MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (1st Thursday)
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33, DUPAGE COUNTY, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
September 3, 2026

President Rita Balgeman called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:01 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, Mrs. Sandra Garcia, Mr. Chad McLean, Mrs. Janette Hernandez, Mrs. Molly Denton, and Mrs. Kari McCue. Absent: None.

ALSO PRESENT

Kristina Davis, Superintendent; Lea Pizinger, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations; Sarah Burnett, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Fred Cadena, Director of Facilities and Grounds; Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability; and Krissy Goebbert, Director of Student Services.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ADDITIONS/CHANGES

No additions or changes at this time.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE TENTATIVE 2026-2027 SCHOOL BUDGET

The Board of Education held a public hearing on the tentative 2026-2027 School Budget. There were no questions or comments from the public. The public hearing was concluded at 7:03 p.m.

SHARED AGREEMENTS

Make decisions according to what is best for ALL District 33 students.

1. *Respect staff and other board members and their opinions.*
2. *Be willing to see things from the eyes of seven (7) people, not just one (1).*
3. *Allow everyone to complete their thoughts.*
4. *Commit to shared leadership.*
5. *Respect confidentiality.*
6. *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.

Board member Chad McLean shared his statement: "I am reflecting on our shared agreement of respect for staff and other board members and their opinions. This is how we can best speak with one voice. To get to that one voice, we need to hear the opinions of the stakeholders in our local district, including parents, community members, students, and staff. We continue to work at maintaining and improving our district culture through communication, listening, and other activities that we believe will lead to excellence in our kids' education. These activities include inviting and encouraging the public to participate in school committees, contact the district and the board with concerns, and make public comments at board meetings. I assure you we listen closely and respond to every public comment. As a board, we have board protocols and expectations, policy reviews, board member-adopted schools, and committee participation. We expect these actions will improve D33 education."

RECOGNITION/SHOWCASE PRESENTATION

Presentation

ARCON Summer Construction Update

George Demarakis, with ARCON, updated the board on work completed over the summer. Work included an upgrade to Turner's kitchen, entrances at Currier and Wegner, roof upgrades at ELC and Currier, and ongoing work at McAuley School. This year, he will continue to work with the facilities committee to finalize work for the summer of 2027.

Presentation

Classroom Cameras

Karen Apostoli presented information on a proposal to install cameras in school classrooms. Installing cameras requires 4 key components: district infrastructure, main distribution frame, software/licensing, and camera infrastructure. Servers across the district are also due for an upgrade this year. Karen offered several options on the work time frame and the impact on the long-term facility plans. Karen will bring quotes and recommendations to an upcoming meeting.

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 follow-up comment at this time.

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

Approve Current Expenditures …approved the list of bills dated August 24, 2026, through September 4, 2026, in the amount of $351,851.40;

Approve Imprest …approved Imprest account from August 13, 2026, to August 26, 2026, in the amount of $825.16;

Approve Contracts …approve the contract renewals with the following vendors: ContinuED;

Approve Personnel Items … approved the following personnel report:
0 Administration:
0 Certified:
4 Classified: Luanne Sales, Nurse at ELC, effective September 8, 2026; Cecilia Rojas Candia, Lunchroom Supervisor at Gary, effective September 4, 2026; Merelin Munoz, Lunchroom Supervisor at Currier, effective September 4, 2026; Annay Paramo, Clerical Aide at LMS, effective September 4, 2026;
2 Resignations: Martha Camarillo, Family Liaison at Gary, effective September 10, 2026; Joanna Peralta, Lunchroom Supervisor at Gary, effective August 24, 2026;
2 Retirements: Katy Grotto, Library Media Specialist at Indian Knoll, effective end of the 2026-2027 School Year; Belen Pinto, Dual Language Teacher at Indian Knoll, effective end of the 2026-2027 School Year.
On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, McLean, Hernandez, Denton, McCue, Balgeman, and Garcia. Nays: None. Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

DISCUSSION OF NEW / ONGOING BUSINESS WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

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

Finance/Facilities The Board of Education received a financial report from Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, stating that the district had received $15,554.10 in National School Lunch Program and $6,328.58 in School Breakfast Program since the last meeting.

2026-2027 Official School Budget	The Board of Education reviewed the 2026-2027 official budget. The Board will vote to approve the 2026-2027 Official Budget on September 17, 2026.
ACTION ITEMS	No action items at this time.
INFORMATION ITEMS	
1st and 6th Day Enrollment	The Board received the 1st and 6th day enrollment data.
High School Dual Credit Opportunity for 8th Graders	New legislation allows school districts to establish policies permitting qualifying students in grades 7 and 8 to enroll in high school courses and earn high school credit while taking those courses in middle school. District 33 will collaboratively work with District 94 to ensure that the Advanced Spanish curriculum is appropriately aligned with the High School SNS sequence. Janet Ayala will bring a presentation to the next board meeting with more information.
Open Enrollment and Child Care Requests	The Board was provided with the list of open enrollment and child care requests for the 26/27 school year.
Staff Salaries and Benefits	The Board of Education received the IMRF compensation information for the 2026/2027 school year. These salaries and benefits are required to be posted on the ISBE website and the District 33 website.
Transportation Update	Devin Persaud from IL Central provided an update to the Board of Education on the current status of the buses. Although there is still a driver shortage, they are training newly hired drivers. In October, all buses should be using the GPS app. Devin will continue to work with Karen and will continue to update the Board on issues that arise.
Current Job Listing	The Board received the most recent posting of available job positions in School District 33.
Suggested Agenda Items for Next Board Meeting	No suggested items at this time.
Board Outreach	No Board outreach at this time.
Parking Lot	Sandra would like information about the lunch supervisor shortage and coverage process. Karen and Sarah B. provided answers to the shortage and coverage process across the district.

REPORT OF DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

SASED Board of Control — Kari McCue attended the last meeting, where the 26-27 budget was approved.
6 SASED Classrooms are up and running at LMS. Cabinet and Maggie hosted a breakfast to welcome them.

Open Comments — The Board discussed dates for their upcoming IASB workshop.

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 8:21 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, Hernandez, Denton, and McCue. Nays: None.
Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

ROLL CALL — On roll call at 8:34 p.m., the following members were present: Balgeman, Banasiak, Garcia, McLean, Hernandez, Denton, and McCue. Absentees: None.

ALSO PRESENT — Kristina Davis, Superintendent; and Sarah Burnett, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources.

Out of Closed Session — Motion by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to reconvene to open session at 10:08 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS FOLLOWING CLOSED SESSION

Notice to Remedy	Motioned by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to approve the Resolution authorizing issuance of Notice to Remedy to Garrett Gotowski, a teacher in contractual continued service with the District. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Banasiak, Balgeman, Garcia, Hernandez, Denton, and McCue. Nays: None. Motion carried; ayes 7, nays 0.
Approve Closed Session Minutes	Motion by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to approve closed session minutes of August 20, 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 10:09 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

President, Rita Balgeman

Secretary, Sandra Garcia