



**WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33**

Kristina Davis Ed.S., Superintendent  
September 21, 2023, Board Meeting

Rita Balgeman, Board President  
Morgan Banasiak, Board Vice President  
Tom Doyle, Board Secretary  
Chad McLean, Board Treasurer

Janette Hernandez, Board Member  
Felicia Gills, Board Member  
Sandra Garcia, Board Member

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held at Lemay Middle School on Thursday, September 21, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance**

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

**Changes or Additions**

A motion was made to approve Sandra Garcia as the Pro Tem Secretary.  
An addition was made to Close Session for reason 3, pending litigation.  
Removal of Cari Rauch under IX-F: Consent agenda, personnel classified hire.

**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 purpose of the shared agreement is to help maintain a positive environment in which to conduct board work.

Board member Felicia Gills shared her statement. “When we embrace new beginnings: Embracing the Unknown - One of the biggest challenges of new beginnings is the unknown. ... 2023, we started a new school year.

New staff, new classroom teachers, and kids came in with new book bags and supplies to get them off right in their new grade level.

Let Go of the Past - In order to fully embrace new beginnings, we need to let go of the past. We made it through COVID with some losses and some major wins. Wins as a District, Family, School, and Nation.

Take Action - New beginnings require action. The purpose and mission of the Board, the cabinet, and all of our teachers are that we keep those initiatives that adhere to our belief in our students' full potential and successful future. We embrace new initiatives, curricula, and teaching styles that drive our students to the top, like our new dual language program. We have started 2023 strong. Keep the momentum going. Share the positives and help become the resolution to anything else. Proud to Be D33 Courage, Character, and Endurance are what we have. Inside every building, a new start happened for a student and their families when we opened our doors - Make it count.”

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

#### ***Showcase - Wegner School***

##### **One Tree Planted**

Ms. Sawicki and student Stephanie G. presented the journey of One Tree Planted to the board. One Tree Planted is a nonprofit organization focusing on global reforestation, and a tree is planted for every dollar donated. Stephanie received the "Little Tree Huggers" grant from One Tree Planted in the amount of \$500. Stephanie's goals were to educate students on the importance of trees, plant a tree at Wegner School, and teach others how to grow herbs during High Interest Day. A tree was planted at Wegner School on May 10, 2023. Tony Sindt from Seasonal Concepts Landscaping assisted in planting a Sugar Maple Tree. The following students were chosen as the tree planters: Avery V., Maicol Z., Arianna A., Husna S., Zachary S., Stephanie G., Marcos Alex E., and Oliver B. A contest was held to name the tree, and the winning name was “Arbolito,” which means “little tree” in Spanish. Students also had an opportunity to plant herbs during high interest day.

#### ***Board Salutes***

**Salute to:** Emily Hernandez, Teacher, Turner Elementary School

**Submitted by:** Gloria Trejo, District Office, Asst. Supt for Teaching and Learning

“Emily Hernandez was instrumental in making Kindergarten Camp successful. We had the most student participation this year, and Emily ensured the students were well cared for. She was incredibly supportive and always demonstrated a nurturing and safe environment for our little ones. She was never flustered or overwhelmed in challenging situations. We had emails from parents indicating their appreciation for how Ms. Hernandez cared for their children in challenging situations. We appreciate Ms. Emily Hernandez's dedication to our staff, students, and families.”

**Salute to:** Stephanie George, Student, Wegner School

**Submitted by:** Kathy Sawicki, Gifted Specialist, Wegner School

“I am so proud to nominate Stephanie George, a fifth grader at Wegner School, for a Board Salute. Last year, as a fourth-grade student, Stephanie received a \$500 grant from the nonprofit organization "One Tree Planted." This is a grant program for children ages 5-12 years old who are interested in making an impact on our environment. Stephanie planted a tree at Wegner School. She created a tree video about tree facts that was shared with all students on Earth Day, and she taught students how to plant seeds and grow herbs during Wegner's High-Interest Day.”

**Salute to:** Tony Sindt, Parent, Wegner School

**Submitted by:** Kathy Sawicki, Gifted Specialist, Wegner School

“I am nominating Tony Sindt, Wegner parent and owner of Seasonal Concepts Landscaping, for helping us plant a tree at Wegner School. He donated his time, materials, and expertise on tree planting day. Due to his generosity, we could plant a much larger sugar maple tree, and his knowledge about trees was informative and educational.”

#### ***Presentations***

***Subject Area Committees (SAC) Update Curriculum Work, and ALC Update***

Whitnie Del Toro presented to the board the SAC and Academic Leadership Committee to the board.

The Subject Area Committees aim to empower teacher leaders and deepen teacher content understanding. The role of SAC is to write curriculum, write assessments, advise ALC on resources and professional development, and talking points.

The Academic Leadership Council (ALC) is a representative group of stakeholders that advises and makes recommendations to the Board of Education on matters concerning curriculum and instruction through the approved decision-making processes. It comprises teachers (representing all instructional areas), district administrators, building administrators, board of education members, and parents. Their goal is to establish a curricular governance based on research.

ALC will:

- Establish shared agreements and bylaws to govern decisions
- Develop a long-range plan
- Make curriculum decisions
- Choose Subject Area Committees (SAC)
- Seek input from teachers
- Validate curriculum and local assessments
- Select and purchase resources as needed to support the curriculum
- Accountability
- Board Policy Recommendations
- Long-Range Planning
- Research
- Mastery, grading, and reporting decisions
- Appoint and guide SACs

ALC and SAC will work together to ensure the district supports each other and collect all the feedback.

Elementary SAC team updates by grade were also included. A follow-up presentation in the fall will consist of teachers and more in-depth information on SAC.

#### **E.T.A.W.C. Statement**

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

#### **Public Comment**

No public comment at this time.

#### **Superintendent News**

Wegner 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**

- They welcomed families to Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 14, 2023
- They had various events and activities for families. Each child was issued a “passport” when they entered. As they traveled throughout the building, they earned stamps for completing activities. They turned in completed passports for an opportunity to win a raffle!
  - Book Fair with our Library Media Specialist
  - Bullying Prevention Sort with our Social Worker, Psychologist, and SEL/Health teacher
  - Activities in the GATE and Enrichment teachers
  - Tech tool presentations in the STEM Lab with our technology coach
  - Informational Tables in the front hallway - Parent Involvement, D33 App, ParentSquare
- Upcoming Evening Events for families
  - PE, Art, and Music stations
  - Wegner Dodgeball
  - APTT

- 4th and 5th Grade Music Concert
- 2nd and 3rd Grade Music Concert
- Math and Literacy Night
- 2nd and 3rd Grade Music Concert
- Family Art Night
- 5th Grade Bash

### **Consent Agenda**

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

- Approved the Board meeting minutes of August 17, 2023, and September 7, 2023;
- Approve the contract renewal with the following vendors: Strategies PD, Mind Education, and Classroom Learning Community Consulting Services;
- Approved the list of bills dated August 19, 2023, through September 22, 2023, in the amount of \$4,675,680.66;
- Approved payrolls of August 15, 2023, in the amount of \$363,522.53; August 31, 2023, in the amount of \$477,726.97;
- Approved imprest account from August 10, 2023, to September 9, 2023, in the amount of \$1,000.00;
- Approved the disposition of the audio tape of the Board of Education's regular closed session dated January 20, 2022; February 3, 2022; February 24, 2022; and March 3, 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:** Andrew Van Gorp, Dual Language Teacher at Turner, effective September 22, 2023;

**9 Classified:** Maria Vargas, Lunchroom Supervisor at Gary, effective September 11, 2023; Rosaura Munoz Flores, Lunchroom Supervisor, at Gary, effective September 11, 2023; Noemi Perez, Paraprofessional at Pioneer, effective September 11, 2023; Reyna Yanes, Paraprofessional at Wegner, effective September 11, 2023; Veronica Caballero, Paraprofessional at Wegner, effective September 22, 2023; Oksana Paihr, Paraprofessional at ELC, effective September 22, 2023; Elizabeth Perez, Lunch Supervisor at Gary, effective September 22, 2023; Antonia Perez De Mora, Temp Custodian at ESC, effective September 22, 2023; Maria Del Rosario Ruiz, Utility Custodian at ESC, effective September 22, 2023;

**3 Resignations:** Sean Gilliland, Temp Custodian at ESC, effective July 28, 2023; Isaac Jimenez, Temp Custodian at ESC, effective August 4, 2023; Alyssa Apostoli, Temp Custodian, ESC, effective September 5, 2023;

**2 Terminations:** Alejandra Zavala, Paraprofessional, at ELC, effective September 11, 2023; Tracy Diaz, Paraprofessional, effective September 21, 2023;

#### **0 Position Change:**

#### **0 Leave:**

**1 Retirement:** Tim Koehring, Custodian/Courier at ESC, effective January 12, 2024.

### **Financial Reports**

- The Board of Education reviewed the Treasurers' Report and Budget Report as of August 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;
- The Board of Education received a summary of each school's monthly activity accounts as of August 31, 2023.

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

- *No New items at this time.*

**Action Items**

- *2nd Reading of Policies* - The Board voted to approve the policies as follows: Policy 2:170 - Procurement of Architectural, Engineering, and Land Surveying Services; Policy 2:80-E Exhibit- Board Member Code of Conduct; Policy 2:80 - Board Member Oath of Conduct; Policy 4:100 - Insurance Management; Policy 4:45 - Insufficient Fund Checks and Debt Recovery; Policy 5:230 - Maintaining Student Discipline; Policy 6:10 - Educational Philosophy and Objectives; Policy 6:190 - Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities; Policy 6:240 - Field Trips and Recreational Class Trips; Policy 7:180 - Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment; Policy 7:305 - Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries; Policy 8:25 - Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities; and Policy 8:95 - Parental Involvement.
- *FY24 Final Budget*. The Board voted to approve the Final Budget for 2023-2024.
- *Leadership Coaching with Dr. Blattner* - The board of education voted to approve working with Dr. John Blattner for the 2023-2024 school year to provide leadership coaching to building and district administrators.

**Information Items**

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

- 1st and 6th day enrollment information;
- Brief of the 2023 Constitution Day activities;
- Extra duty assignments;
- First Day of School report;
- 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 26 special education students and 2 general education students have been placed out of district as of September 15, 2023;
- Short-term maternity leave report was shared;
- The Board of Education was provided with the School newsletters from the buildings;
- No suggested items at this time.
- Board outreach: Board members attended Curriculum nights at their adopted School. Parents received the D33 App instructions, and many parents were able to download the app during curriculum nights. Board members can see the calendar of events for their adopted school.
- No Parking Lot items at this time.

**Report of District Committee Meetings**

- Kristina Davis thanked D94 for the collaboration and support in holding the 8th grade graduation at the High School on June 10, 2023.

**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