



**WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33**

Kristina Davis Ed.S., Superintendent
April 20, 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 20, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance

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

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Under IV.- Tom Doyle will share his agreements in the absence of Chad McLean.
Under V.A.- There will be an addition, "Recognition to Board Treasurer Phebe Balzer."
Under XVII.- Close session, an addition, Reason #2 Pending Imminent Litigation, will be added.

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 purpose of the shared agreement is to help maintain a positive environment in which to conduct board work. Board Secretary, Tom Doyle, shared his agreement.

"As I reflect on our shared beliefs this evening, I think of belief number 2: "Respect staff and other board members and their opinions." When I realized that tonight is Phebe's final meeting

as a School Board Member, I immediately thought of how much we will miss her. Phebe is a wonderful person who demonstrates kindness and respect to all stakeholders, not just staff members and other board members. Phebe is reflective, conscientious, and genuine. We will miss her leadership and special way of sharing her thoughts and opinions. Phebe has been a great example to all of us. Phebe, Thank you for all you have done for this community, for all of us, and for leading that expectation of being respectful for our current and future board of education members.”

Recognition/Showcase/Presentation

Recognition

Board Secretary Phebe Balzer

On behalf of the District 33 Board of Education and Administration, we would like to salute Phebe Balzer, who has selflessly served this Board for the past 8 years. Every board member brings their personal values of service, experience, and commitment to their role on the Board. Phebe brings the true value of service and experience as a D33 parent of two academically talented daughters. But what is most notable about Phebe is her commitment to our shared agreements, particularly the agreement to Make Decisions According to What is Best for ALL District 33 Students. Phebe has been a constant reminder to us to be thoughtful in our decisions by asking TOUGH questions (and lots of them) to ensure we are considering the needs of every child-especially those that are in most need of a voice. Over the past 8 years, Phebe has been instrumental in bringing so many positive changes to the district in the spirit of ensuring what is best for all D33 students. In the past few years, she worked collaboratively with this board in expanding our dual language program, balancing class sizes, upgrading the libraries to STEM labs, and renovating Garys’s facade. As well, teachers have been added to expand GATE in the primary grades, and class sizes have been decreased while after-school clubs have increased. Long-awaited air conditioning is being installed, and a space will finally be optimized for preschool. Phebe encouraged us to express our unique opinions while also ensuring we ultimately speak in one voice. Being a board member could be considered a “thankless job,” But it is clear that Phebe valued her service above herself and without the need for accolades. This is because Phebe truly embodies the attributes of a public servant. Phebe, thank you for your 8 years of commitment to the students and families of District 33. You may be moving on from your work on this board, but your legacy will not be forgotten!

D33 Pride Awards

Gina Steinbrecher, Coordinator of Community Relations and Communications, shared the recipient of the D33 Pride awards for the second trimester.

Awardee: Charlotte Conger, Student, Lemman Middle School

Nominated by: Maggie Lay, Principal, Lemman Middle School

Positive Impact through leadership. Charlotte is very involved with activities at Lemman. She is an active member of the Principal Advisory Committee and is in our PE Leaders program. She is well-known as a friend to everyone, and at a time in life when it is very hard to stand up for the "right" thing, she leads her peers by being an example of all of the Lemman Values.

Positive impact through caring, kindness, and enthusiasm. Charlotte LOVES her classmates in the PE Leaders program. PE Leaders is a class where our students with special needs are led through adaptive PE activities by their typical peers. Before winter break, Charlotte asked me if she could plan a special surprise holiday party for the students in her class. She was looking for a way to coordinate a fun social event for the students that she truly considers to be her friends. Charlotte planned all the details - the time, place, snacks, and activities. When doing so, she truly understood the needs of her peers (we have to have a dance party because Student A loves to dance, and we have to have this movie because Student B loves it, etc.). On the day of the party, Charlotte coordinated her typical peers (who were also surprised!) in the setup of the

event. Watching our students laugh and have fun together, thanks to her hard work, was the highlight of the holiday season for me! Positive Impact through dedication and devotion. Charlotte is always looking for ways to positively impact the school and our community. She is not shy about sharing her perspectives and approaches all topics with a problem-solving mindset. Charlotte is a great collaborator. She worked along with our teachers at Lemay to build a backpack and locker policy that met the needs of all stakeholders.

Staff Recognition - Roy Rodriguez

“Roy is an incredibly dedicated employee. As the custodian of Pioneer, he is not only dedicated to the school and staff but, above that, he's very dedicated to our students! Over the years, he has been there for them in so many ways. In the past, since he lives across the street, the students would run over to his house no matter what time or day it was and ring his doorbell if they needed help with getting a ball off the school roof or any other item. Roy never hesitated and would go with the kids to help fix whatever needed to be fixed. Most recently, Roy was in the lunchroom helping when he noticed a student choking. He immediately rushed in to help this student by doing the Heimlich maneuver on them. The situation turned more serious, but Roy never wavered and continued the procedure and anything else he could do until the paramedics arrived. He did not stop there. He checked in on the student at the hospital and then continued to stay at Pioneer and do his job so he could be there in case anyone needed anything. I could not be more grateful to have someone like Roy at Pioneer.”

Turner School Superintendent for the Day

From Principal McDavid, “Turner was excited to welcome Superintendent Davis into the building on Tuesday, January 31st. The 4th-grade teaching team selected 4th graders Gimena E., Anastasia Z., and Jesus R. The students and Superintendent Davis visited classrooms and took notes about students' knowledge of their power goals. Of the nearly 40 students who were asked about their power goals, only three did not know their power goals. The students came and reported this information to the principal. They also recommended the next steps, stating that students needed to work on knowing how they could practice it. It was a great day!”

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: Brenda Silva, Lead Tech Teacher, Indian Knoll

Submitted by: Robyn Kimmel, Music Teacher, Indian Knoll

“Brenda is a new addition to Indian Knoll this year, and she is FANTASTIC! She always has a smile and is very positive, even though she is often pulled to substitute internally. She video recorded the Winter Concert and put together an AMAZING video to share with families who were unable to attend the SAME DAY as the concert. The video had the titles of the songs included, as well as graphics. She edited the videos so they looked very professional. I am so thankful to her for the extra time and effort she put into this project. The students LOVED watching themselves, and their parents were so grateful to be able to see the concert video. Brenda also has more classes in the STEM lab than ever before! She helps teachers and students learn about technology and leads fun and challenging activities. Brenda is such a wonderful colleague. Staff and students are so lucky to have her at IK!”

Salute to: Martha Boers and Araceli Hernandez, Paraprofessionals, Indian Knoll

Submitted by: Patricia Rodriguez, Learning Behavioral Specialist, Indian Knoll

“Both of these paraeducators have been working for District 33 for close to 20 years. They have been working in self-contained classrooms for the past 12 years. They love our special needs students. They are dedicated, flexible, and take initiative. They work together as a team for the good of all the students. They are great team players with the teacher they work with and are positive towards the students and staff. Their experience is valuable, and their love for our special needs students is demonstrated every day through their work ethic. I thank both of them for keeping me accountable, having a mentality of "we are all in this together," being respectful, and making our work environment positive and fun. I would not be able to do my job if it weren't for them.”

Showcase

Indian Knoll Showcase

Ms. Miller and GATE reporter students Jonathan, Arizbeth, Juan Pablo, and Harper presented to the Board the “GATE REPORTERS” Newspaper. Board members and Administrators received a copy of their most current newspaper. As reporters, students are responsible for choosing a topic, conducting research, writing and editing the article, and publishing it. All students agreed they enjoyed working on the newspaper.

Turner Showcase

Ms. Thompson and student Anastasia Z. presented to the board Turners 4th grade Science BUF of Energy. The 4th-grade team works diligently to create engaging opportunities for the students to learn in hands-on, engaging ways as well as fun ways to celebrate the learning. Ms. Thompson also thanked Diane and Tom for all their help with the 3D printers. Board members and Administrators participated in connecting the circuits to get a working device, with Anastasia assisting and providing hints.

Presentation

No presentation at this time.

E.T.A.W.C. Statement

Deb Tayler shared a statement. “Good Evening. We wanted to take a moment to thank Phoebe for her continuous dedication and service to our D33 community. She served our district for 8 years. We appreciate the time and effort put in to support our D33 families. Your drive and tenacity will be missed.”

Public Comment

Marilyn Zable emailed her public statement regarding Gary Dual Program.

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.

Indian Knoll Superintendent News

Goal #1: Student Growth and Achievement

Indian Knoll is very excited about our achievements in reading. At this time, we are at 48.9% of our students reading proficiently in IRLA and 62.4% of our students reading proficiently in ENIL. Our hypothesis for this improvement is a combination of building a culture of data and incorporating innovative ways of learning for our students.

Goal #4: Family Engagement and Community Partnerships

We are excited to begin building our Indian Knoll PTO with an increasing number of parents participating.

We are looking forward to our “Dia del Nino” event on Saturday 29th, from 11 am - 1 pm. This event has had the highest community engagement and support.

We have seen an increase in our attendance. The attendance team has not stopped with the message to parents and students about the importance of being in school. We have had a great response to our attendance challenges at IK.

Goal #5: Effective and Innovative Use of Resources

We are excited to report that Indian Knoll has been able to keep our conferencing numbers from dipping due to our Instructional Teamwork of “choice boards”. This provides a platform for students to work independently by providing them choices as to which area of literacy to work on and how to record their evidence. Great way to work on the ARC Power Goals.

Turner Superintendent News**Goal #4: Family Engagement and Community Partnerships**

- Turner's Building Leadership Team designed and implemented a Learning Walks plan that has opened classroom doors for all staff to visit other teachers.
- Already, all staff members have completed at least two learning walks in which they have visited the classroom of another teacher, left them a positive note, and walked away with an awesome new idea.
- This month, teachers stepped it up a notch and returned to PLTs to engage in conversation about what they saw in the classrooms and how it can be used at the grade level.
- We are confident this is going to have a positive impact on teacher-to-teacher trust.

Consent Agenda

The Board of Education conducted the following business on a consent agenda as follows:

- Approved the Board meeting minutes of March 16, 2023, and April 6, 2023;
- Approved the list of bills dated March 16, 2023, through April 15, 2023, in the amount of \$2,027,010.97;
- Approved payrolls of March 15, 2023, in the amount of \$1,939,457.06, and March 31, 2023, in the amount of \$1,877,047.74;
- Approved imprest account from March 9, 2023, to April 8, 2023, in the amount of \$850.00;
- Approved the disposition of the audio tape of the Board of Education’s regular closed session dated September 19, 2021, and October 7, 2021. Meetings that are at least 18 months old, and meet the State criteria, are disposed of;
- Approved the personnel report:

0 Administration:

0 Certified:

2 Classified: John Wojnarowski, Utility Custodian at LMS, effective April 26, 2023; Susan Salak, Student Supervisor at LMS, effective April 12, 2023;

5 Resignation: Tiffany Mefford, General Education Teacher at Wegner, effective end of the 2022-2023 School Year; Karina Camarillo, Library Media Specialist at Pioneer, effective end of the 2022-2023 School Year; Wonzey Carlson, Nurse at IK, effective June 15, 2023; Mathew Dumay, Speech Language Pathologist at IK, effective end of the 2022-2023 School Year; Rubi Ortiz, Director of Multilingual Learners at ESC, effective June 30, 2023;

1 Position Change: Ariadna Ballines, Student Supervisor at LMS, effective April 21, 2023;

0 Retirement:

1 Abandonment: Cori Rauch, Paraprofessional at IK, effective April 20, 2023.

Financial Reports

- The Board of Education reviewed the Treasurers' Report and Budget Report as of March 31, 2023, along with the financial charts;
- The Board of Education received a financial report from John Haffner, Executive Director of Business and Operations, stating that since the last meeting, the District received \$1,188,210.00 payment for Evidence-Based Funding, \$63,688.61 for Special Ed, \$83,845.00 for Title I-Low Income, \$3,429.00 for Title IV A-Student Support & Academic Enrichment, \$153,377.00 for Title IV- 21st Century Comm Learning Centers, \$229,239.00 for Fed Sped IDEA Flow Through, \$3,545.00 for Title III- Immigrant Education Program, \$44,981.00 for Lang. Inst. Program, \$63,735.00 for Title II Teacher Quality, and \$423,104.00 for ESSR/ARP Grants;
- The Board of Education received a summary of each school's monthly activity accounts as of March 31, 2023.

Discussion of New /Ongoing Business with Possible Action

- *Presentation follow-up - 2023/2024 Dual Program Update-* Rubi Ortiz, Director of Multilingual Services, along with Maggie Lay, presented an update on the dual language change to answer all the questions that were raised. One-Way Dual will move to a 50/50 language-by-content model. Two-Way Dual will maintain one 80/20 model by parent choice and will add the 50/50 language by content model. Students will need to take specific classes to continue the path to biliteracy at Lemman. They will begin administering the AAPL in October for grades 3-8 to prepare dual students for the Seal of Biliteracy. The district wants parents to understand the importance of the ACCESS test and how it impacts their high school classes by opening up their choices of classes they can take. The district is also looking at different ways to prepare teachers as much as possible so they are confident in the changes as well. They have been thoughtfully considering teachers and students throughout the whole process. Kristina Davis, Superintendent, also addressed the Board "This year, in particular, we have been very data focused. Putting all the hard data in front of the Board and the parents. I want to emphasize the urgency in front of us. We want the same opportunity for ALL students. One more year of waiting could mean more children being left behind or being set back. All the feedback from parents, teachers, and the board is very appreciated. We want to make sure we have made the changes needed to have everyone feel heard."
- *2023-2024 Custodial Supply BID-* The board voted to approve the 2023-2024 custodial supply bid.
- *Disposal of Unneeded Equipment-* The Board voted to approve the disposal of unneeded equipment for Gary and Turner School.
- *Continuous employment of Certified Staff-* The Board voted to approve the continuous employment of Certified staff.
- *Dual Language Programming Consultants -* The Board voted to approve the contracts of David Burs, Amy Mosquera, and Carol Baker as the consultants to guide teachers in developing a curriculum for dual and monolingual classrooms based on curriculum needs and the updated dual language program 50/50 language allocation model.

- *Food Service Contract* - The Board approved a one-year contract with Aramark for the 2023-24 school year, reflecting a 16% increase over the 2022-23 contract as well as the impact of wages.
- *IASB Board Workshop Update* - Kristina Davis provided an update on the IASB workshop that Board members and herself attended on March 23, 2023.
- *Inter-Fund Transfer* - The Board voted to approve the Resolution calling for a Public Hearing on intent to effect Interfund Transfer. The Public Hearing will take place on May 4, 2023. The Board will look to approve the resolution to Effect Interfund Transfer at the May 4, 2023, meeting. The administration is asking the Board to transfer \$10 million into the Capital Projects Fund from the Education Fund.
- *Speaker for Opening Institute 2023-2024* - Gloria Trejo presented to the board information on Mac Brackett, Ph.D., to kick off the 2023-2024 school year for all staff at the Opening Institute day in August. The Board will take action at the May 4, 2023, meeting.

Action Items

- *Consolidation of Cross-Categorical Classrooms* - The Board voted to approve the cross-categorical classroom model.
- *Elementary Dual Program Update* - The Board voted to approve making the One-Way Dual Language Program shift to 50/50 By content in all elementary schools and the Two-Way Dual Language Program shift to 50/50 by content with one strand of 80/20 by parent choice.
- *Intergovernmental Agreement for Mutual Assistance (DuSMART)* - The Board voted to approve the Intergovernmental cooperation agreement for Mutual Assistance in response to crises in the Public schools for DuPage County.
- *LMS Dual Program Update* - The Board voted to approve the Dual Language Program changes for Lemay Middle School for the 2023-2024 school year.
- *Sentinel Technology Contract* - The Board voted to approve the contract with Sentinel to provide managed services as an additional layer of access and 24/7 support to ensure business continuity and ongoing security management.

Information Items

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

- Attendance Update - Sarah Norton provided an update regarding student attendance.
- Most current posting of available job positions in School District 33;
- The Board of Education received the Freedom of Information Act Report noting there was 1 new request since the last board meeting;
- Out of District placement of Students with Disabilities report stating that 24 special education students and 5 general education students have been placed out of district as of April 20, 2023;
- Short-term maternity leave report was shared;
- Student Chronic Absentee Report from March 9, 2023, to April 13, 2023, which showed the percentage of students chronically absent district-wide to be at 26.4%;
- Student Suspension Report for March 2023, indicating 12 out of school suspensions, 8 in-school suspensions, and 0 Bus suspensions;
- Truancy Referral Report of March 2023 indicating 1 new student referred to the ROE, and 22 students continue to be listed on the ROE truancy referral report;
- Quarterly Vandalism Report, noting there were no incidents reported.

- The Board of Education was provided with the School newsletters from the buildings;
- The Board of Education received the 2nd-trimester Academic Accolades for each school.
- No suggested items at this time.
- District Joint Board Meeting will be held on May 23, 2023.
- Morgan Banasiak attended the preschool parade.
- No parking lot at this time.

Report of District Committee Meetings

- No open comments at this time.
- No Committee Updates 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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