152,324.68 for the National School Lunch Program, and \$63,666.57 for the School Breakfast Program since the last board meeting.
- *Physical Education and Athletics Instructional Materials 2024* - The board will review the information for replacing the following equipment in the LMS fitness center: TVs to project heart rates, strength equipment, cardio equipment, basketball nets (stationary and movable), and wrestling mats. The board will vote at the March 21, 2024, board meeting.

### **Action Items**

- Close Session Minutes - The board voted to approve the release of the following closed session minutes: March 1, 2018; March 22, 2018; April 19, 2018; May 3, 2018; May 17, 2018; June 7, 2018; June 21, 2018; August 2, 2018; August 16, 2018;

September 6, 2018; October 4, 2018; October 18, 2018; November 1, 2018; November 15, 2018; December 6, 2018; December 20, 2018; January 17, 2019 (2nd session); February 7, 2019; February 21, 2019; March 21, 2019; April 4, 2019; April 25, 2019; May 16, 2019; June 6, 2019; June 20, 2019; February 6, 2020; July 16, 2020; September 17, 2020; October 1, 2020; October 15, 2020; November 5, 2020; November 19, 2020; January 7, 2021; June 17, 2021; and August 19, 2021.

- Air Conditioning - Asbestos Abatement - The board voted to approve the asbestos abatement for Gary, Pioneer, and Turner Schools.
- Member Advocacy Program - The board voted to approve the member advocacy program as an addition to the existing benefit options.
- Practical Parenting Education Contract - The board approved the contract with Practical Parent Education.

### **Information Items**

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

- Policy and Procedures - Bullying, Fees, and Homework
- State Testing - 5Esentials Survey
- Students New to the Country - Newcomer Enrollment Data
- 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

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