May 19, 2025

The Board of Education, Community High School District 99, met for its Monthly Business Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 19, 2025 at the Administrative Service Center.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, the following Board members answered present: Don Renner, President; Kara Casten, Vice President; and Members Katie Courtney, Christopher Espinoza, April Finan and Michael Riske. Member Ken Dawson arrived at 6:37 p.m.

Also present were Hank Thiele, Superintendent; Gina Ziccardi, Associate Superintendent for Student Learning; Travis McGuire, Assistant Superintendent for Learning Resources; Jeree Ethridge, Chief School Business Official; Jeff Bergholtz, Director of Human Resources; Jill Browning, Chief Communications Officer; Tammy Maksa, Director of Business Services; Courtney DeMent, North High Principal; Arwen Lyp, South High Principal; and Juli Gniadek, Secretary.

There were seven visitors. A copy of the Visitor Roster is attached.

1. RECOGNITIONS – SOUTH HIGH STUDENTS – JOURNALISM AND SKILLS USA

Arwen Lyp recognized the 4th Place in State *Blueprint* Team and Sebastian Blanco, who was State Champion in Radio News. Dr. Thiele shared the Villages of Downers Grove and Woodridge provided a Proclamation commending Sebastian Blanco on his accomplishment.

Will Jaeger, who earned 3rd Place in State at the Skills USA Competition in Architectural Design, described his experience at the State competition. Matthew Lin shared his experience on the 5th Place Engineering Technology Design Team and spoke about the school safety project he worked on – an automated deadbolt for classroom doors. In addition to Mr. Jaeger and Mr. Lin, Max Polivka, Claudia Godowski, Gabija Dauderis, Aidan Vano, Reese Gee, Cameron Stankus, Charlotte Stapley, Jared Lozano, Nathan Peake, George Demos, Jordan Miller, Damian DeLong and Earnest Hudson were recognized for placing in the top six at the Skills USA Competition. Dr. Thiele presented Max Polivka, who earned 1st Place in Architectural Design at the Competition, proclamations from the Village of Downers Grove and the Village of Woodridge.

Those in attendance congratulated the students on their accomplishments.

2. RECOGNITIONS – STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Jason Trejo and Rehan Hashim, outgoing Student Board Members, thanked the Board and shared their future plans – Mr. Trejo will be attending Illinois State University majoring in Accounting and Pre-Law and Mr. Hashim will be attending University of Illinois at Champaign studying Data Science and Pre-Law.

Dr. Thiele thanked the students and gave them a token of appreciation for their service. The Board expressed their appreciation to the Student Board Members.

Courtney DeMent introduced Ryan Enright and Arwen Lyp introduced Romina Papavero-Gonzalez, the incoming Student Board Members, and provided a short summary of why the students were selected. Mr. Enright and Ms. Papavero-Gonzalez thanked their principal for selecting them and shared a little bit about themselves.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Espinoza moved and Member Casten seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the May 5, 2025 Workshop Meeting; the May 5, 2025 Organizational Meeting/ Workshop Meeting; and the May 5, 2025 Closed Meeting.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Espinoza, Casten, Courtney, Dawson, Finan, Riske and Renner voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

4. RECEPTION OF VISITORS – PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

5. 2025-2026 BOARD COMMITTEE/LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

President Renner announced the Board Committee/Liaison Appointments for 2025-2026.

6. ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION CONSOLIDATED DISTRICT PLAN

Dr. Thiele stated this is an Action Item. Ms. Ziccardi shared there was only one change to the Plan since she previously presented the information to the Board - the District received approval of one more dual credit course, bringing the total to eighteen.

7. STATEMENT OF WORK - 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Hank Thiele explained how the proposed Statement of Work for 2025-2026 aligns with the District's Strategic Plan and referenced data presented to the Board in December on Chronic Absenteeism. He displayed the Statement of Work, which focuses on improvement in the area of attendance, the administration's and staff's primary focus; and providing interventions and support, the Board's primary focus. Dr. Thiele presented a timeline of summer work, pending Board approval of the Statement this evening, noting the Board will be taking Action on the Statement of Work later in the meeting.

8. REGULAR EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Ms. Ethridge stated the Administration is seeking approval to award regular education transportation services to First Student. She explained there are 140 routes and 80 buses between District 58, 68 and 99 and by tiering the routes all three districts are able to save money. Dr. Thiele stated this is an Action Item.

9. ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NOVELS

Ms. Ethridge stated there were ten bidders for the titles the English teachers selected and BookPal was the lowest bidder. She shared BookPal has been the lowest bidder for the last several years and the District has been pleased with their service.

10. DRIVERS EDUCATION VEHICLES

Travis McGuire stated two drivers education vehicles need to be replaced this summer and the District is proposing replacing them with electric vehicles, if the District receives a $300,000 grant for funding energy saving projects. He stated, if the District does not receive the grant, the vehicles will be replaced with gas powered vehicles. Dr. Thiele explained the Administration is asking the Board to approve the purchase of two drivers education vehicles for a cost not to exceed $98,000 to allow for flexibility if the District does not receive the $300,000 grant. H stated he would keep the Board informed on the vehicle purchase.

The Board discussed the advantages and disadvantages of an electrical vehicle purchase.

11. DISTRICT DEPOSITORIES

Dr. Thiele stated the Resolution authorizes specific financial institutions as District depositories and noted this is an Action Item.

12. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

Dr. Thiele reported the District received and responded to Freedom of Information Act requests and they are posted on the District's website.

13. CONSENT AGENDA

Member Espinoza moved and Member Dawson seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which includes: A. Personnel Report - Appointment-Certified; Leave of Absence-Certified; Transfer of Position-Classified; B. Personnel Report - Retirement-Administration; Resignation-Certified; Resignation-Classified; C. Personnel Report - Salary and Benefits Wages - Wage Increase-Classified; Wage Increase-Administrative; D. April Financial Pages; E. Student Trips; F. 2026-2027 Draft School Calendar; G. 2024-2025 Final School Calendar; and H. Acceptance of Donation - The Estate of John Michael Bruchas.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Espinoza, Dawson, Finan, Riske, Casten, Courtney and Renner voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

President Renner thanked the family of John Michael Bruchas' Estate for the donation.

14. APPROVAL OF ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION CONSOLIDATED DISTRICT PLAN

Member Espinoza moved and Member Casten seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the Illinois State Board of Education Consolidated District Plan as presented.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Espinoza, Casten, Courtney, Dawson, Finan, Riske and Renner voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

15. APPROVAL OF STATEMENT OF WORK - 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Member Dawson moved and Member Casten seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the Statement of Work for the 2025-2026 School Year as presented.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Dawson, Casten, Courtney, Espinoza, Finan, Riske and Renner voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

16. AWARD OF AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE REGULAR EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Member Riske moved and Member Espinoza seconded the motion for the Board of Education to award Regular Education Transportation Services to First Student.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Riske, Espinoza, Finan, Casten, Courtney, Dawson and Renner voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

17. AWARD OF BID - ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NOVELS

Member Casten moved and Member Espinoza seconded the motion for the Board of Education to award the bid for English Department novels to BookPal in the amount of $121,840.91 in accordance with the specifications, instructions and requirements provided in the April 25, 2025 "Request for Proposal for Community High School District 99 English Department Novels."

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Casten, Espinoza, Finan, Riske, Courtney, Dawson and Renner voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

18. APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF TWO DRIVERS EDUCATION VEHICLES

Member Dawson moved and Member Courtney seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the purchase of two drivers education vehicles in an amount not to exceed $98,000.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Dawson, Courtney, Espinoza, Finan, Riske, Casten and Renner voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

19. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DISTRICT DEPOSITORIES

Member Casten moved and Member Riske seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the Resolution Authorizing District Depositories.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Casten, Riske, Courtney, Dawson, Espinoza, Finan and Renner voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

20. APPROVAL TO HOLD THE JUNE 9, 2025 WORKSHOP MEETING ENTIRELY IN CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF SELF-EVALUATION, PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES, OR PROFESSIONAL ETHICS, WHEN MEETING WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION OF WHICH THE DISTRICT IS A MEMBER. 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(16).

Member Espinoza moved and Member Dawson seconded the motion for the Board of Education to hold the June 9, 2025 Workshop Meeting entirely in Closed Session for the purpose of self-evaluation, practices and procedures, or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the District is a member.

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Espinoza, Dawson, Finan, Riske, Casten, Courtney and Renner voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

21. OLD BUSINESS

None.

22. NEW BUSINESS

None.

23. RECEPTION OF VISITORS – PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

24. REPORT ON LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION NETWORK OF DUPAGE (LEND)

Hank Thiele reported work on dual credit legislation is continuing and a cell phone policy is a priority of the Governor.

25. REPORT ON SCHOOL ASSOCIATION FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION IN DUPAGE COUNTY (SASED)

No report.

26. REPORT ON DISTRICT 99 EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Dr. Thiele reported several grant applications were submitted to the Foundation this spring.

27. REPORT ON ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS (IASB)

Member Dawson reported the conference is November 21-23 and provided a brief overview of the event. President Renner asked Board members to mark their calendars now for the conference.

28. UPCOMING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

President Renner announced the following meeting dates:

June 9, 2025 Workshop Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – ASC

President Renner noted, as voted earlier in this meeting, the June 9, 2025 Workshop Meeting will be held entirely in Closed Session.

June 16, 2025 Monthly Business Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – ASC

29. CLOSED SESSION

Member Dawson moved and Member Espinoza seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or

legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

Upon the Secretary's roll call, Members Dawson, Espinoza, Finan, Riske, Casten, Courtney and Renner voted AYE. The President declared the motion carried.

President Renner stated the only Action the Board will be taking when it comes out of Closed Session is to Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 7:51 p.m.

30. RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION

The meeting was reconvened in Open Session with the following members of the Board of Education in attendance: Don Renner, President; Kara Casten, Vice President; and Members Katie Courtney, Ken Dawson, Christopher Espinoza, April Finan and Michael Riske.

Also present were: Hank Thiele, Superintendent; Jeff Bergholtz, Director of Human Resources; and Juli Gniadek, Secretary.

31. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, Member Dawson moved and Member Courtney seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the unanimous voice vote of the seven members in attendance, the President declared the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Don Renner, President

Juli Gniadek, Secretary

Community HIGH SCHOOL District 99

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MAY 19, 2025

VISITOR ROSTER

NAME

Romina Papaveio Gonzalez
Alicath de Pepapaveio
Obdulia de Gonzalez.
Claudia Godowski
Catherine Jaeger
Bill Jaeger
NAURA TEHEEN

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