



**WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33**

Kristina Davis Ed.S., Superintendent
October 5, 2023, Board Briefing

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 Leman Middle School on Thursday, October 5, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance

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

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Kristina Davis, Superintendent, added the following items to the agenda: XIV Close Session - Reason 2 - Student discipline.

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. “I will talk a little about shared agreement #5 tonight, commit to shared leadership. There’s a quote by Andrew Carnegie that says, “Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common

vision, the ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.” I believe we are working well together as a board because of our teamwork and shared purposes and visions for our students, families, and community. I’m thankful for all the support and collaboration we receive from all around us. Especially from my fellow board members, who respect each other’s thoughts, ideas, questions, or concerns. We are open to learning from one another while making it a safe place for each of us to have a voice. This is so important in all the decisions we make, big or small.”

Recognition/Showcase/Presentation

Board Salutes

Salute to: In Memoriam of Peggy Buenrostro and Robert Winkler, and supported by the West Chicago Firefighters Local 3970

Submitted by: Fred Cadena, Director of Facilities and Grounds and Safety

“Peggy Buenrostro Winkler and Robert Winkler, who were longtime residents, passed away recently. They had requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Union Local to purchase safety equipment that would benefit our local schools. The Union had voted to match the donations. To date, they have purchased the weather radios for all D33 schools and a Tactical Educational Board from C3 Pathway used in the School Safety and Violent Incident Management course. We are fortunate to be the Benefactors of these generous donations.”

Presentation

School Goals & Fall Benchmark Results 2023-2024

Gloria Trejo, Assistant Superintendent, and Beth Walrath, Director of Assessment and Accountability, lead the building principals in the benchmark results and this year's goals. Results showed an overall improvement in literacy and math. Birth to 3 will continue to support families in setting goals, monitoring, and provide resources. Preschool will continue to work with the student's social-emotional skills. Students in dual will continue to work on being bilingual, bi-literate, and bicultural, and students in grades 3rd-8th will take the APPL test yearly. APPL test is given in high school for students to obtain the seal of biliteracy. Students in elementary will continue to work on their personal goals in math and literacy. Several committees, such as Classroom Learning Communities (CLC), Positive Behavioral Interventions and supports (PBIS), Academic Parent Teacher Teams (APTT), and more, are working to continue the collaboration. Results from the spring 2023 5Esentials survey provided a guide for the district's culture goals for students, families, and teachers. This will align with the District's portrait of a Graduate.

E.T.A.W.C. Statement

Union representative Karen Evans provided a statement. “Good evening. We would like to start by reiterating our appreciation for the dedication to working together we have experienced with District 33. However, we have serious concerns that we, as a body of teachers and paraprofessionals, feel the need to express. Behavior in District 33 is in need of a comprehensive plan. We have teachers getting struck and kicked by students. We have paras getting injured. We have teachers taking time off for stress. Behavior in our classrooms is accounting for a large amount of wasted learning time. We, as classroom staff, are consistently told what we can not do to manage behavior in our rooms, but we are not given consistent strategies across buildings and classrooms that actually work with students. Parents are not given strategies to model positive behavior for their

children. Students are not being held accountable for their behavior when they step on the rights of others. We are seeing a lack of consistency throughout the district with regard to behavior management. We cannot do this alone. Teachers and paras can't, admin can't, parents can't. Not alone. Last year, when parents approached the board with very serious concerns for the safety of their students, the board promised them a committee whose sole purpose would be to address the behavior in our classrooms. Where is this committee? The culture and climate committee is not addressing the global behavior problems we have from preschool through 8th grade. The students who do not engage in disruptive behaviors are losing instructional time while teachers attempt to address students who are striking other kids and teaching staff. We are not allowed to address a student at the moment that could at all be considered punitive. (which we understand and appreciate.)We can't have parents come to get them until they calm down. Parents are not being called to come in and talk with admin and staff at the onset of poor behavior in all buildings; rather, we wait until it is a big problem in some buildings. We have seen an uptick in district admin visiting some buildings and seeing what it is we are talking about. We truly appreciate the help they are giving us. We have had reports from teachers that district admin has been helping immensely. It is great to identify the issues. Identifying a problem is only step one. We need a committee to form a comprehensive plan across all classrooms and all buildings with consistent and ongoing training and support so that teachers and paras know they are doing the right thing and students are all aware of consistent support and strategies.

And we understand and agree that students' mental health is important and that all students deserve respect. All students, including those who come to school each day ready to learn and who follow the rules and behave in a safe and respectful manner. These are the students who are paying the price for our lack of accountability for those students who, for whatever reason, are lashing out and injuring students and staff. We have a saying of Maslow before Bloom. This includes a safe place to learn. Students are not learning if they are consumed with fear of other students. We are asking for a committee made of board members, administration, and teachers from all schools to come together and work out a plan to keep our staff and students safe and able to learn without fear. We would love to have parents on board as well. We need a full district plan and systemic consequences—whether positive or negative that align with the specific behaviors of students. For example, if a student follows the rules and is prepared to learn, they earn a positive consequence. If a student disrupts the learning by running through the classroom and hallways, that student misses some instructional time while practicing with another adult how to walk in the classroom and hallway while the teacher continues to teach the other kids. Parents need to be contacted and brought in to strategize with staff to support positive behavior. If we need to contact PBIS officially and get them in to help us on our committee, then we are asking the board to provide funding to facilitate having professionals (experts in district-wide plans) come in and help us with methods that have turned district-wide poor behavior around in the past. It has been done in other districts. Why not District 33? If we want to improve our outcomes and improve the learning and performance of our student body, it starts with Maslow. Give them the mindset to be able to learn.”

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Prior Public Comments follow-up

No public follow-up at this time.

Consent Agenda

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

- Approve the contract renewal with the following vendors: Learn A-Z and Worldbook Online;
- Approved the list of bills dated September 23, 2023, through October 2, 2023, in the amount of \$1,639,161.16;
- Approved the personnel report:
 - 0 Administration:
 - 2 Certified: Heidi Nordin, Social Worker at IK, effective September 18, 2023; Beth Hyde, Science Teacher at LMS, effective October 2, 2023;
 - 5 Classified: Nadia Perez, Lunch Aide at Pioneer Prek, effective October 5, 2023; Rosa Carrillo, Lunch Aide at Pioneer Prek, effective October 5, 2023; Maria Partida, Family Liaison at Wegner, effective October 5, 2023; Casey Bevier, Paraprofessional at Turner, effective October 10, 2023; Maria Salcedo, Lunch Aide at Pioneer Prek, effective October 5, 2023;
 - 0 Resignations:
 - 0 Terminations:
 - 0 Position Change:
 - 0 Leave:
 - 0 Retirements:

Discussion of New /Ongoing Business with Possible Action

- *Presentation follow-up* - No presentation follow-up at this time.
- *Bullying Prevention Month* - The Board received bullying prevention activities that will be held at each building.
- *Speaker* - The board voted to approve the new contract for Carrie Goldman to present at Lemman and the Culture and Climate Committee.
- *Disposal of Equipment* - The Board voted to dispose of 3 blue folding mats, 3 basketball rims, 3 hurdles, 1 roll of carpet, 1 trash can, 5 baseball batting tees, 1 scooter, 1 wagon, 1 box fan, 1 running starting block, 1 black rack, 1 leg extension machine from Lemman Middle school and 3 student desks, 1 map of West Chicago, 1 small filing cabinet, 3 large filing cabinets, 32 student chairs, 1 old library shelf, 3 teacher desks, 2 2x4 tables, 1 3x5 table, 1 rolling table from Wegner Elementary.
- *Finance/Facilities* – Karen Apostoli, Director of Business and Operations, stated that since the last Board meeting, the district has received for the National School Lunch Program \$3,256.00, Title I Low Income \$577,299.00, and \$9,133.00 for the I.D.E.A. Flow Through.
- *Insurance Renewal* - Karen Apostoli provided the insurance quotes and information from Blue Cross Blue Shield, Aetna, and Cigna. The board will review the information and vote at the next board meeting on October 19, 2023.
- *McAuley Update* – Karen Apostoli and George Demarakis from ARCON shared an update on the McAuley school in quotes, grants, and expected costs.
- *Policy 7:140 Administrative Procedure- Use of Metal Detectors for Student Safety* - The board was updated on procedure 7:140.

Action Items

No action items at this time.

Information Items

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

- ARP/ESSER
- Bussing Update.
- Upgrading Technology Platforms.
- The most current posting of available job positions is in School District 33.
- Suggested agenda items - The Board would like a response to the E.T.A.W.C. statement.
- Board outreach - Rita Balgeman, Felicia Gills, and Tom Doyle attended literacy night. It was a great turnout, with almost 300 participants.
- No parking lot at this time.

Report of District Committee Meetings

- Kristina Davis provided an update on LEND.
- Kristina Davis provided an update on SASSED Board of Control.
- Opportunities for Teacher influence and committee Updates slide presentation was provided.
- 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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