MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (4th Thursday)
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33, DUPAGE COUNTY, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
August 20, 2026

President Rita Balgeman called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:05 p.m. at Leman Middle School, 238 E. Hazel St., West Chicago, Illinois. On roll call, the following members were present: Mrs. Rita Balgeman, Mrs. Morgan Banasiak, Mr. Chad McLean, Mrs. Sandra Garcia, and Mrs. Molly Denton. Absent: Mrs. Janette Hernandez.

ALSO PRESENT

Kristina Davis, Superintendent; Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business & Operations; Sarah Burnett, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Fred Cadena, Director of Facilities & Grounds; Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability; Janet Ayala, Director of Multilingual Learners; Krissy Goebert, Director of Student Services; and Niko Bubaris, Director of Technology.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Rita Balgeman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES

No changes or additions at this time.

SHARED AGREEMENTS

During the meeting, the Board agrees to:

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 Achievement
Goal #2 – Engaged Learning
Goal #3 – Strong Teams
Goal #4 – Family & Community Partnerships
Goal #5 - Smart Resources

SHARED AGREEMENTS REFLECTION

At the July 18, 2013, meeting, the Board of Education finalized its "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 for conducting board work. No shared agreement at this time.

RECOGNITION/SHOWCASE PRESENTATION

Presentation

Review of District Employment Procedures
An overview of District 33's hiring process was provided, specifically the safeguards in place when hiring employees who will work with students. In relation, the hiring process related to Mario Garcia was discussed. The district shared its hiring process, explained the information that was available about Mr. Garcia to the District at the time of hire, and shared the additional steps that have been taken to strengthen hiring practices moving forward.

E.T.A.W.C. STATEMENT

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

Public Comment Follow-Up

No follow-up comment at this time.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Banasiak, seconded by McLean, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

Approve Board Meeting Minutes

… approve the board meeting minutes of July 23, 2026, and August 6, 2026;

Approve Contract Renewals

…approve the contract renewals with the following vendors: Bright Star;

Approve Current Expenditures

…approved the list of bills dated August 10, 2026, through August 21, 2026, in the amount of $2,484,434.02;

Approve Current Payrolls

…approved payrolls of July 15, 2026, in the amount of $323,499.50; and July 31, 2026, in the amount of $388,791.47;

Approve Imprest

…approved Imprest account from July 29, 2026, to August 12, 2026, in the amount of $159.00;

Approve Disposition of Closed Session Audio Tapes

…approved the disposition of audio tapes of the Board of Education regular closed session dated February 6, 2025, and February 20, 2025. Meetings that are at least 18 months old and meet the State criteria are disposed of;

Approve Personnel Items

…Approved the following personnel report:
0 Administration:
0 Certified:
3 Classified: Patricia Garcia, Lunchroom Supervisor at Gary, effective August 24, 2026; Hugo Mendoza, Head Custodian at ESC, effective

August 24, 2026; Melissa Lazcano, Human Resources Specialist at ESC, effective August 21, 2026;
6 Resignations: Norma Chaparro, Dual Language Teacher at Indian Knoll, effective August 5, 2026; Viviana Armas Ponce, Lunch Supervisor at Pioneer, effective August 10, 2026; Elisabeth Montenegro, Paraprofessional at LMS, effective August 12, 2026; Jessica Garcia Rojaas, Paraprofessional at Gary, effective August 12, 2026; Ana Santiago, Paraprofessional at IK, effective August 13, 2026; Josephine Chavez, Paraprofessional at IK, effective August 14, 2026;
0 Retirement;

On roll call, the following board members voted aye: Banasiak, McLean, Balgeman, Garcia, Denton, and McCue. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Report

Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, provided the Board of Education with a financial report stating that the district has received $1,212,423.00 in Evidence-Based Funding since the last meeting.

Treasurer's Report and Budget Report

The Board of Education reviewed the Treasurer's Report and Budget Reports as of July 31, 2026, along with the financial charts.

Student Activity Account Report

The Board of Education received a summary of each school's monthly activity accounts as of July 31, 2026.

DISCUSSION OF NEW / ONGOING BUSINESS WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

Presentation Follow-up

No presentation follow-ups at this time.

Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP)

Krissy Goebbert, Director of Student Services, provided the board with the annual CERP.

Independent Contractor IEP Specialist

Motioned by Banasiak, seconded by McLean, to approve the independent contract with Kate Millard as an IEP Specialist for the 2026-2027 school year. On roll call, the following board members voted aye: Banasiak, McLean, McCue, Garcia, Denton, and Balgeman. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

ACTION ITEMS

Contract Agency

Motioned by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to approve the contract with 50 Stars Staffing for a psychologist at Pioneer Preschool for the 2026-2027 school year. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Banasiak, Denton, McCue, Balgeman, and Garcia.
Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

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INFORMATION ITEMS	
After-School Programming	The Board received information on the after-school programming opportunities offered to students in grades 1st through 8th for the 26/27 school year.
Curriculum Night	The Board received dates for the upcoming elementary and middle school curriculum nights that will be held in September.
Parent Academy	The Board received an overview of District 33's new Parent Academy Series, a five-session opportunity designed to strengthen family-school partnerships.
Transfers Update	The Board received the most up-to-date certified staff transfers for the 26-27 school year.
Current Job Listing	The Board received the most recent posting of available job positions in School District 33.
Freedom of Information Report	The Board of Education received the Freedom of Information Act Report, noting 9 new requests since the last board meeting.
Out-of-District placement of Students with Disabilities	The Board received the Special Education report, indicating that 32 special education students, and 3 general education students have been placed out of district as of August 12, 2026.
Short-term Leave	The Board received the short-term leave report.
Suggested Agenda Items for Next Board Meeting	Rita would like an update on the High School Dual Language credit process and where it stands. Janet and Maggie will meet with the high school in the upcoming weeks to collaborate and will bring information to a future meeting.
Board Outreach	No board outreach at this time. Kristina informed the Board that the website board page has been updated with the adopted school for each board member.
Parking Lot	No parking lot at this time.
REPORT OF DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS	
Open Comments	Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, provided the board with a bus update. IL Central is experiencing a driver shortage, but new drivers will start in the coming weeks. Due to the driver shortage, drivers are having to double up on routes, and dispatch sometimes does not update the route in the parent app. Karen is working on creating a video with instructions to help parents navigate the parent app.
REVIEW OF UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS	The Board of Education members reviewed upcoming meetings and events.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by McLean, second by Banasiak, to go into closed session at 7:43 p.m. to discuss **(1)** the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee(s), specific independent contractors, specific volunteers, or District legal counsel: however, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2c) (1), amended by P.A. 101-459. **(2)** Student disciplinary cases. Any matter involving an individual student. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(10). Minutes of meetings held for this reason shall never be released to protect the individual student's privacy. **(3)** Litigation, when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Banasiak, Balgeman, Garcia, Denton, and McCue. Nays: None.
Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Roll Call

On roll call at 8:00 p.m., the following members were present: Balgeman, Banasiak, Garcia, McLean, Denton, and McCue. Absentees: Hernandez.

Also Present

Kristina Davis, Superintendent; Sarah Burnett, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; and Justin Petrarca, District Attorney.

Out of Closed Session

Motion by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to reconvene to open session at 8:42 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS FOLLOWING CLOSED SESSION

Approve Closed Session Minutes

Motion by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to approve closed session minutes of August 6, 2026, as read. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

President, Rita Balgeman

Secretary, Sandra Garcia