



**WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33**

Kristina Davis Ed.S., Superintendent  
November 16, 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, November 16, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance**

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

**Changes or Additions**

The board voted to approve Morgan Banasiak as the Pro Tem President.

\*Tom Doyle arrived at 7:02 p.m.

\*Felicia Gills arrived at 7:05 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**

At the July 18, 2013, meeting, the Board of Education finalized their “shared agreements” and agreed to begin each regular meeting by reflecting on one agreement.

The Board revised the shared agreements on November 6, 2014. The purpose of the shared agreement is to help maintain a positive environment in which to conduct board work.

Board member Morgan Banasiak shared her statement. “A common theme I hear in the community is surprise at all the things board members do. Most people I speak with have not thought beyond members attending board meetings twice a month.

But in order to honor our Shared Agreements, there are so many more things that occur. Before we set foot in a board meeting, there are 200-300 pages of prepared documents to be reviewed. The meetings themselves can be 3-4 hours long, between open and closed sessions. And those meetings occur all year- even when the children are not in session. There are updates throughout the weeks and emails to go through. New members attend almost 20 hours of training. There's a weekend conference in Chicago each year to update ourselves on new policies and trends. There can be special sessions to attend to address training or closed-session topics.

Then there is the community involvement. Attending district events to help understand our schools, students, staff, and parents. My experiences include attending Teacher Appreciation Day at Indian Knoll and the preschool. Having a tour of Indian Knoll classes, attending the preschool parade, and preschool curriculum day. Attending Gary and Leman's Curriculum nights. Pouring over school newsletters so that all the schools have a better understanding of each other. Attending GATE committee, Special Education committee, and Academic Leadership committee and helping with 8th grade graduation. It includes sitting at high school swim meets and travel softball games, listening to concerns, exploring those concerns with the administration, and manning a booth at Bloomingfest.

For many of us on the board, it also includes sharing our experiences when we walk into our child's school because many of us have children in District 33.

I want to thank my fellow board members for all they do for this board and this district. I know that sometimes it can be a thankless job, but I want each of you to know that I appreciate the work you do, and I see you.”

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

#### ***Recognition - Leman Boys Varsity Soccer Team***

Julie Odom, Assistant Director of Athletics and Activities, and Maggie Lay, Principal of Leman Middle School, introduced the Leman Boys Varsity Soccer Team, Coach Casper, and Coach Tamyo. They won the IPAC championship with 11 wins, 0 losses, and 1 tie. They are the 4-time reigning champions. Congratulations on all their hard work and dedication on and off the field.

#### ***Recognition - School Board Member Recognition***

Each year, during the third week in November, we take the time to recognize and celebrate the members of our board of education for the considerable amount of time, passion, and talent they donate to support the students, families, staff, and community of District 33.

Tonight, we honor our school board members - Chad McLean, Rita Balgeman, Tom Doyle, Felicia Gills, Morgan Banasiak, Sandra Garcia, and Janette Hernandez - who serve as unpaid volunteers for the benefit of the students and community by providing a voice and vision for the district. The role of a Board member is crucial as they determine “WHAT” the priorities are for a district. At the same time, they monitor the

administration, which defines “How” it gets done. Because of their voice and vision, a lot has been accomplished on behalf of their constituents, including:

- Numerous capital projects such as Stem Labs, new playgrounds, Air conditioning, upgraded building facades, and a new space for our early childhood program
- Smaller class sizes, an academic enrichment program in the primary grades, expanded clubs and sports, including the first middle school football program, and much more.

The district administrative team would like to thank the board for their leadership. Embracing the role of a public servant can be very difficult, and you have collectively kept the best interest of our students, staff, and families in mind with every decision you have made. Thank you for ensuring we have the resources to do our jobs and the support to make difficult decisions.

As a small token of our appreciation, we hope you and your families will enjoy this holiday gift box.

### ***Presentations***

#### ***Athletics and Clubs Presentation***

Julie Odom presented the Athletics and Clubs. Some beliefs on the importance of athletics and clubs are:

- Participation in athletics and activities will build strong relationships and increase equitable opportunities to help students thrive.
- Fostering community partnerships will provide opportunities for maximum student participation, minimize non-academic barriers, engage families, and provide experiential opportunities for students.
- Involvement in any school activity provides a unique opportunity to build community relationships, foster communal pride, and maintain long-term self-esteem.
- Participation in athletics and activities has a lasting positive impact on the whole child 3-2-1 (3 trusted adults, 2 positive peers, 1 extracurricular participation).

Mrs. Odom also spoke on the current status of various athletics/clubs, their future vision, and the 3-year goal. This year, Lemman had its 1st ever middle school girls' volleyball night tournament at West Chicago High School. District 33 will continue to promote the WeGo Feeder Athletics, work with Healthy West Chicago, and bring more clubs and athletics to the elementary schools.

#### **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 October 19, 2023;

- Approve the contract renewal with the following vendors: HR Imagining Partners, IXL, Puente del Pueblo, People Made Visible, Healthy West Chicago, Literacy DuPage, Home DuPage, Peoples Resource Center, and Chicago Arts and Partnerships in Education (CAPE);
- Approved the list of bills dated November 4, 2023, through November 17, 2023, in the amount of \$1,192,929.80;
- Approved payrolls of October 13, 2023, in the amount of \$1,965,122.27; October 31, 2023, in the amount of \$1,942,572.98;
- Approved the disposition of the audio tape of the Board of Education's regular closed session dated April 21, 2022, and May 5, 2022. Meetings that are at least 18 months old and meet the State criteria are disposed of;
- Approved the personnel report:
  - 0 Administration:
  - 0 Certified:
  - 2 Classified: Eduardo Santiago-Mendoza, Paraprofessional at Currier, effective November 11, 2023; Humberto Gomez, Head Custodian at LMS, effective November 20, 2023;
  - 5 Resignations: Nayeli Aranda, Speech Language Pathology Assistant at LMS, effective November 2, 2023; Iridian Cortes, Lunch Supervisor at Prek, effective November 6, 2023; Veruska Suniaga, Lunch Supervisor at Pioneer, effective November 6, 2023; Angela Beckefeld, LBS1 at LMS, effective November 27, 2023; Eduardo Mendoza-Santiago, Dual Language Teacher at Pioneer, effective November 10, 2023;
  - 0 Terminations:
  - 0 Position Change:
  - 0 Leave:
  - 0 Retirement:

### **Financial Reports**

- The Board of Education reviewed the Treasurers' Report and Budget Report as of October 31, 2023, along with the financial charts;
- The Board of Education received a financial report from Karen Apostili, Director of Business and Operations, stating that since the last meeting, the District received \$1,200,907.00 payment for Evidence-Based Funding, \$200,487.43 for the National Lunch Program, \$89,499.35 for School Breakfast Program, \$47,422.00 for Fed Sp. IDEA Flow Through, \$4,685.00 for Title I Low Income, \$650.00 for Title II Teacher Quality, \$1,178.00 for Title IV-A Student Support and Enrichment, and \$88,639.00 for Other Federal Programs.
- The Board of Education received a summary of each school's monthly activity accounts as of October 31, 2023.

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

- *No presentation follow-up at this time.*
- *Equipment Disposal* - The Board voted to approve the disposal of 6 original Thayer gym volleyball poles/standards and 2 competition volleyball systems (poles/standards out of bounds poles, net).
- *IL Empower Partner for LMS*- The board voted to approve the contract with NORC to support Lemay Middle School.

- *Construction Bid 2024* - The Board voted to approve contracts with the following bidders: Mechanical Base Bid A -C. Acitelli Heating & Piping Contractors, Inc.; Mechanical Base Bid B -F.E. Moran, Inc.; Mechanical Base Bid C-Martin Petersen Company, Inc.; General Work -Bear Construction; Window Replacement Work -3F Corporation; and Electrical Work -Associated Electircal Contractors, Inc.
- *Pre-purchase of Air Conditioning Equipment* - The board voted to approve the contract with Thermosystems for the pre-purchase of the air conditioning equipment.
- *Property Tax Levy* - The board voted to adopt the Resolution of Intent to levy taxes.
- *Property Tax Abatement* - The board received information on the property tax abatement. Further detailed information will be provided at the board meeting on December 2, 2023.
- *Social Media Ligitation* - The board voted to authorize the law firms of Himes, Petrarca; Fester, Mehri; Skalet, PLLC in Washington DC, Bailey Glasser of West Virginia and Terrell Hogan of Jacksonville, FL to file a civil action against any appropriate parties to compensate this School District for damages suffered by the School District and its students.

### **Action Items**

- *Emergency Learning Plan* - The Board voted to approve the Emergency closure plan in the event the district experiences emergency closure due to extreme winter weather. There are families who do not have internet. It is important to note that during the pandemic, the school district provided over 200 hotspots that were funded through ESSER Funds. The district no longer has the funds to purchase the hotspots; therefore, the purchase of hotspots has been discontinued. In order to accommodate all families, the following plan has been approved;
  - The first day would be asynchronous learning.
    - Packets will be sent home
    - Choice boards will be available online
  - Teachers will be available for questions and assistance throughout the day through Google Meets.
  - If an emergency extends into a second consecutive day, a traditional “snow day” will be called, therefore extending the end of the school year.
- *Upgrading Technology Platforms* - The Board voted to approve the Student Information System update with Power School and the financial/employee Management System upgrade with Skyward.

### **Information Items**

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

- American Education Week;
- Most current posting of available job positions in School District 33;
- Freedom of Information Act Report noting there were 3 new requests since the last board meeting;
- Out of District placement of Students with Disabilities report stating that 27 special education students and 2 general education students have been placed out of the district as of November 16, 2023;
- Short-term maternity leave report was shared;

- Student Chronic Absentee t from October 19, 2023, through November 8, 2023, the percentage of students chronically absent district-wide is 16%;
- Student Suspension Report indicating 13 out-of-school suspensions, 34 in-school suspensions, and 0 Bus suspensions;
- Truancy Referral Report for October 2023, indicating that 1 new student was referred to the Regional Office of Education, and 8 students continue to be listed on the Regional Office of Education truancy referral report;
- The Board of Education was provided with the School newsletters from the buildings;
- No suggested items at this time.
- Board Outreach - Felicia Gills attended BTAGG. It had an excellent outcome, and a lot of parents attended.
- No Parking Lot items at this time.
- Kristina Davis recognized and thanked District 94 for their collaboration with the 8th promotion ceremony that will be held on June 10th.

#### **Report of District Committee Meetings**

- Tom Doyle thanked everyone for the recognition and gifts.

#### **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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