



**WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33**

Kristina Davis Ed.S., Superintendent  
December 21, 2023, 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 regular meeting of the Board of Education was held at Lemay Middle School on  
Thursday, December 21, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance**

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

**Changes or Additions**

The board voted to approve Janette Hernandez as the Pro Tem Treasurer.

\*Sandra Garcia arrived at 7:16 p.m.

**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 agreement at this meeting.

**Recognition/Showcase/Presentation**

***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. Nominations are accepted and presented at the end of each trimester. The members of the Staff 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. Nominations were open for classified staff, certified staff, students, and volunteers/parents. A total of 15 individuals and one group were nominated.

This trimester's nominees were:

Certified Staff

Lisa Rodriguez, Wegner School

Emy Bacheller, Currier School

Krysta Schoenecker, LMS

Carli Benn, ELC/Pioneer Preschool

Jamee Kenney, Wegner School

Carrie Gerry, ELC

Amanda Freeman, LMS

Brittany Smith, Wegner

Chris Cintula, LMS

*K-1 Student #D33Pride Award winner*

Tyler Tompkins, a first grader at Gary School, nominated by Jill Cooper, GATE teacher at Currier School.

*4-5th grade #D33Pride Award winner*

Quetzalli Santiago, fourth grader at Pioneer School, nominated by Jennifer Buchanan, an LBS1 at Pioneer School.

*Parent/Volunteer #D33Pride Award winner*

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

*Classified staff #D33Pride Award*

John Trella, a custodian at Lemman Middle School, nominated by Stephen Rogers, Megan Bartlett, and Kelly Reinmann, all deans at Lemman Middle School.

*Classified staff #D33Pride Award winner*

Maricela Padilla, a para-professional at Lemman Middle School, nominated by Claudia Cabral, a para-professional at Lemman Middle School.

*Certified Staff #D33Pride Award*

Courtney Daily, an instructional coach at Pioneer School, nominated by Daniel Guerrero, a Teacher on Special Assignment at Pioneer School.

*Organization #D33Pride Award winner*

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

***Recognition - Turner Superintendent for the Day***

Maurice McDavid, Turner School Principal, presented Liam C. Yulisa M. to the Board.

Liam and Yulisa shared about their day. They enjoyed checking on students and ensuring they were learning, being safe, and having fun. They encouraged their peers to read challenging books more often to reach a higher level/goal.

### ***Showcase - Turner School Showcase***

Maurice McDavid, Principal at Turner School, introduced Callum Casey, a teacher at Turner School. Mr. Casey presented the Climb Notebooks. Johnny L., Jocelyn S., and Vanessa G. joined Mr. Casey in discussing how the journals are used. Journals helped reinforce skills in both English and Spanish. It helps them become better readers and learners. It also helps them understand the cognitive, morphology, and semantics.

### ***Presentations***

#### ***Strategic Management Survey***

Beth Walrath, Director of Assessment and Accountability, presented the Strategic Management Survey data. There are three areas of focus, performance measurement and performance management. Board members, faculty advisory, and administrative council will be receiving a survey in January. Results will be received in March, and the data will be brought back.

### **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 us accomplish the goals of the District Strategic Plan.

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

Turner and our PTO celebrated 70 years!

- ❖ Turner's building opened in 1953 and celebrated 70 years in collaboration with the annual Fall Fest.
- ❖ Former Turner Tigers came back and walked the building on tours.
- ❖ The West Chicago History Museum gave a presentation on the history of the city and the school.
- ❖ D33 Ballet Folklórico presented a few traditional dances as part of the celebration

They will have a Family Academic STREAM Night in January.

- ❖ Families and students were invited into the building for a night of academic fun.
- ❖ Families will be able to attend the different classrooms with minilessons and activities in the areas of science, technology, reading, engineering, art, and math.

APTT is being operated successfully in the building.

- ❖ Academic Parent-Teacher Teams are up and running across all grade levels at Turner.
- ❖ Parents and teachers have worked together in order to set goals for their children and then follow up on their progress. Our next APTT meeting will be in March.

### **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.

## **Consent Agenda**

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

- Approved the Board meeting minutes of November 2, 2023, November 16, 2023, December 7, 2023, and December 11, 2023;
- Approved the list of bills dated December 9, 2023, through December 22, 2023, in the amount of \$3,114,012.28;
- Approved payrolls of November 15, 2023, in the amount of \$1,993,724.07, and November 30, 2023, in the amount of \$1,968,284.00;
- Approved imprest account from December 1, 2023, to December 21, 2023, in the amount of \$1,220.00;
- Approved the disposition of the audio tape of the Board of Education's regular closed session dated May 19, 2022, June 2, 2022 (1&2), and June 16, 2022. Meetings that are at least 18 months old and meet the State criteria are disposed of;
- Approved the personnel report;

### 0 Administration:

2 Certified: Brian Barry, Science Teacher at LMS, effective January 8, 2023; Megan Haque, Speech Language Pathologist at LMS, effective 2024-2025 school year;

### 0 Classified:

2 Resignations: Oksana Paihr, Paraprofessional AT ELC, Effective December 14, 2023; Monet Malone, Accounts Payable and Benefits Clerk AT ESC, effective December 15, 2023;

1 Terminations: Eduardo Mendoza-Santiago, Paraprofessional at Currier, effective December 21, 2023;

### 0 Position Change:

1 Leave: Maria Salcedo, Lunch Aide at Pioneer Prek, effective December 21, 2023;

1 Retirement: Jesus Serna, Social Worker at Turner, effective end of the 2024-2025 School Year.

## **Financial Reports**

- The Board of Education reviewed the Treasurers' Report and Budget Report as of November 30, 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, \$18,477.00 for Title IV-21st Century Community Learning; \$100,136.00 for Title III-Lang Inst. Prog - Limited Eng LIPLP; and \$100,044.00 for Other Federal Programs.
- The Board of Education received a summary of each school's monthly activity accounts as of November 30, 2023.

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

- *No presentation follow-up at this time.*
- *Annual Board of Education Self-Evaluation-* On December 11, 2023, the Board of Education conducted a self-evaluation in closed session in accordance with the Illinois Association of School Board's (IASB). This annual event is where all board members reflect on their performance and adherence to shared protocols and responsibilities. This year, the Board reflected on their performance through the lens of achieving School Board Governance Recognition. They discuss the feedback from IASB, determine the next steps, and prepare for the application for Board Governance Recognition. The Board will finalize the revisions to the Board

and Superintendent Expectations and School Board Protocols and will vote at the January 4, 2024, board meeting.

### **Action Items**

- *2nd Reading of Policies* - The Board voted to approve the 2nd reading of the policies as follows: Policy 2:120 Board Member Development; Policy 2:200 Types of Board of Education Meetings; Policy 2:20 Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification; Policy 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure; Policy 2:220-E6 Exhibit - Log of Closed Meeting Minutes; Policy 2:220-E2 Exhibit - Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting; Policy 4:10 Fiscal and Business Management; Policy 4:130 Free and Reduced-Price Services; Policy 4:130-E Exhibit - Free and Reduced-Price Food Services; Meal Change Notifications; Policy 4:160 Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds; Policy 4:30 Revenue and Investments; Policy 4:60 Purchase Contracts; Policy 5:190 Teacher Qualifications; Policy 5:200 Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal; Policy 5:210 Resignations; Policy 5:220 Substitute Teachers; Policy 5:250 Leaves of Absence; Policy 5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria; Policy 5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves; Policy 6:15 School Accountability; Policy 6:230 Library Media Program; Policy 6:30 Organization of Instruction; Policy 6:50 School Wellness; Policy 6:60 Curriculum Content; Policy 7:160 Student Appearance; Policy 7:190 Student Behavior; Policy 7:270 Administering Medicines to Students; Policy 7:285 Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program; Policy 7:290 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention; Policy 7:60 Residence; Policy 7:70 Attendance and Truancy; Policy 8:30 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property.
- *BCBA Job Description* - The board voted to approve the Board Certified Behavior Analyst position to a non-union and supervisory role.
- *Board of Education Meeting Dates* - The Board voted to approve 2024-2025 board meeting dates.
- *CLIC Insurance Renewal* - The board voted to approve the Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative (CLIC) renewal contract.
- *Adoption of Aggregate Property Tax Levy* - The Board of Education voted to approve the adoption of the Aggregate Property Tax Levy.
- *Property Tax Abatement* - The Board of Education voted to approve the tax abatement in the amount of \$1,000,000 to help partially offset the new construction revenue of approximately \$400,000 that has already come into D33 in 2023 and continue to provide taxpayers some relief during this historically high inflation period.

### **Information Items**

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

- Most current posting of available job positions in School District 33;
- Freedom of Information Act Report noting there were 5 new requests since the last board meeting;
- 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 December 21, 2023;
- Short-term maternity leave report was shared;
- Student Chronic Absentee from November 16, 2023, through December 13, 2023, the percentage of students chronically absent district-wide is 17%;

- Student Suspension Report for November indicated 3 out-of-school suspensions, 12 in-school suspensions, and 0 Bus suspensions;
- The Board of Education was provided with the School newsletters from the buildings;
- The Board of Education was provided with the Summary of Achievement Celebrations from the buildings.
- Truancy Referral Report for November 2023, indicating that 3 new students were referred to the Regional Office of Education, and 3 students continue to be listed on the Regional Office of Education truancy referral report;
- No suggested items at this time.
- Board Outreach - Jannette Hernandez attended the Gary Awards reception and reported it was great to see so many parents. Morgan Banasiak attended Gary's breakfast with Santa and reported that it was very organized and had a great turnout with a lot of crafts for the children.
- 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

ag