WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33
Kristina Davis, Interim Superintendent
December 5, 2019 Board Briefs

Brenda Vishanoff, Board President
Chad McLean, Board Vice President
Rita Balgeman, Board Secretary

Phebe Balzer, Board Member
Kalpesh Dave, Board Member
Christian Rivera, Board Member
Tom Doyle, Board Member

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Thursday,
December 5, 2019 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance

Phebe Balzer, Rita Balgeman, Brenda Vishanoff and Chad McLean.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda
Brenda Vishanoff announced that there would not be a closed session at the December 5, 2019 board meeting.

Public Hearing on 2019 Tax Levy
The Board of Education held a public hearing on the 2019 tax levy. Mr. John Haffner, Executive Director for Business and Operations, reviewed the levy process, mentioning that the Board of Education, at its November 21, 2019 meeting, approved the intent to levy taxes for the upcoming fiscal year. Notice of this public hearing was published in a local West Chicago newspaper on November 28, 2019 and posted on the district website on. On December 19, 2019, the Board of Education will vote on the Aggregate Levy for the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Haffner asked if any member of the public would like to make a comment regarding the 2019 tax levy. No one in the audience addressed the Board concerning the levy. This concluded the public hearing.

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 – High-Quality Staff
Goal #3 – Family and Community Engagement
Goal #4 – Effective and Efficient 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 agreement is to help maintain a positive environment in which to conduct board work. Phebe Balzer shared her reflection. "When we were in Chicago for the IASB conference, we had the opportunity to explore the Chicago Historical Museum. While there, I came across a small display on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s history in Chicago. I was

intrigued by a description of a rally at Soldier Field in 1964 where Dr. King urged the crowd to "remain vigilant in seeking justice." It reported that nearly 60,000 attendees took a "pledge of action for civil rights" including pushing for integrated and high-quality education. That was many years ago, but I felt a tug to be a part of that movement. We were not attendees at that rally, but I'd like to think that we in District 33 have joined that movement in our commitment to high-quality education for ALL our students and in our more recent commitment to adjusting our policies and practices for equitable learning. As we wrestle with the issues of equity, let's "remain vigilant in seeking" it, because as Dr. King Jr. wrote, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in the inescapable network of mutuality. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly"."
--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. letter from a Birmingham Jail. 1963

Recognition/Showcase/Presentation

REALTOR® Open House update

Gina Steinbrecher, Community Relations Specialist, updated the board on the District 33 REALTOR® Open House, which was held on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at Wegner Elementary School.
The purpose of this event was to provide information to realtors about the district and to be shared with potential buyers. The event began with an informal meet and greet, then, each District administrator shared department highlights and information that is not found on the popular school rating websites. A video created specifically for this event was shown and a tour of the Innovation Center and Tech lab were offered. The focus of the video was to tell the "true story" of District 33 from the perspective of the staff and parents.

E.T.A.W.C. Statement

There was no ETAWC statement at this meeting.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment at this meeting.

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 that are determined to help us accomplish the goals of the District Strategic Plan. Kristina Davis reported on Currier School.

Covering Goal 1: Student Growth and Achievement

Currier School has been engaged in implementing the new ARC Core with fidelity. Looking at English growth data in reading: End of October: 10.6% of our students were on track to make more than 1.6 years of reading growth as English readers. At the end of November, that percentage increased to 25.5% of students on track. Looking at our Spanish growth data in reading at the end of October: 14.7% of our students were on track to make more than 1.6 years reading growth as Spanish readers. At the end of November, that percentage increased to 34.5%.
Our goal is to have at least 60% of our students make more than 1.6 years growth in reading. We are excited to be closing this achievement gap!
Currier wishes to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to the members of the Board of Education, John Haffner, Fred Cadena, Dave Venchus and all of the D33 buildings and grounds staff who helped make the transformation of our library into an Innovation Center. We are thinking forward with this new space and find the enhancements another true signal that District 33 wants their students to be prepared for the 21st Century.

Discussion of New /Ongoing Business with Possible Action

- *Presentation(s) Follow-Up*
  No presentation follow up at this meeting.

- *Property Tax Relief Grant*
  John Haffner explained the property tax relief grant application process. District 33 will apply for this grant and is expected to know the outcome in February 2020.

- *Property Tax Abatement*
  The BOE has done a Property Tax Abatement for the last 2 years. In 2018, the abatement was $700,000. In 2019, the abatement was $714,417. The 2019-20 budget that was approved by the BOE in

September 2019 includes an allocation for a Property Tax abatement of up to $800,000. Any amount that is abated back to homeowners is money that could be otherwise used for Capital Projects or Escrow, used toward the defeasance (paying down principal early) on the Middle School bond debt. The board will be deciding if they want to abate the full amount or slowly abate less and less over the next couple of years at the December 19, 2019 meeting.

- *Facility Committee Charter*
  The Board reviewed the Facility Committee Charter. Rita Balgeman suggested having representation from all facilities to be on this committee. The board will be voting at the December 19, 2019 meeting.

- *Review CLIC Insurance Renewal*
  The Board of Education reviewed insurance renewal with Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative (CLIC), for commercial and school board legal liability, property/casualty, workers' compensation, student accident, fiduciary liability, and identity theft coverage for the 2020-2021school year.

Action Items

The Board of Education took action on the following items:

- *Approve Special Meeting Minutes*
  The Board of Education approve the special minutes of October 24, 2019 and October 26, 2019. Kristina Davis noted that these minutes are late for approval and that we will be contacting our attorney for an Open Meetings Act refresher course. The Board of Education also approve the special minutes of November 13, 2019 and November 14, 2019.

- *Approve Policy Sub-Committee minutes*
  The Board of Education approve the Policy Sub-Committee minutes of November 18, 2019.

- *Approved the Personnel report:*
  4 Classified: Mayra Mendoza, Special Secretary for Teaching & Learning at ESC effective 11/20/2019 -Monica Alanis, Lunchroom Supervisor at Trinity effective 12/2/2019 - Ricardo Dominguez, Family Liaison at IK effective 12/2/2019 and Nicole Vergara, ELS Paraprofessional at Turner effective 12/2/2019;
  1 Retirement: Bonnie Strike, Lunchroom Supervisor at Pioneer effective 12/4/2019;
  1 Leave: Leslie McKnight, Health Aide LPN at Turner, Unpaid Medical Leave, effective 12/16/19 - 3/6/20.

- *Approve School Improvement Plans*
  The Board of Education approved the School Improvement Plans as presented on October 17, 2019. These goals are how schools will monitor and measure their progress through the year.

- *Resolution Providing For Real Estate Tax Abatement*
  The Board of Education approved the Resolution providing for Real Estate Tax Abatement. This resolution states that conditions of the Intergovernmental Agreement with Discovery Drive Investors have been met.

Information Items

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

- Most current posting of available job positions in School District 33.
- No suggested board items for the next meeting.
- Board outreach – Phebe Balzer and Brenda Vishanoff attend the visit by Congressman Sean Casten. Casten learned about Leman Middle School DREAM program, an afterschool program.
- No Parking Lot item.

Report of District Committee Meetings

- IASB/IASA/IASBO Joint Conference – report was postponed to the December 19, 2019 meeting.
- LEND – No report
- SASED Board of Control – Kristina Davis reported on discussions that took place regarding restraining students, staff shortages and threat assessments.

- No open comments.

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,
Superintendent of Schools

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