

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (3rd Thursday)
SCHOOL DISTRICT 33, DUPAGE COUNTY, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
June 18, 2026

President Rita Balgeman called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:05 p.m. at Leman Middle School, 238 E. Hazel St., West Chicago, Illinois. On roll call, the following members were present: Mrs. Morgan Banasiak, Mr. Chad McLean, Mrs. Sandra Garcia, Mrs. Janette Hernandez, and Mrs. Molly Denton. Absent: Mrs. Rita Balgeman.

ALSO PRESENT

Kristina Davis, Superintendent; Lea Pizinger, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; Karen Apostoli, CSBO, Executive Director of Business and Operations; Sarah Burnett, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Fred Cadena, Director of Facilities & Grounds; Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability; Krissy Goebert, Director of Student Services; and Nicole Eimer, Director of Marketing, Communications & Public Relations.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Morgan Banasiak led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES

Motioned by McLean, seconded by Hernandez, to approve Morgan Banasiak as President Pro Tem. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.
ItemXVI. Closed session was removed.

**PUBLIC HEARING
INTERFUND TRANSFER**

The Board of Education held a public hearing on interfund transfer. There were no questions or comments from the public. The public hearing was concluded on the Interfund Transfer at 7:07 p.m.

SHARED AGREEMENTS

During the meeting, the Board agrees to:

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 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 Secretary Sandra Garcia shared her statement: “As a successful first week of summer school comes to an end, I’m reminded that summer also provides students and families with a well-deserved opportunity to rest, recharge, and enjoy experiences. Meanwhile, important work continues behind the scenes as teachers and administrators prepare for the upcoming school year. Throughout the summer months, staff engage in planning, professional learning, curriculum development, and other preparations to ensure a successful start for all students.

Summer is also a wonderful opportunity for students to keep learning in fun and meaningful ways at home. Reading together, exploring nature, practicing math throughout everyday activities, and encouraging curiosity can help children maintain their skills and build confidence for the next school year.

By working together, the school preparing behind the scenes and families supporting learning, we can help students return in the fall ready for a successful and rewarding school year.”

**RECOGNITION/SHOWCASE
PRESENTATION****Board Salutes*****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 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 become part of the official Board minutes under Board Salutes on the agendas.

Salute to: Perla Benitez - Wegner Elementary

Submitted by: Jeniffer Ramos, parent

“Mrs. Benitez has demonstrated time and time again that she is for her school, for her team, and for her students. Her dedication and care for everything she does for our school is so great to see, and I, as a parent,

feel secure knowing she is leading or helping my child in after-school activities and/or during the day if she sees my child. She strives for every child to do their best and is a great part of our district.”

Salute to: Adamaris Coss - Wegner Elementary

Submitted by: Perla Benitez, staff

“I am very grateful to have you as my assistant. Whenever I need something, you are always willing to help with a positive and attentive attitude. I deeply value your constant support and the dedication you demonstrate in your work with the students. Your affection and commitment to them are evident, and that makes a huge difference in the classroom. Thank you for everything you do every day.”

Salute to: Ethan Wallace - Wegner Elementary

Submitted by: Perla Benitez, staff

“I am very grateful for all your support since you joined the classroom. Whenever I need something, you are always willing to help with a positive and attentive attitude.

I truly value your support, as thanks to you, my mornings have become much more manageable. Even though you are only in my classroom for one hour, it is enough to see that you always give your best. You are an excellent paraprofessional.

It shows in the way you work with students in small groups: you motivate them and make sure they understand the feedback you provide. Your dedication and commitment to the students truly make a difference in the classroom. Thank you for everything you do each day.”

Salute to: Lisa Miller - Wegner Elementary

Submitted by: Janet Gruenwald & Niko Bubaris

“Lisa Miller goes above and beyond every single day to support the students at Wegner School. As our art teacher, she has created an exceptional learning environment that embraces choice and provides students with meaningful opportunities to explore all forms of art. Through her thoughtful guidance, she consistently builds both creativity and independence in her students. Lisa recently worked with 3rd graders to create a video to help families understand what her studio model classroom looks like and how it promotes student voice and choice in artistic expression.

A true highlight of the year is the annual Spring Family Art Night, an event loved by the entire school community. Lisa’s dedication to this night is unmatched. She begins planning as early as winter break, dedicating her personal time to brainstorming creative, accessible ways for students and their families to connect through art. Year after year, her entire family jumps in to help make her vision come alive! Thank you, Lisa, for inspiring our students to think creatively, take risks, and believe in their own ideas every single day!”

Salute to: St. Charles East High School

Submitted by: D33 & Lemman Middle School

West Chicago Elementary School District 33 would like to extend our sincere gratitude to St. Charles East High School for their outstanding partnership and support of the Lemman Middle School 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony.

When the arrival of the Union Pacific Big Boy train created significant traffic and parking challenges in West Chicago, we needed to quickly identify an alternative venue for one of the school year's most important events. St. Charles East High School stepped in without hesitation, providing not only a beautiful venue but also the organization, resources, and support needed to ensure our graduates and families experienced a ceremony worthy of this milestone. From the moment we reached out, their team was welcoming, flexible, and committed to helping us succeed. Their professionalism, friendliness, and willingness to accommodate a last-minute change brought tremendous peace of mind during a stressful situation. Thanks to their efforts, our students were able to celebrate their accomplishments in a memorable and meaningful setting.

We are especially grateful to the following individuals for their assistance and hospitality:

- Dr. Paul Gordon, Superintendent, St. Charles Community Unit School District 303
- Tamara Marsan, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
- Jim Richter, Principal, St. Charles East High School
- Nicole Osborne, Assistant Principal for Student Life
- Matt Cumpata, Facility Operations Manager
- Jesus “Chuy” Monroy, Head Custodian

This experience is a wonderful example of the strong relationships that exist between neighboring school districts and the power of collaboration in supporting students. We are deeply appreciative of St. Charles East High School's generosity and partnership, and we thank them for helping make this year's graduation celebration such a success.

Presentation

5 Essentials Survey

Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability, shared the district's 5Essentials Survey results from 2022 to 2026, which measure school culture and student success. Under the closing strategic plan, the district achieved significant long-term growth, with Effective Leaders and Involved Families both rising from weak to strong categories. While Ambitious Instruction and Collaborative Teachers showed overall gains, Supportive Environment remains a top priority for improvement after a post-pandemic dip and student concerns regarding bullying. Additionally, five of seven schools met the 20% participation threshold for the parent supplemental survey, which revealed high overall satisfaction, strong teacher relationships, and areas for improvement in weekly communication. Moving forward, individual schools have used a recent data retreat to set new goals, and the district will launch a mid-year pulse survey to keep monitoring and improving school climate.

Presentation

Student Services Department Update

Krissy Goebbert, Director of Student Services, provided an update on this year's progress and accomplishments. Student Services plays a critical role in ensuring all students receive the support they need to access their education. At the beginning of the year, they set three primary priorities: special education procedures, service delivery systems, and behavioral supports. To address previous inconsistencies across buildings and strengthen IEP compliance, the department implemented standardized procedures and checklists, provided targeted professional development, and collaborated with a district attorney on special education law. To optimize resource allocation and strengthen student support systems, the department conducted a comprehensive workload review and adjusted specialized programming across several buildings based on student enrollment. This included reopening a program at Currier, adding a classroom at Gary, and closing programs at Leman and Pioneer, while also introducing new curricular interventions. Finally, to improve behavior support systems, the department enhanced Tier 1 supports and increased staff training in crisis prevention and de-escalation. Moving forward, the department plans to continue building on this alignment and will present its upcoming goals at the July board meeting.

E.T.A.W.C. STATEMENT

No E.T.A.W.C statement at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment Follow-Up

No public comment at this time.

No follow-up comment at this time.

**APPROVE CONSENT
AGENDA**

Motion by McLean, seconded by Hernandez, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

Approve Board Meeting Minutes

... approve the board meeting minutes of May 21, 2026, and June 4, 2026;

Approve Contract Renewals

...approve the contract renewals with the following vendors: ASK Staffing Agency, Avid, Beth's Notes, BookCreator, BrainPop, Capstone-Pebble Go, Riverside Insights-CogAT, Committee for Children Second Step Licenses, DnA, Follet, Discovery Education, EdPuzzle, eduClimber, Ellevation, FastBridge Learning, Freckle, FitnessGram, IXL-Math & Reading, Learning A-Z, Math Fact Lab, Mind Research Institute-ST Math, Mystery Science, NewsELA, Quaver, Savvas My World, MusicPlay, BaseEducation;

Approve Current Expenditures

...approved the list of bills dated June 8, 2026, through June 19, 2026, in the amount of \$1,640,807.65;

Approve Current Payrolls

...approved payrolls of May 15, 2026, in the amount of \$1,820,931.32; and May 29, 2026, in the amount of \$1,815,616.80;

Approve Disposition of Closed Session Audio Tapes

...approved the disposition of audio tapes of the Board of Education regular closed session dated December 5, 2024. Meetings that are at least 18 months old and meet the State criteria are disposed of;

Approve Personnel Items

...Approved the following personnel report:

0 Administration:

4 Certified: Izamara Orozco, Dual Language Teacher at Currier, effective beginning of 26-27 School Year; Lori Cole, Teacher on Special Assignment at Pioneer, effective beginning of 26-27 School Year; Teri Mata, Learning Behavior Specialist at LMS, effective beginning of 26-27 School Year; Leslie Martinez, Dual Language Teacher at Turner, effective beginning of 26-27 School Year; Classified: Eva Barrientos, Lunchroom Supervisor at Indian Knoll, effective August 19, 2026; Katharine Fortuna, Library Aide at Currier, effective beginning of 26-27 School Year;

4 Resignations: Erika Jimenez, Dual Language Teacher at Gary, effective June 4, 2026; Hunter Sparks, Math Teacher at LMS, effective June 4, 2026; Eva Barrientos, Paraprofessional at Indian Knoll, effective June 30, 2026; Romeel Adde, Science Teacher, effective June 30, 2026;

1 Retirement: Margaret Sanchez, Instructional Coach at Gary, effective end of 2026-2027 School Year.

On roll call, the following board members voted aye: McLean, Hernandez, Denton, Banasiak, and Garcia. Nays: None. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Report

Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations, provided the Board of Education with a financial report stating that the district received \$1,209,173.00 in Evidence-Based Funding since the last meeting.

Treasurer's Report and Budget Report

The Board of Education reviewed the Treasurer's Report and Budget Reports as of May 31, 2026, along with the financial charts.

Student Activity Account Report

The Board of Education received a summary of each school's monthly activity accounts as of May 31, 2026.

DISCUSSION OF NEW / ONGOING BUSINESS WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

Approval of ETAWC Collective Bargaining Agreement

Motioned by McLean, seconded by Garcia, to approve the 2027-2030 ETAWC Collective Bargaining Agreement. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Garcia, Hernandez, Denton, and Banasiak. Nays: None. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Independent Contractor Contract	Motioned by Hernandez, seconded by Garcia, to approve the independent contractor agreement with Salvador Tamayo to provide specialized services during the 2026-2027 school year. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Hernandez, Garcia, McLean, Banasiak, and Denton. Nays: None. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.
Performing Arts Update	The Performing Arts department continues to grow as more students sign up to start band and orchestra in the Elementary Schools. The Board was provided with an overview of the current number of students participating in each program over the years. The district recommends using the 26/27 school year to review the program's current structure to continue enrolling more students in these programs and to provide a high-quality program for each student. The Board will review the information and vote at the July 23, 20026, board meeting.
Teaching Strategies GOLD	The Board of Education will review the recommendation to change the annual assessment tool from DRDP (Desired Results Developmental Profile) to Teaching Strategies GOLD for Pioneer Preschool. The Board will review the information and vote at the July 23, 2026, board meeting.
Annual Dues for Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB)	The Board of Education will review the renewal of membership in the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) for the 2026-2027 school year. This long-standing organization is a local school board governance organization that supports quality public education. The Board will review the information and vote at the June 4, 20026, board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

CLIC Renewal	Motioned by McLean, seconded by Garcia, to approve the Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative (CLIC) proposal for Workers' Compensation Property/Casualty and Student Accident, and Fiduciary Liability insurance coverage for the 2026-2027 school year. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Garcia, Banasiak, Hernandez, and Denton. Nays: None. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.
FY 27 Tentative Budget	Motioned by McLean, seconded by Hernandez, to approve the Tentative Budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Hernandez, Denton, Garcia, and Banasiak. Nays: None. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.
Resolution to Effect Inter-Fund Transfer	Motioned by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to approve the Resolution to Effect Interfund Transfer. The transfer of \$5 million from the Education Fund to its Operations and Maintenance Fund for the maintenance, improvement, and repair of school buildings and grounds, and related expenses. On roll call, the following members voted aye:

McLean, Banasiak, Garcia, Hernandez, and Denton. Nays: None.
Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Resolution of Hazardous Busing | Motioned by Denton, seconded by Hernandez, to approve the resolution of the hazardous busing for the 2026-2027 school year. On roll call, the following members voted aye: Denton, Hernandez, Garcia, McLean, and Banasiak. Nays: None. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays. |
| Resolution of Mobile Classrooms | Motioned by McLean, seconded by Banasiak, to approve the resolution for continued use of temporary mobile classrooms at Early Learning Center for the 2026-2027 school year. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Banasiak, Garcia, Hernandez, and Denton. Nays: None. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays. |
| Transfer of Working Cash Interest | Motioned by McLean, seconded by Hernandez, to approve the resolution to transfer \$17,489.90 from the Working Cash Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. On roll call, the following members voted aye: McLean, Hernandez, Denton, Garcia, and Banasiak. Nays: None. Motion carried: 5 ayes, 0 nays. |

INFORMATION ITEMS

- | | |
|---|--|
| Academic Accolades | The Board received the 2nd Trimester Accolades Newsletters. |
| Current Job Listing | The Board received the most recent posting of available job positions in School District 33. |
| Freedom of Information Report | The Board of Education received the Freedom of Information Act Report, noting 8 new requests since the last board meeting. |
| Out-of-District placement of Students with Disabilities | The Board received the Special Education report, indicating that 26 special education students, and 2 general education students have been placed out of district as of June 10, 2026. |
| Short-term Leave | The Board received the short-term leave report. |
| Student Chronic Absentee | The Board of Education was provided with information from the Student Chronic Absentee report, which shows that since June 10, 2026, the district-wide chronic absence rate is 19%. |
| Student Suspension Report | The Board of Education received the Student Suspension report for May/June 2026, which indicates 34/1 in-school suspensions, 6/2 out-of-school suspensions, and 1/0 Bus suspensions. |
| Truancy Referral Report | The Board of Education received the May/June 2026 Truancy Referral Report, indicating that 0 new students were referred to the |

Regional Office of Education and that 29 students continue to be listed on the Regional Office of Education truancy referral report.

Suggested Agenda Items for
Next Board Meeting

No suggested items at this time.

Board Outreach

No board outreach at this time.

Parking Lot

No parking lot at this time.

REPORT OF DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee Updates

Board members were provided with the Opportunity for Influence committee update slideshow.

Open Comments

The Board discussed a donation to District 303. Karen will bring a proposal to the July 23, 2026, board meeting for approval. Karen provided the Board with an update on IL Central. IL Central will pilot a new GPS on buses in weeks 3 and 4 of summer school. A new parent app will be available at the beginning of the school year. New buses have been ordered: 15 will be ready in October, with more later in the school year.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by McLean, seconded by Hernandez, to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. The President took a voice vote and declared the motion passed.

President, Rita Balgeman

Secretary,