

**KILDEER COUNTRYSIDE
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 96**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes for May 6, 2025**

Call To Order

Mr. Burns called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Education Development Center of Ivy Hall School.

Roll Call

Present: Marc Tepper, José Rivera, Amy Feygin, Renee Klass, Cynthia Zarkowsky, and Mike Burns

Remote: None

Late: None

Absent: Dina Manka

Administrators in

Attendance: Katie Sheridan, Jon Hitcho, Jennifer Dunne, Jane Pedersen, Meghan Bird, Jason Keenon, Robert Hanrahan, and Sam Miranda.

Welcome to Visitors

President Burns welcomed members of the faculty, community, and press to the meeting. Renee Klass, school board member, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Members of the audience introduced themselves.

Mr. Burns asked if anyone wished to address the Board. Four people responded:

Lindsay Strezewski

John Strezewski

Patrick Lee

Imani Margerum

Approval of Minutes

April 2025

A motion was presented by Ms. Klass and seconded by Mr. Rivera to approve the minutes of April 1, 2025 and April 15, 2025, as presented. All members present voted Aye; the motion carried.

Board Reports

Finance Committee

Dr. Feygin noted that due to the timing of the board meeting, financial reports were not reviewed and will instead be addressed at the next scheduled meeting. She previewed a few standard items appearing on the upcoming consent agenda, including the appointment of a treasurer for FY26 and the release of the 2025-26 purchase orders. Additionally, Dr. Feygin reported the finance committee recommends the approval of the transportation contract renewal.

Policy Committee

Ms. Zarkowsky reported that the committee received a large PRESS policy packet containing 16 policies for review. The committee divided the work into two parts, beginning with eight policies related to Title IX,

focusing on ensuring that the language is current. The remaining eight policies will be reviewed in June and are expected to require only minor language updates.

Legislative Update

Mr. Tepper reported that both the Illinois House and Senate are back in session this week, and the third reading deadline has passed. He provided an overview of several key bills.

- SB2427, though facing significant opposition and language issues, has come out of committee and is expected to be voted on soon; however, District 96 already has a policy in place, so it should not have an impact.
- HB1654 and SB2124 did not meet the third reading deadline and did not advance out of committee.
- HB2578, a bill the district has actively supported, is expected to come to a vote soon.
- SB1678 and SB191, which are less favorable, also missed the deadline but are expected to resurface. SB191 may have its implementation delayed to 2031 instead of 2028.
- HB2970 and HB3772 passed despite opposition.
- HB1698, which the district supports, is not moving forward due to a lack of interest from Senate and House leadership.

Ms. Sheridan also provided updates on her visit to Springfield today, where there are ongoing concerns about the future of federal funding for public education. With the U.S. Department of Education dwindling, ISBE has acknowledged uncertainty and is currently involved in five federal lawsuits related to funding. ISBE oversees \$7 billion in federal and \$11 billion in state funds, with current concerns that a potential \$548 million is needed in the state budget to adequately prorate MCATs. Tier 3 and 4 districts, which rely mostly on property taxes, may need to reconsider how they allocate resources, especially for MCAT expenses that extend beyond school code.

Additionally, statewide superintendent discussions continue around teacher shortages. ISBE is working to revise elementary licensure to include Kindergarten under short-term licensure, changing the current 1-6 certification to K-6, with official approval expected to open in Summer 2026. This change aims to provide staffing relief across districts.

ELC Update

Ms. Klass reported that the ELC Board met on April 17. The agenda included routine items such as resignations, employment actions, and the approval of numerous positions for the Extended School Year (ESY) program. The board also approved the hiring of a new Human Resources Director and Assistant Director at ELC West, as well as several policy updates. The meeting concluded with a board transition, with Mr. Burns being named as the new board representative. Mr. Burns added that the newly seated ELC Board will meet next week.

Guiding Coalition of Interculturalism Update

Mr. Rivera reported that GCI held its final meeting of the school year on April 22, 2025. The group focused on viewing an early cut of the student voice video, which will be shared with faculty during the first institute day. The video centers around themes of inclusion, respect, and student experience. Mr. Rivera noted how impressive the students were on camera, openly sharing their thoughts and feelings. Further editing and a few additional interviews are planned to complete the project.

The meeting also included a potluck featuring homemade dishes from a variety of cultures. Attendance from parents was, again, low, with only about five present. In response, administrators engaged those in attendance in conversation to understand barriers to participation. Parents provided thoughtful feedback, including a suggestion to follow up with individuals who attended earlier in the year but did not return. The group discussed ways to promote involvement through other touchpoints, such as back-to-school nights and parent-teacher conferences.

Thought Exchange Partnership

The next TEP meeting is on May 13, 2025.

Partnership with KEA Update

The Partnership Committee will not meet again this school year.

Board Articulation Council

Dr. Feygin had no update at this time.

Space/Facilities/Innovation Committee

Dr. Feygin reported that the group will be meeting again at the beginning of June.

Other

None at this time.

Administrative Reports - None at this time.

Priority Items for Consideration and/or Action

Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Proclamation of Results from the Official Canvass of Votes Cast of April 1, 2025

Mr. Burns shared the Lake County Clerk's official canvass of the April 1, 2025, School Board election results. The following candidates received the number of votes recorded next to his/her name:

Full Four-Year Term:

Cynthia Zarkowsky*	1,216
Jose E. Rivera*	1,142
Marc Tepper*	1,238

*Indicates winner

Based on the results of the election, Cynthia Zarkowsky, Jose E. Rivera, and Marc Tepper were elected to a full four-year term on the Kildeer Countryside CCSD 96 Board of Education. Mr. Burns read the Resolution Authorizing the Proclamation of Results from the Official Canvass of Votes Cast into the minutes.

A motion was presented by Ms. Klass and seconded by Dr. Feygin to approve the Resolution as read. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

Aye: Klass, Zarkowsky, Tepper, Rivera, Feygin, and Burns

Nay: None

Consideration of Resolution Recognizing Retiring Board Member

With no objections from the Board, this agenda item was moved to the end of the meeting. Ms. Sheridan introduced the resolution, acknowledging that it is difficult to capture 24 years of service in words. She expressed heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Klass for her exceptional dedication and contributions to District 96. Mr. Rivera also extended his thanks, reflecting on his own experience as a beneficiary of the systems Ms. Klass helped shape. He shared how meaningful it has been to work with her over the past year, expressing appreciation as a resident, colleague, and parent. Mr. Burns followed by recognizing the support of Ms. Klass's family throughout her long tenure on the Board.

All Board members, along with Ms. Sheridan, participated in reading portions of the resolution aloud.

Ms. Klass then offered remarks of her own, highlighting some of her proudest accomplishments as a board member and expressing deep appreciation to her fellow Board members, administrators, teachers, and staff for a meaningful and fulfilling 24 years of service.

A motion was presented by Mr. Tepper and seconded by Ms. Zarkowsky to approve the resolution recognizing retiring Board member, Renee Klass. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

Aye: Tepper, Rivera, Feygin, Zarkowsky, and Burns

Nay: None

Action Items

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal – Certified Staff

Resignations

A motion was presented by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Ms. Zarkowsky to accept the resignation of the following individuals:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>
Furlett, Kaylee	First Grade Teacher	1.0	Prairie	5/29/2025
Dunn, Keith	Math Specialist	1.0	Twin Groves	5/29/2025
McRee, Nicole	Science Specialist	1.0	Woodlawn	5/29/2025
Andrews, Carly	First Grade Teacher	1.0	Prairie	5/29/2025
Giannos, Kaitlin	First Grade Teacher	1.0	Prairie	5/29/2025

All members present voted Aye; the motion carried.

Employment

A motion was presented by Ms. Klass and seconded by Mr. Tepper to approve the employment of the following individual(s) for the 2025-26 school year and place them appropriately on the salary schedule:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>
Chatterjea, Sara	Special Ed Teacher	1.0	Kildeer	8/6/2025
Simmons, Kimberly	Special Ed Teacher	1.0	Ivy Hall	8/6/2025
Freedman, Julia	Special Ed Teacher	1.0	Ivy Hall	8/6/2025
Brickman, Erin	Science Teacher	1.0	Twin Groves	8/6/2025
Giron, Gloria	Middle School Dual Teacher	1.0	Woodlawn	8/6/2025

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

Aye: Tepper, Rivera, Feygin, Klass, Zarkowsky, and Burns

Nay: None

Leave of Absence Request - Unpaid

A motion was presented by Ms. Klass and seconded by Ms. Zarkowsky to approve a leave of absence, unpaid, under Section 8.6 of the KEA contract, from Jaime Appell, an Interventionist from Woodlawn Middle School, for the 2025-26 school year. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

Aye: Klass, Zarkowsky, Tepper, Rivera, Feygin, and Burns

Nay: None

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal – Educational Support Personnel

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal

A motion was presented by Ms. Klass and seconded by Ms. Zarkowsky to approve the memo presented by Human Resources for the employment, appointment, and dismissal of certain educational support personnel as presented. On a roll call vote the motion carried:

Aye: Klass, Zarkowsky, Tepper, Rivera, Feygin, and Burns

Nay: None

Consent Agenda

A motion was presented by Ms. Klass and seconded by Ms. Zarkowsky to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

Authorization to Release 2025-26 Purchase Orders - to recommend that the approved purchase requisitions for the 2025-26 school year be released.

Approval of Treasurer Appointment FY26 - to approve appointing Jonathan G. Hitcho, Treasurer, for the FY 2026 fiscal year.

Approval of Transportation Contract - to approve the transportation contract renewal between KCSD96 and Safeway Transportation Services Corporation of Wheeling, Illinois.

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

Aye: Klass, Zarkowsky, Tepper, Rivera, Feygin, and Burns

Nay: None

Discussion Items - None at this time.

Information Items

2025-26 Summer Reading List

Mr. Keenon reviewed the 2025-26 K-8 Summer Reading lists, noting that they are largely consistent with last year's selections. Elementary and middle school students are encouraged to read for a set amount of time each day. In addition, middle school students are being asked to write a letter to their language arts teacher as part of their summer reading engagement.

Faculty Retirement and Recognition Celebration – May 23, 2025

The faculty retirement and recognition celebration will be held on Friday, May 23, 2025, at the Woodlawn/Country Meadows campus in connection with the half-day Teacher Institute. The administration has planned a picnic-style lunch, with faculty recognition and celebration. Board members are invited to attend, and we will keep you updated on the plans. Please let Ms. McGillian know if you plan to attend.

Graduation Update – May 27, 2025

Graduation ceremonies will be held at the Sports Center at Stevenson High School on May 27, 2025. Woodlawn's ceremony will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by Twin Groves at 8:00 p.m. Board members are invited to gather in Room 3000 at 7:00 p.m. for a light dinner and a brief meeting between the two ceremonies. Doors will open at 5 p.m.

Institute Day Feedback – February 28 and April 1, 2025

Ms. Bird shared feedback collected from staff who participated in the February 28 and April 1 Institute Days. She emphasized that the Professional Learning Advisory Team uses this input to inform planning for the upcoming school year. Ms. Bird noted that it is clear staff greatly value having choice in their session selections, as well as opportunities to learn from sessions facilitated by their colleagues.

FOIA Requests

Since April 15, 2025, the District has received 2 (two) FOIA requests, which are being responded to appropriately.

Board Comments

None at this time.

Adjournment of Meeting Sine Die

With no further business before the Board of Education, a motion was presented by Ms. Klass and seconded by Mr. Burns to adjourn the meeting Sine Die Indefinitely. On a roll call vote, the motion carried.
Aye: Klass, Zarkowsky, Tepper, Rivera, Feygin, and Burns
Nay: None

Mr. Burns adjourned the May 6, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Kildeer Countryside Community Consolidated School District 96 Board of Education Sine Die at 8:07 p.m. The next meeting will be immediately following.

Date Minutes Approved: _____

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education