

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (4th Thursday)
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33, DUPAGE COUNTY, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
July 23, 2026

President Rita Balgeman called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:05 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, Mrs. Janette Hernandez, and Mrs. Molly Denton. Absent: None.

ALSO PRESENT

Kristina Davis, Superintendent; Lea Pizinger, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; Sarah Burnett, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Fred Cadena, Director of Facilities & Grounds; Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability; Sarah Norton, Director of Partnerships; Janet Ayala, Director of Multilingual Learners; Krissy Goebert, Director of Student Services; Nicole Eimer, Director of Marketing, Communications & Public Relations; and Niko Bubaris, Director of Technology.

**APPOINT NEW
BOARD MEMBER**

Rita Balgeman, Board President administered the Oath of Office to Mrs. Karianne McCue to serve as a board member until April 2027, filling the unexpired term of Tom Doyle who resigned on May 24, 2026.

The Board of Education reaffirmed the Code of Conduct for school board members, committing to do her utmost to represent the public interest in education by adhering to specific commitments outlined by the Illinois Association of School Boards.

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 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 President Rita Balgemaan shared her statement: “Tonight, I’d like to reflect on our shared agreements as a whole. In our recent interviews of potential board members, I reviewed our shared agreements with each person who applied, describing what each item meant to us in practice. As I was doing this, I was reminded just how vital every single agreement is to the way we work together.

A lot of the time, I think our work comes down to two core commitments: doing what is best for all D33 students, and believing in the full potential of our students and their future. Centering our students in everything we do is at the heart of our decision-making, and these agreements have guided us through some exceptionally difficult issues. At the same time, our remaining agreements are core to how we operate while making those decisions. We are a high-functioning board that works incredibly well together. I believe that is because we follow these commitments to understand each other’s perspectives, share leadership, and honor the confidentiality and the weight of our roles.

Reflecting on these agreements, I am deeply grateful that we have such a clear roadmap for our board. Regardless of who comes or goes over time, as long as we continue to abide by these shared commitments, I am confident we will continue to collaborate effectively and be the best board we can possibly be.”

**RECOGNITION/SHOWCASE
PRESENTATION****Board Salutes*****Board Salutes***

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 be included in the official Board minutes under Board Salutes on the agenda.

Salute to: Michelle Lewis - Gary Elementary**Submitted by:** Jessica Quintero, parent

“She goes above and beyond not only to teach my child but to educate him in her classroom. I have noticed a tremendous change in his behavior and self-confidence, but most importantly, in his knowledge of schoolwork. (Thank you so much, Mrs. Lewis; my family truly appreciates you!)”

Salute to: Dylan Garcia - Indian Knoll Elementary School Student**Submitted by:** Robyn Kimmel, staff

“Dylan is an amazing 2nd grader who is ALWAYS trying his best! He is always quiet in line and in the hallways. Ever since he was in kindergarten, he has shown his bubble for quiet in the hall to be a model for other students. He participates in every activity we do in music class, singing, dancing, playing instruments, listening, and moving. Even when other students are talking, Dylan is ready to learn. I am so proud of him for his hard work at Indian Knoll for the past 3 years.”

Salute to: Hilda Islas - Leman Middle School**Submitted by:** Charlene Chavez, parent

“Thank you for all the math support and for keeping Priscilla on track!”

Salute to: Kristie Morrison - Indian Knoll Elementary**Submitted by:** Ana Reyez, parent

“She’s a great teacher! She’s helped my daughter transition to kindergarten effortlessly and continues to do so. My daughter always has great things to say about Ms. Morrison, and she’s become a comfort for her.”

**Salute to: Lizette Correa-Perez & Bricio Correa,
Pioneer Preschool parents****Submitted by:** Dalila Chavez, staff

“I want to warmly acknowledge Lizette and Bricio Correa for their extraordinary commitment to their daughter Evanna’s education and to our school community. Even when getting Evanna to school was challenging, they adjusted work schedules and persevered because they value her social connections and learning. Their strong partnership with the school went above and beyond: they provided eggs, an incubator, and all necessary resources so our students could experience hatching firsthand. Thanks to their generosity, we successfully welcomed 23 chicks—bringing joy to Evanna’s classmates and the wider school (one even earned the name “Cinco” as the fifth chick born). Through this hands-on project, students and staff learned about the life cycle of a chick and animal care in a meaningful, memorable way. We are deeply grateful for Lizette and Bricio’s support, partnership, and dedication to enriching student learning.”

Salute to: Meagan Mojica - Indian Knoll Elementary**Submitted by:** Mary Deichmiller, parent

“In our home, we refer to Mrs. Mojica as our favorite third grade teacher! There are no words to describe how dedicated she has been not only to our kids but to all the students who are lucky enough to sit and be a part of her classroom. She takes students and treats them like her own. My son came to the district as the new kid in class; lucky enough, his first teacher was Meagan. She embraced him mentally, socially, and academically! He still talks about the monster project, and I can remember my son lugging moving boxes to school. He loved it! In a moment's notice, if he could go back to the third grade, he would. My daughter was fortunate as well; she learned, she was challenged and pushed to be the best she could be. This past year in fifth grade, we watched her struggle, but she learned to stand up for herself, and when she needed help, she went into Mrs. Mojica's classroom and asked. There was no hesitation from Meagan, and my daughter will never forget her kindness and generosity. Then there is our youngest son; we saw him make academic strides this year! The work alone he comes home with shows the tenacity that she puts into her students and classroom. This board salute is long overdue, and it is only a fraction of what we can do to show our appreciation for her dedication. She is smart, and such a valuable asset to the district, and her opinions matter, and they should be valued because she is truly the epitome of what an excellent teacher is and should be.”

Salute to: St. Andrew's Golf Club**Submitted by:** West Chicago Elementary School District 33

“West Chicago Elementary School District 33 is proud to recognize St. Andrew's Golf Club for their continued generosity and support of our students through their annual donation to our elementary art programs. This year, St. Andrew's Golf Club donated \$500 to each elementary school's art program, providing students with new opportunities to explore, create, and express themselves through art. Their generosity helps bring innovative materials and hands-on experiences into our classrooms, allowing students to develop creativity, problem-solving skills, and confidence. Thanks to this year's donation, students across the district will benefit from exciting new resources, including airbrush centers with spray markers at Currier, Indian Knoll, and Wegner; weaving projects and puppets at Gary; and Chompsaws at Turner, which allow students to safely cut cardboard and bring their creative designs to life. What makes this partnership especially meaningful is that it has become a cherished annual tradition. Each year, we look forward to sharing the incredible artwork and creativity that flourish because of St. Andrew's continued investment in our students. On behalf of our students, staff, and families, thank you to St. Andrew's Golf Club for helping inspire the next generation of artists, creators, and innovators.”

Presentation

District Strategic Plan and Goal Champion Goals

Cathy Park, Director of Assessments and Accountability, shared the new Strategic Plan 2026-2031, Reach Higher, Achieve Together. The information included the mission, vision, and core values of the 5 district goals, along with their strategies.

District Administrators of Teaching and Learning, Student Services, Partnerships, Technology, Communications, Human Resources, Business and Operations, and Facilities and Grounds shared the results of the 25/26 school year goals, achievements, and growth data with the Board of Education. They also shared the new goals and plans for the 26/27 school year.

E.T.A.W.C. STATEMENT

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment Follow-Up

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 Board Meeting Minutes

... approve the board meeting minutes of June 18, 2026, and July 8, 2026;

Approve Contract Renewals

...approve the contract renewals with the following vendors:
Teaching Strategies for Early Childhood;

Approve Current Expenditures

...approved the list of bills dated June 22, 2026, through July 24, 2026, in the amount of \$4,987,378.82;

Approve Current Payrolls

...approved payrolls of June 4, 2026, in the amount of \$1,791,419.31; June 30, 2026, in the amount of \$2,144,690.46; July 15, 2026, in the amount of \$1,390,868.82; July 31, 2026, in the amount of \$1,390,865.44; August 14, 2026, in the amount of \$1,287,581.41; and August 31, 2026, in the amount of \$1,287,525.47;

Approve Imprest

...approved Imprest account from June 18, 2026, to July 15, 2024, in the amount of \$200.00;

Approve Disposition of Closed
Session Audio Tapes

...approved the disposition of audio tapes of the Board of Education regular closed session dated January 9, 2024, and January 23, 2024. Meetings that are at least 18 months old and meet the State criteria are disposed of;

Approve Personnel Items

...Approved the following personnel report:

1 Administration: Daniel Guerrero, Principal at Pioneer, effective July 1, 2026;

7 Certified: Rosalie Provenzano, Learning Behavior Specialist at LMS, effective 2026-2027 School Year; Steven Zimmermann, Math Teacher at LMS, effective 2026-2027 School Year; Lauren Richards, Behavior Specialist at LMS, effective 2026-2027 School Year; Cheryl Long, Enriched Science Teacher at LMS, effective 2026-2027 School Year; Riley Ricobene, Learning Behavior Specialist at Wegner/Turner, effective 2026-2027 School Year; Jennifer Tuerk, IEP Specialist at ELC, effective 2026-2027 School Year; Grace Espinosa, Lead Teacher for Multilingual Learners at Wegner, effective 2026-2027 School Year;
1 Classified: Daisy Rosas, Student Supervisor at LMS, effective 2026-2027 School Year;

12 Resignations: Brenda Vishanoff, Principal at Pioneer, effective July 1, 2026; Emilia Escobar, Dual Language Teacher at Gary, effective June 29, 2026; Zachary Manibog, Physical Education Teacher at Turner, effective July 1, 2026; Rosmeri Ayala, Dual Language Teacher at Gary, effective July 3, 2026; Jose Correa Paraprofessional at IK, effective July 10, 2026; Jonathan Antonio, Utility Custodian at IK, effective October 8, 2026; Tanner Longfellow, Orchestra Teacher at LMS, effective July 15, 2026; Evelyn Barron, Paraprofessional at Currierm, effective July 2, 2026; Jessica Raiser, Assistant Principal at Gary, effective July 16, 2026; Jobeth Wilson, Social Worker at Gary, effective July 16, 2026; Mayra Vega, Clerical Aide at Pioneer, effective July 17, 2026; Karina Duran, Paraprofessional at Wegner, effective July 20, 2026;

0 Retirement:

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

Biography of New
Administrator

Kristina Davis read the biography of Dan Guerrero, Principal at Pioneer Preschool.

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 \$1,209,173.00 in Evidence-Based Funding, \$58,057.22 in Special Ed-Private Facility Tuition, \$618,791.89 in Transportation-Regular and Vocational, and \$242,804.34 in Transportation-Special Education since the last meeting.

Treasurer's Report and
Budget Report

The Board of Education reviewed the Treasurer's Report and Budget Reports as of June 30, 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 June 30, 2026.

DISCUSSION OF NEW / ONGOING BUSINESS WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

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

1st Reading of Policies

Sarah Burnett, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, presented to the Board the 1st Reading of Policies as follows: Policy 2:230 – Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions to the Board; Policy 2:30- School District Elections; Policy 3:40- Superintendent; Policy 3:50- Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent; Policy 3:60- Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal; Policy 3:70- Succession of Authority; Policy 4:120- Food Services; Policy 4:175- Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications; Policy 5:110- Recognition for Service Policy; 5:140- Solicitation By or From Staff; Policy 5:185- Family and Medical Leave; Policy 5:240 – Suspension; Policy 5:40- Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease; Policy 5:70 – Religious Holidays; Policy 6:70 – Teaching About Religions; Policy 6:80 – Teaching About Controversial Issues; Policy 6:190 – Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities; Policy 7:130 – Student Rights and Responsibilities; Policy 7:30- Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer; Policy 7:345- Use of Educational Technologies, Student Data Privacy, and Security; Policy 7:80- Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance; Policy 8:100- Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies; Policy 8:70 – Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities; Exhibit 2:120-E3 – Resolution to Appoint a Delegate to the Illinois Association of School Boards Delegate Assembly; Exhibit 2:220-E1 – Board Treatment of Closed Meeting Verbatim Recordings and Minutes; Exhibit 2:220-E3 – Closed Meeting Minutes; Exhibit 2:220-E5 – Semi-Annual Review of Closed Meeting Minutes; Exhibit 2:220-E8 – Board Records Maintenance Requirements and FAQs; Exhibit 2:70-E – Checklist for Filling Board Vacancies by Appointment. The Board will review and vote at the August 6, 2026, board meeting.

Childhood Victories

Motioned by McLean, seconded by Hernandez, to approve the contract with Childhood Victories, an organization that specializes in student and parent presentations that fulfill the Erin's Law Requirements. Erin's Law requires that all school districts provide age-appropriate education to help children recognize, prevent, and report child sexual abuse. On roll call, the following board members voted aye: McLean, Hernandez, Balgeman, Banasiak, Garcia, and McCue. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

D303 Donation

The Board will review the donation to St. Charles East High School in recognition of their outstanding partnership and support for the Lemay Middle School 8th-grade graduation ceremony, and will vote at the August 6, 2026, board meeting.

Discard List

The board received information on the disposal of unneeded equipment and/or materials that are inoperable or too costly to repair, including the following items: wall partitions, beanbags, bookshelf, blue mats, crash

pad, diaper genie, art stools, large wooden desk, bookshelf, and metal filing cabinet at Indian Knoll; file cabinet, art easels, teacher easel, side shelves, large book shelf, cubby shelves, book shelves, writing tables, sinks, fridge, dramatic play shelf, hanging rack, kitchen cabinet, drying rack, black swivel chair, chairs, plastic bench, cube chair, step stool, blue chairs, child couch, smartboard and projectors, and stove at Pioneer; outdoor goal post, 3 drawer filing cabinet, student chairs, wooden desks, board easel, teacher desk, metal tiered shelving unit, and classroom maps at Turner; and old textbooks (McGraw-Hill, Your Health Harcourt, Harcourt Horizons Social Studies, Macmillian McGraw-Hill Science, Connecting Math Concepts, RIGOR Reading, National Geographic Explorer, and assorted dated curricular resource), old teacher manuals, old curriculum boxes, and old Jolly Phonic starter kids from the Department of Teaching and Learning.. The Board will review the information and vote at the August 6, 2026, board meeting.

Fin Path

The Board received information on a financial wellness program designed to support employees. The Board will review the FinPath information and vote at the August 6, 2026, board meeting.

Humanex Interview Training

Humanex specializes in sourcing, screening, selecting, and placing the most qualified individuals. Humanex would provide training for all Principals and Assistant Principals during the 26-27 school year on a talent selection approach for teachers . The Board will review the information and vote at the August 6, 2026, board meeting.

LEND Dues

The Board received information for the membership in the Legislative Education Network of DuPage County (LEND) for the 2026-2027 school year, which keeps the Board updated and allows input into the legislative process.

MBA PowerSchool Conference

The Board will review information for two administrators to attend the MBA PowerSchool Conference in Wisconsin, to be held from November 9-12, and will vote at the August 6, 2026, board meeting.

SASED Governing Board Resolution

The Board discussed the appointment of a Governing Board representative and its alternate representative for the SASED Board of Control. The Board will select and vote on both representatives at the August 6, 2026, board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Performing Arts Update

Motioned by Banasiak, seconded by Garcia, to approve changes to the structure of after-school rehearsals for the elementary orchestra for the 26-27 school year, while considering overall program options. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, Garcia, McLean, Hernandez, McCue, and Balgeman. Nays: None.
Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Teaching Strategies GOLD

Motioned by Banasiak, seconded by McLean, to approve the contract with Teaching Strategies GOLD for Pioneer Preschool. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, McLean, Balgeman, Garcia, Hernandez, and McCue. Nays: None. Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

INFORMATION ITEMS**Staffing and Enrollment Update**

Sarah Burnett provided the Board with the most updated staffing and enrollment numbers.

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 13 new requests since the last board meeting.

Short-term Leave

The Board received the short-term leave report.

Suggested Agenda Items for Next Board Meeting

No suggested items at this time.

Board Outreach

No board outreach at this time.

Parking Lot

No parking lot at this time.

REPORT OF DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS**Open Comments**

Janette commented on the district staff and administrators who attended a student's memorial service.

REVIEW OF UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

The Board of Education members reviewed upcoming meetings and events.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by McLean, seconded 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 120/2(c) (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. On roll call, the following members

voted aye: McLean, Banasiak, Balgeman, Garcia, Hernandez, and McCue. Nays: None.
Motion carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

ROLL CALL

On roll call at 8:35 p.m., the following members were present: Balgeman, Banasiak, Garcia, McLean, Hernandez, and McCue. Absent: None.

ALSO PRESENT

Kristina Davis, Superintendent, and Sarah Burnett, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

Out of Closed Session

Motion by McLean, seconded by Balgeman, to reconvene to open session at 9:58 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 Balgeman, to approve closed session minutes of July 8, 2026, as read. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by McLean, seconded by Balgeman, to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

President, Rita Balgeman

Secretary,