



**WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33**

Kristina Davis Ed.S., Superintendent  
January 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, January 18, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance**

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

**Changes or Additions**

The board voted to approve Chad McLean as the Pro Tem Secretary.  
Under Recognition, an addition of #D33 Pride Award Winners 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 Sandra Garcia shared her statement. “Tonight, I will be focusing on our shared agreement #3. Be willing to see things from the eyes of seven people, not just one. As a quote from Henry Ford states, “If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.” Each time we are faced with both

expected and unexpected challenges as board members, we come together as a team to communicate any questions and/or concerns about certain topics thoroughly. Some are simple, and others are more complex. It is valuable for us to each understand one another & what our reasons were for deciding to become board members. In doing so, it helps us learn even more from one another as well as helping us to consistently move forward towards common goals and objectives for our district.”

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

#### ***Get Involved D33 Winners***

Get Involved, D33! is a districtwide initiative to encourage and recognize parent engagement in their children’s education. Parents are asked to check into events to collect participation data and recognize their commitment to their child’s education.

Each trimester, three raffle winners are selected: one from early childhood, one from elementary school, and one from middle school. This trimester’s winners are:

- Deysey Bautista from the Birth to Three Program
- Lucila Hernández from Gary Elementary School
- Lucas Franco from Lemay Middle School

“We would like to 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.” - Sarah Norton.

#### ***Recognition - #D33 Pride Awards***

The #D33Pride Awards are given to individuals who have significantly impacted the students, staff, and families of the District 33 community. The nominations were presented on December 21, 2023, but due to unforeseen circumstances, the following group and parent volunteers were not able to attend. Today, the board recognized the Gary PTO and parent volunteer Pride Award winners.

#### ***Parent/Volunteer #D33Pride Award winner***

Diana Fialka, a parent volunteer at Gary School, was nominated by Yecenia Mexicano, a second-grade dual language teacher at Gary School.

#### ***Organization #D33Pride Award winner***

Gary School PTO by Estela Vander Kuyl, a social worker at Gary School.

#### ***Showcase - Indian Knoll School Showcase***

Berenis Magana, 2nd-grade dual teacher; Ms. Brenda Silva, Instructional Technology Coach; Ruby T., second grader; and Leonardo P., 2nd grader, presented the English Language Arts and Science Activity. Students are working on understanding the reading of elements found in information texts by researching bugs and their ecosystems with ARC and virtual reality headsets. The students walked around to show Administrators and Board Members how they use the virtual reality headsets in their classrooms.

***Presentations******Destination D33***

Mark Truckenbrod, Director of Human Resources; Sarah Burnett, Assistant Director of Human Resources; Dan Guerrero, Teacher on Special Assignment; and Arturo Arvizu, 4th-grade teacher, presented Destination D33. In alignment with the district's goal #3, Teachers of Tomorrow was developed. Teachers of Tomorrow targets students who possess a curiosity and/or passion for education and seek to become a teacher as their future career. Targeted students are graduating 8th graders and current D94 high school students. This program operates during D33 Summer School/ESY. The students are assigned to a classroom, work in a teacher's assistant role, and are compensated per hour. The students can conduct their student teaching in the district while still earning regular pay. The goal is for TOT students to decide to become the BEST employees who commit to becoming certified teachers in D33. District 33 has held recruitment presentations at District 94 and has partnered with Grand Canyon University.

***Tier 1 Reflections***

Beth Walrath, Director of Assessment and Accountability, presented the Trimester 1 Program Reflections. The presentation included the review of the trimester 1 baseline data monitoring, implementation of the 50/50 content language allocation model in the dual program, and how to meet the state literacy guideline changes for the science of reading. The district will continue to review the winter MAP results, adjust instruction, and update SIP action plans. They will start SIP Status Visits in mid-February.

**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 statement**

No follow-up at this time.

**Superintendent News - Indian Knoll 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 #2: Learning Culture of Equity, Engagement & Agency**

Cultivate a welcoming, nurturing, and student-centered learning environment that embraces student curiosity and originality and is aligned with clear learning expectations.

**Goal #5: Effective and Innovative Use of Resources**

Meet the evolving needs of our students by leveraging all available resources to provide high-quality programs and services and innovative technology and learning environments while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

**Consent Agenda**

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

- Approved the Board meeting minutes of December 21, 2023 and January 4, 2024;

- Approve the contract Renewals with the following vendor: CEC - Catalysts for Education Change:
- Approved the list of bills dated December 28, 2023, through January 18, 2024, in the amount of \$125,411.66;
- Approved payrolls of December 15, 2023, in the amount of \$1,913,042.88, and December 30, 2023, in the amount of \$1,894,721.76;
- Approved imprest account from January 1, 2024, to January 15, 2024, in the amount of \$701.00;
- Approved the disposition of the audio tape of the Board of Education's regular closed session dated July 14, 2022. Meetings that are at least 18 months old and meet the State criteria are disposed of;
- Approved the personnel report;
  - 0 Administration:
  - 1 Certified: Jennifer Eisenmenger, Speech Language Pathologist at Preschool, effective 2024-2025 School Year;
  - 1 Classified: Ethan Wallace, Paraprofessional at Currier, effective January 16, 2024;
  - 0 Resignations:
  - 0 Terminations:
  - 0 Position Change:
  - 0 Leaves:
  - 0 Retirement:

### **Financial Reports**

- The Board of Education reviewed the Treasurers' Report and Budget Report as of December 31, 2023, along with the financial charts;
- The Board of Education received a financial report from Karen Apostoli, Director of Business and Operations, stating that since the last meeting, the District received \$1,200,907.00 payment for Evidence-Based Funding, \$1,920.00 for Federal Special Education Preschool Flow Through; \$75,804.00 for Federal Special Education IDEA; \$45,789.00 for Tittle III-Lang Inst. Prog - Limited Eng LIPLP; and \$3,453,458.00 for Other Federal Programs.
- The Board of Education received a summary of each school's monthly activity accounts as of December 31, 2023.

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

- *No presentation follow-up at this time.*
- *Healthy West Chicago Donation-* Healthy West Chicago is a collaboration of organizations within the community working to improve the community's health. Their mission is to ensure that all residents have access to optimal health and wellness. Healthy West Chicago asks the District 33 Board of Education to consider a \$5,000 donation yearly for the next three calendar years (2024-2026). The board will vote at the February 1, 2024 board meeting.

### **Action Items**

- *2nd Reading of Policies* - The Board voted to approve the 2nd reading of the policies as follows: Policy 5:30-Hiring Process and Criteria.
- *Mandated School Training Software* - The board voted to approve the purchase of safety services from Public School Works.
- *Student Fees* - The Board voted to approve a new student fee schedule fee for the 2024-2025 school year.

**Information Items**

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

- Countywide Institute Day information.
- Most current posting of available job positions in School District 33;
- Freedom of Information Act Report noting there were no new requests since the last board meeting;
- Martin Luther King Recognition in Buildings.
- Out of District placement of Students with Disabilities report stating that 28 special education students and 2 general education students have been placed out of the district as of January 18, 2023;
- Short-term maternity leave report was shared;
- Student Chronic Absentee from December 21, 2023, through January 10, 2024, the percentage of students chronically absent district-wide is 21%;
- Student Suspension Report for November indicated 1 out-of-school suspensions, 14 in-school suspensions, and 0 Bus suspensions;
- The Board of Education was provided with the School newsletters from the buildings;
- Truancy Referral Report for December 2023, indicating that 1 new student was referred to the Regional Office of Education, and 7 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.
- Kristina spoke with Maggie Lay regarding a green project. There are Green Ribbon Schools, and Maggie will look into doing a qualifying project.

**Report of District Committee Meetings**

- Morgan Banasiak asked for the status of McAuley School since the snowstorm.

**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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