

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (1st Thursday)
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33, DUPAGE COUNTY, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
May 7, 2026

President Rita Balgeman called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:03 p.m. at Lemay 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: Mr. Tom Doyle and Mrs. Janette Hernandez.

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; Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability; Sarah Norton, Director of Partnerships; Janet Ayala, Director of Multilingual Learners; Krissy Goebbert, Director of Student Services; and Nicole Eimer, Director of Marketing, Communications & Public Relations.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ADDITIONS/CHANGES

Motioned by Banasiak, seconded by McLean, to approve Chad McLean as Secretary Pro Tem. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.
Item VIII.E, Administrator Contract, was moved to the next consent agenda.

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 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 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 Vice President Morgan Banasiak shared her statement: “May is upon us, and for most, it is a time of celebration and frantic nights of end-of-school activities. For me, this is a time to take a moment and reflect on what District 33 has done this past year, something that I have been doing since getting on the school board five years ago. It seems that the driving force behind this board has always been safety, community, achievement, and fiscal responsibility. We have pushed for the district to make changes and to sometimes think outside of the box. From these efforts, we have a beautiful soccer field right outside these doors. There are more after-school programs at all the schools, and we have a new partnership to help with these programs. McCauley School is in the process of getting a huge facelift. If you drive by the building, it looks like a wrapped present right now. Pioneer and Turner both have new bus lots for safety, and Pioneer has a new facelift in its front. Preschool is being streamlined to better prepare our littlest students for kindergarten, and it is now all under one roof. A new reading program has been implemented, and our administration has just started working with the high school to streamline classes for high school credits. This may take some time, but it will be well worth it in the end. The district has worked hard this year to have an amazing social media presence and let folks know what we have been doing in District 33. And lastly, a variety of people have been meeting to devise our new strategic plan for the next 5 years. I have been lucky enough to be a part of this plan. It has been insightful to see where we started 5 years ago and where we want to go. Is there more to do? Of course, we should never stop reaching for the stars. Has there been progress? Definitely, and everyone in this district—student, teacher, administrator, parent, community volunteer, and board member should be proud to see things looking up. I'm excited to see where this next year takes us. I'll let you know next May.”

RECOGNITION/SHOWCASE PRESENTATION

Board Salute

The Board Salutes will be a standing item on the agenda starting with the February 3, 2022, board meeting. The Board of Education would like to recognize individuals from the District 33 community, which includes all staff members, students, bus drivers, parents, and guardians, for their actions that contribute to a positive culture and climate in District 33. This “shout-out” will become part of the official Board minutes under Board Salutes on the agendas.

Salute to: Afreen Syeda - D33**Submitted by:** Sam Battaglia

“Afreen is currently serving as a substitute in our district. She has consistently supported our students and staff for many years. Recently, she was asked to cover an unforeseen absence for an extended period of time. She did not hesitate and made the transition seamless. The students and staff did not skip a beat, and they have truly enjoyed having her as part of their team. She is committed to providing students with the best learning opportunities possible, and we are lucky to have her.”

Salute to: Caterina Kisling - D33**Submitted by:** Sam Battaglia

“Caterina has served as an IEP substitute for multiple years, and her dedication to supporting both students and staff is truly appreciated. Whether it’s stepping into a last-minute building change or covering an unforeseen absence in our self-contained classrooms, she consistently rises to the occasion without hesitation. Her flexibility and commitment make a meaningful impact, and her support does not go unnoticed. She has even gone above and beyond by encouraging her own mother to become an IEP substitute during a recent vacancy, further demonstrating her commitment to supporting our team and students.”

Salute to: Maria Vargas Rangel - Pioneer Preschool**Submitted by:** Walter Reyes, parent

“I extend my heartfelt gratitude and admiration to Ms. Maria Vargas Rangel for her commitment to shaping the future of my daughter Priya and her classmates. Her dedication, patience, and passion for educating our children are truly inspiring. Thank you!”

Presentation**Strategic Management Survey Overview**

Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability, presented the Board with an overview of the Strategic Management Survey. The district uses strategic management to monitor its performance against its action plans. Cathy provided information on the eight dimensions of the Strategic Management System. Information included maturity levels ranging from Level 1 (no implementation or plan) to Level 5 (continuous improvement within the district and organization). Cathy spoke on each dimension, providing last year's results for comparison with this year's. From 2024 to 2025, the district has seen an increase in almost every dimension and has maintained the same in leadership. In May, stakeholders (Board of Education, Administrative Council, Faculty Advisory Committee, Classified Action Team, and Building Leadership Teams for each

school) will take the survey. Cathy will bring back the results at a future board 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 April 27, 2026, through May 8, 2026, in the amount of \$588,589.13;

Approve Imprest

...approved Imprest account from April 15, 2026, to April 29, 2026, in the amount of \$270;

Approve Contracts

...approve the contract renewals with the following vendors:
McNeal Psychoeducational Consulting and Red Rover;

Approve Personnel Items

...Approved the following personnel report:

0 Administration:

3 Certified: Claudia Cabral, Language Arts Teacher at LMS, effective 2026-2027 School Year; Alexis Loa, Physical Education Teacher at Gary, effective 2026-2027 School Year; Michelle Stone, Learning Behavior Specialist at Turner/Wegner, effective 2026-2027 School Year;

0 Classified:

4 Resignations: Katharyn Mattern, Language Arts Teacher at LMS, effective June 4, 2026; Margaret Uhlarik-Boller, Library Aide at Currier, effective June 4, 2026; Sarah Sandrok, Learning Behavior Specialist at LMS, effective April 30, 2026; Rosa Benitez de Roskamp, Paraprofessional at Currier, effective June 4, 2026;

0 Retirements:

Short Term Leave of Absence: Olid Joya Santa, Library Aide at Currier, effective April 27, 2026;

On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, McLean, Garcia, Denton, and Balgeman. Nays: None.

Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

DISCUSSION OF NEW / ONGOING BUSINESS WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

Discard Items

The Board received the discard list for Gary, Turner, and Leman Middle School. The Board will review the information and vote at the May 21, 2026, board meeting.

Finance/Facilities	The Board of Education received a financial report from Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, CSBO, stating that the district received \$8,553.34 in Evidence-Based Funding, \$155,935.00 in IDEA Flow Through, \$34,340.00 in IDEA PreK, \$32,469.00 in Stronger Connections, \$1,794.00 in Title I School Improvement & Accountability, and \$52,795.00 in Title IV-21st Century Comm Learnign Centers since the last meeting.
LMS Health Resource Recommendation	The Board will review the recommendation to pilot Health Smart as the core resource for Lemans Health Classrooms during the 2026-2027 school year. The Board will vote at the May 21, 2026, board meeting.
Permanent Gaga Ball Pit Purchase and Installation	The Board will review the information to purchase and install a permanent Gaga Ball Pit on the blacktop at Wegner Elementary School, and vote at the May 21, 2026, board meeting.
Playground Shade at Wegner School	The Board received information regarding the purchase and installation of an outdoor shade from ProPlaygrounds near the Wegner playground. The Board will review the information and vote at the May 21, 2026, board meeting.
Targeted Status Consultants	Indian Knoll and Lemans Middle School have been identified as “Targeted Status” by ISBE, specifically due to the student group, “Children with Disabilities.” Motioned by Banasiak, seconded by Garcia, to approve PLACE and Fair625 as consultants for Indian Knoll and Lemans for the 2026-2027 school year. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, Garcia, Denton, Balgeman, and McLean. Nays: None. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.
TeachTown Curriculum	The Board will review the recommendation to change the self-contained curriculum to TeachTown. The Board will review the information and vote at the May 21, 2026, board meeting.
Tyler Technologies	The Board will review the recommendation to use Tyler Technologies as the new Employee Information System (EIS) and Financial System for District 33. The Board will review the information and vote at the May 21, 2026, board meeting.
<u>ACTION ITEMS</u>	
2nd Reading of Board Policies	Motioned by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to approve the 2nd reading for the following policies: 6:65 Student Social and Emotional Development; 2:200 Types of Board of Education Meetings; 2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure; 2:250 Access to District Public Records; 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure; 4:165 Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors; 5:30 Hiring Process and Criteria; 5:250

Leaves of Absence; 5:330 Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves; 6:100 Using Animals in the Educational Program; 6:145 Migrant Students; 6:170 Title I Programs; 6:180 Extended Instructional Programs; 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited; 7:50 School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools; 7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students; 7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited; 7:240 Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities; 7:260 Exemption from Physical Education; 7:300 Extracurricular Athletics; 8:90 Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs; 2:140-E Exhibit - Guidance for Board Member Communications, Including Email Use; 7:220 Bus Conduct; 7:230 Misconduct by Students with Disabilities; 7:280 Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease; Policy 6:65 - Student Social and Emotional Development; and Policy 4:165 - Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Banasiak, Balgeman, Garcia, and Denton. Nays: None.
Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Aramark Renewal

Motioned by Balgeman, seconded by Garcia, to approve the 1-year contract renewal with Aramark Corporation for the 2026-2027 school year. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Balgeman, Garcia, McLean, Denton, and Banasiak. Nays: None.
Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Concrete Bid Opening

Motioned by Banasiak, seconded by Garcia, to approve awarding the concrete work at Currier and Wegner schools to Abbey Construction, with a base bid amount of \$355,492.00. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, Garcia, McLean, Denton, and Balgeman. Nays: None. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Copy Paper Bid

Motioned by Garcia, seconded by Banasiak, to approve the copy paper bids to Midland, Contract Paper, Luxe Mobile, Quill, and Murnane with a total district cost of \$136,896.52. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Garcia, Banasiak, Balgeman, McLean, and Denton. Nays: None. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Custodial/Maintenance Supply Bid

Motioned by Garcia, seconded by McLean, to approve the custodial/maintenance supply bid for the 2026-2027 school year. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Garcia, McLean, Denton, Balgeman, and Banasiak. Nays: None.
Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Gary Donation

Motioned by Banasiak, seconded by Garcia, to approve USAgain's donation of an organic garden to support hands-on learning and

environmental education at Gary School. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, Garcia, McLean, Denton, and Balgeman. Nays: None. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Horizontal Climbing Wall

Motioned by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to approve the purchase and installation of a horizontal climbing wall in the Auxiliary Gym at Lemay Middle School. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Banasiak, Balgeman, Denton, and Garcia. Nays: None. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

INFORMATION ITEMS

School Newsletters

The Board was provided with each school's monthly newsletter.

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

Molly attended the Science Fair. Rita attended the Science Fair and Art at the ARC. Sandra attended the Choir Concert, orchestra/band sign-up night, and Art at the ARC.

Parking Lot

Cathy provided an update on the Strategic Planning meeting held this morning. She will deliver a final presentation to the Board at a future meeting.

REPORT OF DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

LEND

Kristina provided an update on LEND

SADED

Kristina provided an update on the SASED Board of Control.

Open Comments

No open comments at this time.

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 7:57 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)** Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Banasiak, Balgeman, Garcia, and Denton. Nays: None.

ROLL CALL

On roll call at 8:05 p.m., the following members were present: Balgeman, Banasiak, McLean, Garcia, and Denton.
Absentees: Doyle and Hernandez.

ALSO PRESENT

Kristina Davis, Superintendent; Sarah Burnett, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Karen Apostoli, Executive Director for Business and Operations; and Kristine Goebertt, Director of Student Services.

Out of Closed Session

Motion by Banasiak, seconded by Garcia, to reconvene to open session at 9:45 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS FOLLOWING CLOSED SESSION

Approve Closed Session Minutes

Motion by Banasiak, seconded by Garcia, to approve closed session minutes of April 23, 2026, as read. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Banasiak, seconded by Garcia, to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

President, Rita Balgeman

Secretary,