Minutes of Joint Boards of Education Meeting of  
School Districts 25, 33, 34 and 94  
Monday, April 22, 2019

1. Call to order and Welcome  
The annual meeting of the joint boards of education of School Districts 25, 33, 34 and 94 was called to order at 6:10 p.m. at Wegner Elementary School District 33 located at 1180 Marcella Lane, West Chicago, Illinois 60185. Those in attendance include: West Chicago District 33 - Dr. Charles Johns, Kristina Davis, Gil Wagner, Brenda Vishanoff, Chad McLean, Phebe Balzer, Rita Balgeman and Christian Rivera; Benjamin School District 25 - Dr. Philip Ehrhardt, Dr. Jim Woell, Anna Taylor, Jack Buscemi, Vince Engstrom, Dennis Peterson and Tammy Mastroianni; Winfield School District 34 - Dr. Matt Rich, Annie Dragosh, David Hempe, Norman Bothwell, Bob Brown, Elizabeth Lee, Brainne Willix, and Lynn Kamness; Community High School District 94 - Dr. Doug Domerauci, Dr. Moses Cheng, Gary Saake, Lynn Casey-Maher and Rich Nagel.

2. Performance by District 33 Orchestra, Mariachi and Ballet Folkorico  
Leman Middle School’s Orchestra, Mariachi and Ballet Folkorico performed under the direction of Janet Sikma – D33 Orchestra Director, Brad Rathe - D33 Band Director and Sal Tamayo – D33 Teacher.

3. Introductions of Board Members and Superintendents  
District 33 Board President, Gil Wagner welcomed those in attendance and acknowledged the students who performed in the Orchestra, Mariachi and Ballet Folkorico. Each Superintendent introduced their board members and newly elected board members. Dr. Charles Johns introduced the evening’s guest presenters from Legislative Network of DuPage (LEND) Peg Agnos, Executive Director and Jen Figurelli, Assistant Director.

4. Dinner  
Dr. Johns reviewed the agenda and invited the attendees to dinner.

5. Advocating for our schools: The role of Legislative Network of DuPage (LEND)  
LEND is a legislative body representing school districts throughout DuPage County serving 179,000 students. At this meeting Peg Agnos and Jen Figurelli presented the current state of affairs in Springfield which included: School Instructional Day, Physical Education Mandate, School Consolidation and School Code Compulsory Age.

6. Small Group Discussions: How can we advocate for our schools as a collective group?  
Given time to work in small groups, board members and superintendents shared their ideas of how we can advocate for our schools as a collective group.

7. Next Steps Activity  
Each group shared their ideas of how to advocate for our schools as a collective group. A representative from each group summarized their top ideas as follows:
- Continue articulation and dialogue with all 4 districts to maintain continuity in understanding of legislative impact
- Invite Legislators to our Annual Joint Board’s meeting
- Collectively write Legislators on each issue
- Invite public as an open house
• Utilize our Teachers as they understand issues
• Share LEND updates with the community
• Include LEND updates on Superintendents monthly meeting agendas
• Bring recommendations to the delegate assembly
• More regular meetings between our 4 school boards to discuss legislation and advocacy
• Share updates aimed at board members
• Create explicit list of bills with contacts for issues that need board member advocacy
• Educate the community with 21st century communication explaining unintended consequences.

Other ideas the groups came up with are:
• Encourage feedback from the community
• Call to action – call Senator Cullerton’s office
• News flyers to share with the community
• Be more communicative with other stakeholders
• Be more actively involved with the legislative process
• Proactive Superintendents
• Circular letters drafted by boards
• Breakfast meetings with Representatives
• Partnered districts to LEND with position statements
• Continued information by Superintendents to Boards
• Participation and engagement with LEND
• Build relationships with local Representatives
• Maintain vigilance and awareness of pending and proposed legislation.

8. Next Meeting
January 2020, District 94 will host the next meeting.

9. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Charles Johns, Ph.D.
Superintendent
West Chicago School District 33