



**WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33**

Kristina Davis Ed.S., Superintendent  
April 6, 2023, Board Briefs

Rita Balgeman, Board President  
Felicia Gills, Board Vice President  
Tom Doyle, Board Secretary  
Phebe Balzer, Board Member

Chad McLean, Board Member  
Morgan Banasiak, Board Member  
Sandra Garcia, Board Member

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held at Lemay Middle School on Thursday, April 6, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance**

Rita Balgeman, Sandra Garcia, Morgan Banasiak, Tom Doyle, and Chad McLean were present. Felicia Gills and Phebe Balzer were absent.

**Additions/Changes to the Agenda**

Addition under X-New business with possible action, F: Sentinel Technology Contract Proposal.

X. B: Consolidation of Cross-Categorical Classroom will be postponed to a later meeting.

Addition of Reason 3: Student Discipline under XIV: Close Session.

**Shared Agreements:**

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 their “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 in which to conduct board work. Board Secretary Tom Doyle will share his statement at the next board meeting.

## **Recognition/Showcase/Presentation**

**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 of the District 33 community - which includes all staff members, students, bus drivers, parents/guardians, and guardians - for actions that build a positive culture and climate in District 33. This “shout-out” will become part of the official Board minutes under Board Salutes on the bi-weekly agendas.

**Salute to:** Lucas Deichmiller, Kindergarten Student, Indian Knoll

**Submitted by:** Amanda Fratinardo, Kindergarten Teacher, Indian Knoll

“Lucas exudes kindness, caring, and empathy well beyond his kindergarten years. He has voluntarily taken one of our new students under his wing, showing the new student around the building and helping him run errands. Lucas makes sure the new student knows where materials are located and helps him transition between subjects. He never complains but instead tells me it makes his heart happy to help those who need that extra support.”

**Recognition** - No recognition at this time.

**Showcase** – Birth to 3 Showcase

Principal Katey Baldassano presented to the board Books and Babies. The strategy they use to support parents are wordless books to let parents tell the story rather than be limited by the words on the page. The possibilities are endless with workless books. Most families in the program have at least 20 books in their homes within the first year. 75% of families show an increase in reading frequency and length and an increase in the frequency of pointing to pictures in books and asking questions about the books. Many families are also involving siblings in book sharing with the little ones.

**Presentation** – Dual Language Elementary Presentation

Gloria Trejo, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Rubi Ortiz, Director of Multilingual Learners, and Kellie Barros, Principal at Currier School, presented to the board the Dual Program Update.

Gloria Trejo, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Rubi Ortiz, Director of Multilingual Learners, and Kellie Barros, Principal at Currier School, presented to the board the Dual Program Update. Under the IL School Code Article 14C, districts are required to provide support for English Learners (ELs). District 33 has chosen Dual Language to meet this requirement. The Two-Way Dual Language began in 2000-2001 at Gary School. Parents petitioned for the Dual Language Program to be offered across the district, and the One-Way dual was offered across the district in 2015-2016. Since the program started, there has been a change in the type of learners entering the program from sequential to simultaneous learners. As more data and information is being conducted, several districts have moved their 80/20 Dual Language program model to a 50/50 model. With the 50/50 model, students will have more opportunities for integration, teachers will have more opportunities for collaboration, and more students will be able to exit ACCESS before High School. The primary goals are to close the achievement gap for ELs, have grade-level academic achievement in both languages, and continue bilingualism, biliteracy, and biculturalism. District Administrators will take the following actions over the next weeks:

- School Site visits for Q&A
- Parent meetings
- Developing scope and sequence of standards in all content areas with support from ISBE content area consultants.
- Focus on developing Language Arts through guidance and support from a biliteracy consultant.
- Summer curriculum work to implement programming changes
- Develop robust professional development that builds the capacity of our teachers.

### **E.T.A.W.C. Statement**

Tristan Cure, ETAWC representative, read the following statement to the Board:

“Good Evening. We made it to the last trimester of the 2022-2023 school year. Tonight we would like to shine a spotlight on Alma Garcia this trimester. Alma has done an amazing job communicating with the union leadership team and making sure we are prepared and updated on the school board meeting agendas. This allows us to prepare our union members for meetings and promotes collaboration between the union, the board, and district administration. Her communication is efficient and timely, and we appreciate all she has done to help us prepare this year; especially when we are unable to attend board meetings. Thank you for all you do.

We appreciate all district administrators. We look forward to continuing these spotlights next year.”

### **Public Comment**

No public comment at this time.

### ***Prior Public Comments follow-up***

#### *Parent concern: Bullying*

Administrators have reached out and attempted several times to connect with parents and are waiting to hear back. The Climate Committee has invited these parents to their next meeting on April 25th to review policies and codes. 20 other parents have also been invited to this meeting. The Climate Committee is made up of parents, teachers, and administrators. A report from this meeting will be brought to a future meeting.

### **Superintendent News** - Birth to 3 Superintendent News.

The Superintendent News is to update the board and community on some of the many programs and activities occurring in the schools and the departments determined to help us accomplish the goals of the District Strategic Plan.

### **Goal #4: Family Engagement and Community Partnerships**

#### **Groups and Events**

Birth to Three is proud to use parent feedback to shape and direct our programming. Based on mid-year parent feedback, we have added new groups for parents.

- A group to teach basic sign language
- A group called “balanced home” helps parents learn ways to manage their stress and better support their children.

Parents also wanted to come together to celebrate more with each other. The following events were added:

- Valentine’s Day group to talk about how we show love to our children
- Mother’s Day group coming up in May

We have hosted 130 groups this year, with nearly 800 attendees.

#### **Parent Advisory**

We just had our first post-COVID Early Childhood Education parent advisory, which includes parents from Birth to Three and preschool.

The group is off to a great start hearing parents' feedback around areas such as

- screening and enrollment
- parent engagement
- literacy

We have identified literacy as the first area we will dig into at our meeting next month. The purpose of this group is to use parent feedback to improve the programming and services of the entire Early Childhood Education program.

### **Discussion of New /Ongoing Business with Possible Action**

- *Presentation follow-up* - No presentation follow-up at this time.
- *Finance/Facilities* –John Haffner, Executive Director of Business and Operations, stated that since the last Board meeting, the district has received for Evidence-Based Funding in the amount of \$1,196,886.00; Early Childhood grant in the amount of \$231,411.00; National school lunch program in the amount of \$207,670.00; School breakfast program in the amount of \$101,365.00; and Other state (after school program) in the amount of \$13,261.00.
- *Inter-Fund Transfer* – The board was presented with Resolution calling for a public hearing on Intent to Effect Inter fund Transfer. The Board will vote to approve Resolution Calling Public Hearing on Intent to Effect Inter Fund Transfer on April 20, 2023. A Public Hearing on Intent to Effect Inter fund Transfer will take place on May 4, 2023. The administration is asking the Board to transfer \$10,000,000 from the Educational Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund to be used for maintaining, improving, and repairing school buildings and grounds and expenses related thereto.
- *Intergovernmental Agreement for Mutual Assistance (DuSMART)* - Kristina Davis, Superintendent, presented to the Board the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement for Mutual Assistance in response to crises in the Public Schools of DuPage County. The Board will review the information and vote at the April 20, 2023, board meeting.
- *RIF/Non-renewal/Dismissal of Classified Staff* - The Board voted to approve the Honorable Dismissal of Speech Language Pathologist Assistant, Laurel Bollenberg.
- *Sentinel Technology Contract Proposal* - Lea De Luca, Director of Technology and Innovation, presented to the Board a proposal to hire Sentinel. The Board will vote at the April 20, 2023, board meeting.

### **Action Items**

- The Board of Education took action on the following items:
- ***Approved the Personnel report:***
  - 0 ADMINISTRATION:
  - 0 CERTIFIED:
  - 0 CLASSIFIED:
  - 3 RESIGNATIONS: Rosario Arteaga, Dual Language Kindergarten Teacher at Turner, effective end of 2022-2023 School Year; Denyse Dozier, LBS1 at LMS, effective end of 2022-2023 School Year; and Phillip Tagger, Custodian at ESC, effective March 20, 2023;
  - 1 TRANSFER: Fatmir Seseri, Head Custodian at Wegener, effective April 3, 2023;
  - 0 RETIREMENT:
  - 0 TERMINATIONS:
  - 1 LEAVE: Katharine Fortuna, Library Aide at Currier, effective April 3, 2023;
  - 0 FTE Change:
- The Board will vote on the LMS Dual Program at the April 20, 2023, board meeting.

### **Information Items**

The Board of Education received/reviewed/discussed the following informational items:

- Staff Appreciation/Service Awards and Retirement Recognition.
- Most current posting of available job positions in School District 33;
- The Board would like an update on the IASB training workshop.
- No Board outreach at this time.
- No parking lot at this time.

**Report of District Committee Meetings**

- Kristina Davis provided an update on LEND.
- No open comments at this time.

**Upcoming Meetings/Events**

The Board of Education members reviewed upcoming meetings and events.

**Adjournment**

The above review of action taken by the Board of Education at their regular meeting is provided in an attempt to keep you informed. If you have any questions regarding any of the information provided or wish to discuss any of the items, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,

**Kristina Davis, Ed. S.**

Kristina Davis,  
Superintendent of Schools

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