WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33
Dr. Charles W. Johns, Superintendent
September 20, 2018 Board Briefs

Gil Wagner, Board President
Karina Villa, Board Vice-President
Phebe Balzer, Board Secretary

Dave Barclay, Board Member
Kalpesh Dave, Board Member
Chad McLean, Board Member
Brenda Vishanoff, Board Member

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 20, 2018 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Board members in attendance: Phebe Balzer, Gil Wagner, Kalpesh Dave, Dave Barclay, Brenda Vishanoff, Karina Villa and Chad McLean

Additions/Changes to Agenda

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 agreements is to help maintain a positive environment in which to conduct board work. Phebe Balzer reflected on Shared Agreement #7 *Adhere to our belief in our students' full potential and successful future.* "The point I would like to focus on is that we can believe in the possibility of our students' full potential, but if that belief is not accompanied by action it is meaningless. Realizing that potential is what ultimately drives us all. So when we agree to behave a certain way during these meetings, it is ultimately to keep us focused on what is best for our students. Our shared agreements and our strategic goals are examples of how we accompany our belief with action."

Recognition/Showcase/Presentation

Recognition - INSPRA Communication Award

District 33 was among those recognized on Sept.14, 2018 during the Illinois Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association Annual Communications Contest. More than 179 entries in 11 categories were judged by out-of-state public relations professionals. Each entry was evaluated by three judges against a rubric of excellence, with awards given to those that scored within the established ranges for merit and excellence. Sal Tamayo, LMS Teacher, received two awards of merit in the categories of In-House Video: D33 Dual Language Program and in the category of In-House Video Over 3 Minutes: D33 Ballet Folklorico Board Presentation. Congratulations Sal!

Showcase - Currier Principal Advisory Council
Mr. Mark Truckenbrod, Principal of Currier School along with three 5th grade students presented the Currier Principal's Advisory Council (PAC) the Board of Education. The Principal Advisory Committee focuses on developing student voice. These students produce a monthly school newsletter called, *The Currier Courier*, as a way to communicate with families and students on topics that interest the students.

Presentation - Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
Beth Walrath, Director of Assessment & Accountability, presented an update on Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). No Child Left Behind (NCLB) regulations have been changed with the passage of ESSA. NCLB focused on academic proficiency and ESSA includes multiple indicators of academic proficiency, academic growth and school climate indicators. Rather than rate a district, ESSA-IL now rates individual schools. The first phase was completed during the summer of 2018 and based on 2017 data; three District 33 schools are designated as "Commendable" while four schools are preliminarily designated "Underperforming" by the state. These four Underperforming buildings have subgroups that performed below expectations. This designation begins a three year timeline for improving the academic achievement and growth. Phase II brings in additional indicators of school performance and will uses more current data from 2018.

E.T.A.W.C. Statement
Miguel Hernandez, ETAWC President, read the following statement:
Good evening,
I come to you today because there are matters that are not contractual issues, but rather decisions that only you, the board of education, can make. This issue has been allowed to continue unaddressed for too long to the detriment of both students and staff alike. As a district, I applaud your efforts to address the needs of your constituents to help them reach their full potential. In 1943, Abraham Maslow published "A Theory of Human Motivation" more famously known for the hierarchy of needs. As a district, we instituted a breakfast program several years ago to meet the basic level needs of our students because we understood that when students' minds were elsewhere, their ability to live up to their full learning potential would be hindered. More recently we have committed ourselves to addressing the social needs of students by rolling out S.E.L. programming and adding additional social services to target the third and fourth levels of Marlow's hierarchy, namely self-esteem and a sense of belonging and acceptance. We strive to elevate all children to that fifth level on the hierarchy. There is a part of that hierarchy that we have devoted less attention to for too long, namely the second level that deals with shelter and safety. Ladies and gentlemen, how long will we neglect the environmental needs of our students?
In the military, one of my qualifications was that of being the individual who was combat lifesaver certified for our team. As such, I am familiar with the symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. For those who are unfamiliar with the symptoms, among these include dizziness, fatigue, confusion, headaches, and nausea. The past few weeks on my team, we have had students go home as a result of the heat, after experiencing headaches and nausea at school. Tuesday alone we had two students vomit in class and others complain of headaches. If I were to ask the staff, how many of you have students who show signs of fatigue or confusion, what do you think their reply would be? I ask you to consider that the confusion and fatigue experienced by some of our student may be heat related instead of their inability to comprehend the rigorous curriculum or be highly engaged. I encourage you to read what the Mayo Clinic says about factors that contribute to heat exhaustion. In our student population, these risk factors include obesity, diabetes, and sudden temperature changes like going from a cold environment to a warm environment.
Over the years, other decision-makers have dismissed the possibility of installing air conditioning citing the cost that would be incurred. A few years ago, a committee was formed to look at the infrastructural needs of the district. Air conditioning was not on that list of needs because the financial picture at that time was different than it is now. I understand that in years past there was long term insecurity as there was no way to predict what salary costs would be five or ten years down the road. Today we know that future salary costs have been capped by the state for all intents and purposes to be near the yearly CPI. The district's ability to levy on the other hand continues to be at a rate higher than CPI, that when combined with the new funding formula has created a financial environment of budget surpluses as demonstrated by the moving of large sums of money from the education fund into the capital projects fund to address our current infrastructural needs. I ask you now to do what no other board has done, to leave a lasting impact on the learning environment, to address the missing piece in Maslow's hierarchy by capitalizing on our ability to slowly bring air conditioning to the district, one building at a time. It need not be done all at once, so I ask you why it is not financially viable given our improved budgetary state?

Public Comment

Mr. Matt Garling, resident of West Chicago, addressed the Board in regards to saving McAuley School, a one room schoolhouse in West Chicago. Mr. Garling would like the District to come together with the City and residents to discuss preserving McAuley. Mr. Garling also addressed the need to remove a dead tree before it falls on the school.

Mr. George Carcia, 6th Ward Alderman of West Chicago and also serves on West Chicago's Historical Preservation Committee, addressed the Board asking to save McAuley School.

Mr. John Haffner, Executive Director of Business and Operations, shared that the tree in question will be coming down within the next 30 days.

Superintendent News

Superintendent News is where the Board and Community are updated on the many programs and activities occurring in the schools and departments that are determined to help us accomplish the goals of the District Strategic Plan. Dr. Charles Johns reported on Currier School this week:

In Health/SEL classes, students have been working on team building activities. Every month, a grade level will display pictures of their team building activities that are reinforcing our school motto, Stronger Together - Juntos somos fuertes. Currier is very excited to be expanding its Cross fit Club to their after school programming in DREAM. Now Currier students will have more access to this rigorous wellness activity that promotes healthy lifestyles. Mr. Tamayo is the instructor of this club. The Currier Principal Advisory Committee, the Student Patrol and the Currier Crew will be starting very soon. These three leadership opportunities afford our students the opportunity to beautify our campus, lead each other in safe practices while on campus and write, edit and publish our school newsletter. These groups consist of mostly 5th grade students who develop their leadership skills with school administration, paving the way for them to be productive leaders in middle school and beyond. In Kindergarten, students have been learning how to utilize "Seesaw", which is an online communication tool that allows them to share their learning with family. Students are able to send pictures, student work and important discoveries that strengthen family engagement with the learning process.

Consent Agenda

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

- Approved the regular board meeting minutes of August 16, 2018 and September 6, 2018 as presented;
- Approved the list of bills dated August 10, 2018, through September 13, 2018, in the amount of $ 2,328,014.49;
- Approved payrolls August 15, 2018 in the amount of $ 289,121.15 and August 31, 2018 in the amount of $ 280,442.06;
- Approved imprest account of August 9, 2018 to September 13, 2018 in the amount of $117.00;
- Approved the personnel report:

  1 Certified Staff: Christine Osterman, Psychologist at ELC;

  7 Classified Staff: Georgina Hernandez, Lunchroom Supervisor at Gary effective 9/10/2018, Maria Hernandez, Lunchroom Supervisor at Pioneer effective 9/11/2018, Adriana Melgoza, Clerical Aide at ELC effective 9/10/2018, Vanessa Caballero, Special Services Secretary - Teaching & Learning at ESC, effective 9/13/2018, America Hernandez, ELS Paraprofessional (Reading Aide) at Currier effective 8/27/2018, Suzanne Ryan, ELS Paraprofessional at ELC effective 8/27/2018 and Anna Orzoco-Grimaldo, ELS Paraprofessional (Reading Aide) at Currier effective 8/27/2018;

  5 Resignations: Cristina Garcia, Lunchroom Supervisor at ELC effective 5/31/2018, Gloria Guzman, ELS Paraprofessional at Turner effective 6/1/2018, Yessica Cordero, ELS Paraprofessional at ELC effective 6/1/2018, Rogelia Fernandez Carrillo, Lunchroom Supervisor at Currier effective 6/1/2018 and Ana Y Garcia, ELS Paraprofessional at Trinity effective 6/1/2018;
- Approved the disposition of audio tapes of the Board of Education closed session meetings of March 2, 2017 (regular) and March 16, 2017 (regular) which are at least 18 months old, which meets the State criteria.

Financial Reports

- The Board of Education reviewed the Treasurers' Report, and Budget Report as of August 31, 2018, along with the financial charts.
- The Board received a summary of each school's monthly activity account as of August 31, 2018.

- Mr. Haffner reported the District received the 2nd property tax distribution of September and the 4th and last payment for this school year in the amount of $3,076,458.61. We received the 3rd Evidence Based Funding payment of $1,072,120.27. To date, payments are on schedule for a total of $3,216,360.81.

Discussion of New /Ongoing Business with Possible Action

- *Presentation(s) Follow-Up*
  There were no presentation follow-ups at this board meeting.
- *Review Extra Duty Assignments*
  The Board reviewed the extra duty assignments for the 2018-2019 school year, at compensation as set by the Collective Bargaining Agreements.
- *Review Resolution in Recognition of Principal Appreciation Week*
  The Board of Education adopted a resolution in recognition of Principal Appreciation Week, October 15 through October 19, 2018, with the actual Principal Appreciation Day being Friday, October 19, 2018. Board President Gil Wagner read a portion of the resolution as follows:
  Whereas, school principals play an important role in the education and growth of children in elementary, middle, and secondary schools across the State of Illinois and in West Chicago; Therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Education of West Chicago Elementary School District 33 that the week of Monday, October 15, through Friday, October 19, 2018, be proclaimed PRINCIPAL APPRECIATION WEEK, in District 33; and be it further resolved that the Board of Education urges all citizens during PRINCIPAL APPRECIATION WEEK, October 15-19, and PRINCIPAL DAY, Friday, October 19, to make special efforts to recognize principals for all that they do to help our children learn and succeed.
- *Appointment of SASED Board of Control Representative*
  Karina Villa has stepped down as District 33's representative at SASED Board of Control meetings. The Board of Education will elect a board member to replace her at the October 4, 2018 Board of Education Meeting.

Action Items

The Board of Education took action on the following items:

- Adopted 2018-2019 Official School Budget;
- Approved the posting of administrator and teacher salaries and benefits which will be provided to the Illinois State Board of Education. This listing is required to be posted on the ISBE website and on the District 33 website.

Information Items

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

- Most current posting of available job positions in School District 33;
- Short term maternity leave report;
- Student attendance report for August 2018, noting the District's percent of attendance to be at 98.04% which does not include special education out-of-district attendance figures;
- Freedom of information report, noting that there were 3 requests since the last board meeting;
- Special education student report indicating 41 students placed out of district as of September 12, 2018;
- Preschool start up report;
- Report of students reassigned due to Open Enrollment and Child Care request;
- Reviewed a summary of activities that were held at the individual schools on September 17, 2018 to honor Constitution Day;
- Board outreach included Chad McLean attending LMS Cross Country Meet and curriculum night at Leman and Gary Schools. Kalpesh Dave also attended Leman's curriculum night.

Report of District Committee Meetings

- PTO Council – Karina Villa attended and reported the meeting was very informative. Dr. Johns gave district updates, Karina spoke on upcoming vacant positions of the School Board.
- Foundation for Educational Excellence – Chad McLean reported that the meeting was cancelled, although one Teacher Mini Grant was approved via email.
- Academic Leadership Council – Kristina Davis reported the council reviewed each elementary School Improvement Plan and the long range plan.

- SASED Board of Control – No report.
- Open Comments – Gil Wagner reminded the board of the Board Governance Review held on October 15, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the ESC. Board members need to complete the survey before Friday. Brenda Vishanoff complemented Dr. Johns on his weekly updates to the Board, showing his work week, along with progress updates at Leman Middle School.

Review of Upcoming Meetings/Events

The Board of Education members reviewed upcoming meetings and events, noting that the next regular board meeting is **October 4, 2018 at Turner School.**

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,

Charles W. Johns
Superintendent of Schools

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