MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (1st Thursday)
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33, DUPAGE COUNTY, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
August 6, 2026

President Rita Balgeman called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:03 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; Sarah Norton, Director of Partnerships; Janet Ayala, Director of Multilingual Learners; Krissy Goebbert, Director of Student Services; Nicole Eimer, Director of Marketing, Communications & Public Relations; 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 additions or changes at this time.

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: "Welcome back! The lazy days of summer are coming to a close, and everyone's attention has moved toward the start of school (or at least I hope they have). I think we all start to prepare with ideas of getting ahead and starting the year off right. Packed lunches, prepared breakfasts, new clothes and shoes, school supplies ready and in the backpacks. This is going to be the year we tell ourselves. It's going to be the best yet. The kids are going to go to bed early and get up ready to start their first week.

New outfits and quick first day pictures. Everything is going to move smoothly, and no one in your household is going to get up late or cause a rush. And for sure the bus will be on time this year. Your kids will be at the bus stop and ready to get on that bus without a hiccup.

When school is over, your kids will get off that same bus with smiles on their faces and ready to tell you how awesome their day was. And you will finally immediately get back into the routine of homework, after-school activities, dinner, and bed.

The kids will want to do these things, and no one will be grumpy, tired, or disagreeable. This is the picture we all want to see –parents, teachers, principals, bus drivers, and of course the kids.

The reality is the beginning of school is hectic. No matter how much preparation goes into the day, something will not be perfect. The bugs need to be worked out, and your kids (and you) need to get used to the routine all over again. So I ask that each of us take a big breath, let it out slowly, and buckle up.

Cut each of us some grace (yourself, teachers, principals, bus drivers, the Board). By doing so, we allow our children less stress and time to enjoy those first few days."

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

Salute to: Jenny Brunke - Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning
Submitted by: Sarah Norton, D33 Parent & Administrator
“My son had a wonderful experience at Summer School. He is an incoming Kindergarten student at Gary. Summer school gave him the opportunity to get familiar with the school building and get ready for the school year. The program was very well organized, and the lesson plans were well thought out, engaging, and helped students become kindergarten-ready. Each week, parents received newsletters reviewing what was taught and how to continue learning at home.
We received activity bags to practice things like sorting, counting, writing their names, cutting, and even practicing how to put on gloves by themselves! I was amazed at the growth in the pre/post assessment, where students demonstrated their knowledge of letter recognition, letter sounds, numbers, shapes, and other concepts.
Jenny Brunke put a lot of time and planning into the summer lesson plans, and it showed! She planned a fun theme with weekly guest presenters to keep the kids engaged. Her dedication led to many students having the opportunity to grow over the summer and come back in the fall ready to learn.
Thank you, Jenny, for your commitment to our students and families in West Chicago!”

Presentation

Community Schools Presentation
Sarah Norton, Director of Partnerships; Penny Munoz, Assistant Director of Partnerships; Tiffany Posey, Assistant Director of Partnerships, and Angie Nieto, Grant & Data Quality Administrator presented the annual Community School report. In alignment with the new strategic goal, they discussed their goal in family and community partnerships and the four pillars. Information regarding the Full Service Community School Grant Funding and the Department of Education's non-continuation was also provided, along with the timeline. Accomplishments of the 25/26 school year included formation of a Community School Advisory Team, asset and needs assessment, homework help club, professional development for community schools and AVID, adult ESC classes, student and community field trips, childcare at all parent events, student field trips and experiences, staff wellbeing initiatives, and BTAGG Committee literature and supplies. In partnership with various organizations, including the People’s Resource Center, the district hosts the WeGo Together

Community Food Market every Tuesday. The Community Market served 352 unique families and 1,653 individuals. A "Caring Closet" was also created, allowing families to shop for essential household items. The Community School Grant Fund also enabled the district to complete beautification projects identified by the Community School Advisory team and the needs assessment.

Presentation

Summer School Presentation

Jenny Brunke, Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning, presented the 2026 Summer Programming Update. Similar to last year, summer school was a rising grade for Kinder through 8th grade. Summer school was held at Gary (grades PreK-4th) and Leman (grades 5th-8th), with over 600 students enrolled, including 60 incoming kindergarten students. This year's theme was "Saving Our Planet" and included climate initiative projects, STEM Thursdays, related novel studies, and student giveaways. Incoming kindergarten students focused on reading foundational skills and math fluency. Incoming kindergarten students also took pre- and post-assessments in reading and math. 74% of Pioneer PreK students attending summer school met or exceeded the kindergarten readiness goal. First and second graders prioritized reading and math foundational skills; third through eighth grade students focused on reading comprehension and writing. They also worked on math focus areas, including fluency and problem-solving.

Acceleration and Enrichment programs were also offered to students in grades third to eighth. A newcomer program was also offered to students in 6th to 8th grade that focused on English language development and cross-linguistic connections. As in previous years, Extend School was offered over the summer to help students make progress towards their individualized goals. Special guests attended every Thursday, including Friends of the Fox River, SciTech, The Climate Initiative, SCARCE, Kane/DuPage County Soil and Water, and World Wildlife Fund/National Geographic speaker Clay Bolt. Chicago Arts Partnerships in Education (CAPE) was offered to all summer school students in grades 1 through 4. Impact Kids was provided for the Leman students. Camp Ole was offered for Gary students during the last week of summer school and focused on the four language domains in Spanish.

Presentation

Summer Professional Development

Lea Pizinger, Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning, provided the Board with information on the various summer professional development offerings. Summer 2026 primarily focused on strengthening literacy instruction.

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 July 27, 2026, through August 7, 2026, in the amount of $464,518.29;

Approve Contracts

…approve the contract renewals with the following vendors: Impact Kids, 7 Mindsets, and EverDriven;

Approve Personnel Items

…Approved the following personnel report:
0 1 Administration: Evonne Cruz, Assistant Principal at Gary, effective August 7, 2026;
7 Certified: Maria Fernandez, Dual Language Teacher at Gary, effective August 14, 2026; Ricardo Luna, Dual Language Teacher at Gary effective August 14, 2026; Jenna Turner, Math Interventionist at Turner, efective August 14, 2026; Max Lupo, Physical Education Teacher at Turner, effective August 14, 2026; Mark Guerrero, Learning Behavior Specialist at LMS, effective August 14, 2026; Lizbeidy Najera, Bilingual Preschool Teacher at Pioneer, effective August 14, 2026; Andrew Viveros, Orchestra Teacher LMS, effective August 14, 2026;
1 Classified: Courtney Jeffery, Lunch/Recess Supervisor at Currier, effective August 14, 2026
3 Resignations: Kim Garcia, Nurse at ELC, effective July 24, 2026; Alicia Voss, Bilingual Preschool Teacher at Pioneer, effective July 28, 2026; Chung Yoo, Piano Accompanist at LMS, effective August 4, 2026;
0 Retirements:

On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, McLean, Hernandez, Denton, McCue, Balgeman, and Garcia. Nays: None. Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Biography of New Administrator

Kristina Davis read the biography of Evonne Cruz, Assistant Principal at Gary Elementary School.

DISCUSSION OF NEW / ONGOING BUSINESS WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

Presentation Follow-up	No presentation follow-up at this time.
Contract Agency	The Board received information to contract with 50 Stars to hire a psychologist at Pioneer. The Board will review the information and vote at the August 20, 2026 board meeting.
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 $108,443.00 in Early Childhood-Prevention Initiative 0-3, $2,799.40 in State Free Lunch & Breakfast, $435,392.00 in IDEA Flow Through, $10,196.00 in IDEA PreK, $203,202.14 in National School Lunch Program, $84,873.96 in School Breakfast Program, $39,433.00 in Stronger Connections, $341,078.00 in Title I Low Income, $25,329.00 in Title I School Improvement & Accountability, $53,561.00 in Title II Teacher Quality, $3,613.00 in Title III Lang Inst Prog-Limite Eng LIPLEP, $56,585.00 in Title IV - 21st Century Comm Learning Centers, and $13,233.00 in Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrich since the last meeting.
McAuley Site Work Bid	Motioned by Banasiak, seconded by McLean, to reject the bid of D. Kersey Construction Co. for site improvements at McAuley School. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, McLean, Garcia, Hernandez, Denton, McCue, and Balgeman. Nays: None. Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.
ScreenCloud	Motioned by Garcia, seconded by Hernandez, to approve the 12-month subscription with ScreenCloud. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Garcia, Hernandez, Denton, McCue, McLean, Banasiak, and Balgeman. Nays: None. Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

ACTION ITEMS

2nd Reading of Policies	Motioned by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to approve the following policies: 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 2:220-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; and Exhibit 2:70-E – Checklist for Filling Board Vacancies by Appointment. The Board excluded Exhibit 2:120-E3 – Resolution to Appoint a Delegate to the Illinois Association of School Boards Delegate Assembly. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Banasiak, Balgeman, Garcia, Hernandez, Denton, and McCue. Nays: None.
Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

D303 Donation

Motioned by Garcia, seconded by Banasiak, to approve a $1,000 donation to St. Charles Community Unit School District 303 for their last-minute support of the 2026 8th Grade Graduation. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Garcia, Banasiak, Balgeman, McLean, Denton, McCue, and Hernandez. Nays: None. Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Discard List

Motioned by Banasiak, seconded by Garcia, to approve the disposal of unneeded equipment and/or materials that are inoperable or too costly to repair, including the following equipment/materials: 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, Harcout 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. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Banasiak, Garcia, McLean, Hernandez, Denton, McCue, and Balgeman. Nays: None. Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.
Fin Path	Motioned by Garcia, seconded by Hernandez, to approve the agreement with FinPath, a financial wellness program designed to support employees. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Garcia, Hernandez, Balgeman, Banasiak, McLean, Denton, and McCue. Nays: None. Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.
Humanex Interview Training	Motioned by Hernandez, seconded by Banasiak, to approve the contract with Humanex, which would provide training for all Principals and Assistant Principals during the 26-27 school year on a talent selection approach for teachers. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Hernandez, Banasiak, Balgeman, McCue, Denton, McLean, and Garcia. Nays: None. Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.
LEND Dues	Motioned by Banasiak, seconded by McLean, to approve the continued membership in the Legislative Education Network of DuPage County (LEND) for 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.
MBA PowerSchool Conference	Motioned by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to approve two administrators to attend the MBA PowerSchool Conference in Wisconsin, to be held from November 9-12, 2026. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Banasiak, Balgeman, Garcia, Hernandez, Denton, and McCue. Nays: None. Motion carried: 7 ayes, 0 nays.
Appoint SASED Governing Board of Control Representative	Motioned by Banasiak, seconded by Garcia, to approve Kari McCue as the Governing Board Representative. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.
Appoint SASED Governing Board of Control Alternate	Motioned by Banasiak, seconded by Hernandez, to approve Chad McLean as the Governing Board Alternate. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant	Sarah Norton provided the Board with information regarding the intent to apply for the FY 2027 Nita M. Lowery 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant (21st CCLC).
Back to School Update	The Board was provided with the activities/events taking place in preparation for the start of the 2026-2027 school year.
Committee Sign-up	The Board will review the various committees and sign up.
Plan for Emergency Closure	The Board was provided with the annual emergency learning plan.
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	No items for the parking lot.

REPORT OF DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Open Comments	The Board discussed and selected the adopted schools for the 26/27 school year.

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 8:20 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. 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 8:40 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 9:20 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 July 23, 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 9:20 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

President, Rita Balgeman

Secretary,