



**WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33**

Kristina Davis Ed.S., Superintendent
December 7, 2023, 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, December 7, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance

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

Public Hearing

The Board of Education held a public hearing on the 2023 tax levy. Mrs. Karen Apostoli, Director for Business and Operations, reviewed the levy process, mentioning that the Board of Education, at its November 16, 2023 meeting, approved the intent to levy taxes for the upcoming fiscal year and that a notice of this public hearing was published in a local newspaper on November 29, 2023. Mrs. Apostoli asked if any member of the public would like to comment on the 2023 tax levy. No one in the audience addressed the Board concerning the levy. The public hearing was concluded. The 2023 tax levy will be presented to the Board for adoption at the regular Board of Education meeting on December 21, 2023. The 2023 tax levy estimation totals \$46,530,457, which does exceed the 2022 taxes extended (\$41,524,356.66) by more than 105%.

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 VI: C -Strategic Management Presentation will be postponed to a board meeting in January.

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 Secretary Tom Doyle shared his statement. “Our open and closed meeting agendas commonly include topics like policy review, tax abatement discussions, approval of instructional resources and programs, bus transportation, strategic planning, staffing, etc. All of these are important needs for our students to be successful.

Our responsibilities involve taking action through our voting process. Our most recent meetings have included all of these. Sometimes, these topics and decisions affect us differently as parents and taxpayers. It’s natural to have personal attachments or experiences that are different from our team members and other stakeholders. I value our commitment to our shared agreement of making decisions according to what is best for all District 33 students. This is easier said than done when agenda topics might affect us differently than others in the room. This board has done a great job of valuing and honoring this commitment. Thank you, and I hope we can continue to work together and provide opportunities for all of our students to be successful.”

Recognition/Showcase/Presentation

Superintendent for the Day *Currier School*

Anthony Hugelier, Principal at Currier, introduced students Jayleen M., Jaelyn Z., and Aubriella C. The students shared how much fun they had collecting data in the classrooms. They shared their findings and suggestions for possible improvements with Mr. Hugelier and Mrs. Getz the same day.

Showcase *Currier School Showcase*

Anthony Hugelier, Currier Principal, introduced Ms. Liller and her students Romeo M., Mackenzie H., Ryker G., and Mateo D. This year, all students at Currier write daily as a goal, and their work is displayed in the main hall at Currier School. Ms. Liller works with her class on narrative, opinion, and informative writing. Students write in their journals, read, and share them with Ms. Liller, who provides feedback and ensures they all walk away with a goal. They get a second journal and do the same process. The students can review their first journal and are proud of their work and growth. The students were able to share a story from their journals with the Board and Cabinet members.

E.T.A.W.C. Statement

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

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

No public follow-up at this time.

SUPERINTENDENT NEWS

Currier School

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 Involvement

Currier is excited to bring back the PTO after several years!

- ❖ The first event, “Trunk or Treat,” was on Friday, October 27th
- ❖ Teachers have joined on as members
- ❖ Their goal is to have one parent event per month
- ❖ They are hopeful that 80 percent of our parents will attend at least one event.

They are also happy to introduce our student of the month program, "Pup of the Month."

- ❖ The Currier Staff nominates one student per grade level.
- ❖ The winner gets a certificate, a shoutout on Twitter, a highlight in the monthly newsletter, and a personal phone call home from an administrator.

Students have been earning Currier Cash, which aligns with our PBIS core values.

- ❖ So far, they have collected over 10,000 Currier Cash
- ❖ The students were able to vote on their first celebration. They chose a whole class game.
- ❖ Our next goal is 20,000!

Consent Agenda

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

- Approved the list of bills dated November 18, 2023, through December 8, 2023, in the amount of \$1,749,648.54;
- Approve the current imprest list from November 1, 2023, to November 29, 2023, in the amount of \$552.00;
- Approved the personnel report:
 - 0 Administration:
 - 1 Certified: Caela Masibhera, School Psychologist at LMS, effective 2024-2025 School Year;
 - 3 Classified: Deida Reyes, Lunch Supervisor at ELC, effective December 1, 2023; Maria Corona Ortiz, Lunch Supervisor at Gary, effective December 1, 2023; Sandra Munoz, Lunch Supervisor at Pioneer Prek, effective December 1, 2023;
 - 3 Resignations: Cori Rauch, Paraprofessional at Currier, effective November 28, 2023; Reyna Yanes, Paraprofessional at Wegner, effective November 30, 2023; Victor Campos, Paraprofessional at Currier, effective November 30, 2023;
 - 0 Terminations:
 - 0 Position Change:
 - 0 Leave:
 - 1 Retirement: Nancy Clark, Language Arts Teacher at LMS, effective end of the 2023-2024 School Year.
- Approve the contract Renewals with the following vendors: S.T.A.R.E and CEC - Catalysts for Education Change.

Discussion of New /Ongoing Business with Possible Action

- *Presentation follow-up* - No presentation follow-up at this time.

- *1st Reading of Policies* - The Board reviewed the 1st 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. The board will review the policies and vote at the December 21, 2023 board meeting.
- *Board of Education Meeting Dates* - Kristina Davis shared the board meeting dates for the 24/25 School year. The Board will review and vote at the December 21, 2023 board meeting.
- *CLIC Insurance Renewal* - Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, shared Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative (CLIC) information with the board. The Board will review and vote at the December 21, 2023 board meeting.
- *Finance/Facilities* – Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, stated that since the last Board meeting, the district has received \$1,200,907.00 for Evidence-Based Funding, \$712,732.00 for Early Childhood Block Grants, \$45,000.00 in Other State Programs; \$2,167.00 for Title IV-A Student Support & Enrichment; \$110,034.00 for Fed, Sp. Ed. IDEA.
- *Tax Levy* - The Board voted to approve the adjusted resolution of intent to levy taxes.
- *Property Tax Abatement* - The Board of Education abated property taxes for the past 6 years. In 2018, the abatement was \$700,00. In 2019, the abatement was \$714,417. In 2020, 2021 and 2022, the abatement was \$400,000. In 2023, the abatement was \$1,000,000. For 2018 and 2019, these amounts represented the CPI (inflation) of 2.1%. In 2020, the BOE abated a smaller amount to step down gradually and free up more dollars for potential Capital Projects. In 2021 and 2022, the BOE abated \$400,000 based on the estimated revenue from new construction. Because of the continuing impacts of high inflation, continuing with a property tax abatement of \$1,000,000 will provide some relief to local taxpayers. Whenever an abatement occurs and is then adjusted upward, downward, or eliminated, it can affect future years' extension amounts. The board will vote at the December 21, 2023 board meeting.

Action Items

No action items at this time.

Information Items

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

- IASB Joint Annual review.
- Parent participation in conferences.
- Most current posting of available job positions in School District 33.
- No suggested items at this time.
- No Board outreach at this time.
- No parking lot at this time.

Report of District Committee Meetings

- Opportunities for Teacher Influence and Committee Updates slide presentation was provided.
- Open Comments - Sarah Norton, Assistant Director of Partnerships, provided an update on the fire at Main Park apartments. “There was a large fire in the early morning hours of Thursday, Nov. 30th, at the Main Park Apartments in West Chicago. The fire impacted 22 units, displacing 26 families and nearly 100 individuals. More than 30 children were affected: 23 from District 33 and 6 from D94, and some younger children who were not enrolled in our EC programs. Last December, another fire at Main Park also impacted our families. The most recent fire was even greater and caused more destruction. Most people lost all of their belongings, and several injuries included tenants and a firefighter. While most people who were injured have recovered, there are still two individuals who are in the hospital and have a long journey to recovery. This fire has also generated greater engagement and media coverage from community providers. The night of the fire, New Hope Methodist Church opened its doors to host an emergency shelter. The Red Cross is managing the shelter which can remain in operation for up to 14 days. At its peak there were over 70 people staying at the shelter, and as of this morning, there are still about 50 people there. The Red Cross reported this is one of its largest and longest-running emergency shelters in the Midwest region. The response of the community and local organizations has been incredible. WeGo Together for Kids, the Police Department, Puente del Pueblo and Casa Michoacan, and the school districts are just a few of the organizations that have been vital in the emergency response and are diligently working to find families short-term and long-term housing. Yesterday, the Red Cross organized a Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) at St. Andrews, where over 20 organizations came to provide resources to families in one location. About 90% of individuals impacted by the fire attended the fair and were connected to wealth or resources. District 33 has been in contact with our students, ensuring they are in school, have transportation, clothing, school supplies, hygiene products, holiday gifts, and other necessities. We are hosting a gift card drive where staff and community members can donate gift cards to Walmart, Target, and local grocery stores. We will distribute these evenly among the impacted families early next week. Another way for people to donate and get involved is by contributing to WeGo Together for Kids donation link. If people have other types of donations, such as furniture and home goods that are new or gently used, you can contact me and I will add them to a community-wide list that organizations are reviewing daily trying to connect donors to families. Finally, there is a signup sheet for translators to work at the shelter. If you would like that link, I would be happy to share it.”

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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