

**KILDEER COUNTRYSIDE
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 96**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes for June 17, 2025**

Call To Order

Mr. Burns called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Education Development Center of Ivy Hall School.

Roll Call

Present: José Rivera, Amy Feygin, Dina Manka, Cynthia Zarkowsky, and Mike Burns
Remote: None
Late: None
Absent: Marc Tepper
Administrators in Attendance: Katie Sheridan, Jon Hitcho, Jane Pedersen, Meghan Bird, Jason Keenon, and Robert Hanrahan.

Welcome to Visitors

President Burns welcomed members of the faculty, community, and press to the meeting. Members of the audience introduced themselves. Dina Manka, Board Member, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Burns asked if anyone wished to address the Board. One person responded:

Sue Bergeson

Approval of Minutes

May 2025

A motion was presented by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Ms. Manka to approve the minutes of May 6, 2025 and May 27, 2025, as presented. All members present voted Aye; the motion carried.

Financial Statements

Mr. Hitcho presented the financial reports noting that all reports were in order. With no questions or comments forthcoming, Mr. Burns directed the business office to place the following financial statements for the month of May 2025 appropriately on file in the business office: Treasurer's Report, Budget Report, and Activity Report.

Board Reports

Finance Committee

Dr. Feygin reported that the Finance Committee reviewed routine agenda items. She highlighted several items appearing on the consent agenda, including two related to the Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative (CLIC) insurance renewals for the 2025-26 fiscal year. Additionally, she noted the inclusion of the tentative budget approval and a fund transfer from the Education Fund to the Maintenance and Capital Projects Funds at this meeting.

Policy Committee

Ms. Zarkowsky reported that the committee reviewed the second half of the most recent PRESS packet including Policy 5:100 – Staff Development Program, 6:150 – Home and Hospital Instruction, 7:60 –

Residence, 7:70 – Attendance and Truancy, 7:250 – Student Support Services, 7:255 – Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence, 7:340 – Student Records, 6:235 – Access to Electronic Networks, and 6:235 AP1 – Acceptable Use Policy. Additionally, she highlighted sixteen (16) policies on the consent agenda for approval.

Legislative Update

Ms. Sheridan provided a legislative update on several key bills the district has been monitoring:

- House Bill 2970 - Despite strong opposition, the bill unexpectedly resurfaced and passed out of committee.
- Cell Phone Bill - This bill, which proposed expanded allowances for student cell phone use, ultimately did not pass the House. Although initially expected to advance easily, concerns about the bill's potential to dilute existing policies contributed to its failure.
- Senate Bill 1560, related to mental health screenings, has passed. The bill requires the state to provide a screening tool; however, districts are allowed to use their own. The legislation will help inform district mental health goals for the upcoming school year.
- Budget Impacts - The proration rate for transportation reimbursement will decrease to 71%, and special education reimbursement to 61%. The state continues to encourage districts to review and consider adjusting discretionary transportation practices.

ELC Update

Mr. Burns reported that the ELC Board met earlier in the day. During the meeting, the Board approved a technology purchase and a service contract, in addition to routine personnel hires. The Board also held a discussion regarding Dr. Clarke's annual evaluation.

Guiding Coalition of Interculturalism Update

GCI meetings will restart in the 2025-26 school year.

Thought Exchange Partnership

TEP meetings will restart in the 2025-26 school year.

Partnership with KEA Update

The Partnership Committee meetings will restart in the 2025-26 school year.

Board Articulation Council

None at this time.

Space/Facilities/Innovation Committee

Dr. Feygin reported that the group will be meeting on Monday, June 23.

Other

Ms. Manka read a thank you card addressed to the board from Sam Heinrich, Assistant Principal at Ivy Hall Elementary.

Administrative Reports

Student Recognition

The Board members recognized the outstanding achievements of our conference champions in Boys' Volleyball, Scholastic Bowl, and Track and Field, students who competed and placed in the state competition for Science Olympiad, and students who placed in the top 5 at the SHS Math Competition. The students were presented with certificates of accomplishment by Ms. Sheridan and were also recognized within their schools on May 15 and May 20, 2025. Ms. Sheridan noted that this recognition was somewhat unique due to the unusually large number of honorees.

Goals Update and Summary of Progress

The administration provided an update on accomplishments and next steps related to the 2024-25 Board-Adopted Goals, highlighting several impactful initiatives that have advanced student outcomes.

Ms. Bird shared that ongoing efforts to expand inclusive practices have led to more students with IEPs participating in general education settings. Placement options are being reviewed by a dedicated team to support these inclusive environments. A comprehensive review of the EL program is also underway to enhance services for multilingual learners. A formalized process has been established for content areas teams to engage in the curriculum review cycle, strengthening instructional coherence across the district. The Middle School Choice initiative has been a resounding success, with exploratory teachers beginning to plan and refine specific course offerings based on student interests.

Dr. Pedersen reported that the new onboarding process for Education Support Personnel (ESP) has been well received, with the ESP Hub website cited as the most popular resource. Exit interviews have also been implemented, with participation greatly exceeding expectations. Staff can choose to complete a survey or participate in an in-person interview, generating valuable feedback to share with departments and principals.

Ms. Diehl provided a communications update, noting that the new district website is in the final phase of beta testing and scheduled to launch on July 1. Focus group discussions with staff, PTO, students, and parents are providing meaningful input on social media guidelines. The district's growing presence on social media—including a new LinkedIn profile—has helped tell its story and support recruitment efforts. Internal communications have improved with the consistent weekly release of staff newsletter, "The Update." Additionally, a six-page district newsletter was mailed to the community. Although the original plan called for two shorter mailings, the district opted for a single, more comprehensive publication due to cost considerations. More than 100 unique users have signed up to receive district communications as a result.

Ms. Sheridan concluded the presentation by referencing the proposed goals for the upcoming school year.

Priority Items for Consideration and/or Action

Public Hearing – Transfer of Monies from Education Fund to Maintenance Fund to Capital Projects Fund

Mr. Burns opened the Public Hearing at 7:34 p.m. and asked if anyone had questions. No one responded. Mr. Hitcho explained the Capital Projects Fund has no source of revenue and that money would need to be moved from the Education Fund to the Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund to cover the \$6,365,245.63 deficit for projects completed in the 2024-25 school year. He added that the public hearing had been properly noticed in the Daily Herald. With no further comments or questions, Mr. Burns closed the public hearing at 7:37 p.m.

Closed Session

Adjourn to Closed Session

A motion was presented by Dr. Feygin and seconded by Ms. Zarkowsky to adjourn to closed session for the purpose of:

- Litigation, when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 7:59 p.m.

Reconvene in Open Session

The meeting reconvened in open session at 8:18 p.m.

Approval of Closed Session Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Zarkowsky and seconded by Mr. Rivera to approve the minutes of the closed session. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Action Items

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal – Certified Staff

Resignations

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>
Belew, Kelley	Special Education Teacher	1.0	Woodlawn	5/29/2025
McNamara, Kayla	8th Grade Teacher	1.0	Woodlawn	5/29/2025
Joerger, Nora	Special Education Teacher	1.0	Country Meadows	5/29/2025

All members present voted Aye; the motion carried.

Employment

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>
Seifert, Stephanie	Special Education Teacher	1.0	Woodlawn	8/6/2025
Douglass, Julian	Science Teacher	1.0	Woodlawn	8/6/2025
Moment, Dwayne	Special Education Teacher	1.0	Twin Groves	8/6/2025
Hoffman, Laura	Special Education Teacher	1.0	Woodlawn	8/6/2025
Curtis, Clare	Dual Language Eng Teacher	1.0	Country Meadows	8/6/2025

Crowley, Michele Language Development Coach 1.0 Woodlawn 8/6/2025

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:
Aye: Feygin, Manka, Zarkowsky, Rivera, and Burns
Nay: None

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal – Educational Support Personnel

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal

A motion was presented by Mr. Rivera 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: Rivera, Feygin, Manka, Zarkowsky, and Burns
Nay: None

Support Staff Compensation

A motion was presented by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Dr. Feygin to approve the updated non-union staff compensation as presented. On a roll call vote the motion carried:

Aye: Rivera, Feygin, Manka, Zarkowsky, and Burns
Nay: None

Consent Agenda

Mr. Burns asked the board if there were any items that needed to be removed from the consent agenda. No one responded.

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

Presentation of Bills - June 2025 - to approve the March 2025 bills as presented in the following amounts:

Education	\$3,491,508.47
Operations	\$381,957.20
Debt Service	\$4,054.00
Transportation	\$1,145,901.52
IMRF	\$0.00
Social Security	\$0.00
Capital Projects	\$0.00
Working Cash	\$0.00
Tort Immunity	\$0.00
Life Safety	\$0.00
Totals	\$5,023,421.19

Approval of CLIC Workers' Compensation/Student Insurance Renewal 2025-26 – to approve the insurance renewal for 2025-26 school year;

Approval of CLIC Property/Casualty Insurance Renewal Rates 2025-26 – to approve the insurance renewal for 2025-26 school year;

Approval of FY26 Tentative Budget – to approve the FY26 Tentative Budget as presented;

Approval of Transfer from Education Fund to Operations/Maintenance Fund to Capital Projects Fund – to approve a total transfer of \$6,365,245.63 from the Education Fund to the Operations/Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund;

Approval of Policy - to approve the following policies currently on public review with no comments or suggestions forthcoming:

- 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure
- 4:15 Identity Protection
- 4:80 Accounting and Audits
- 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment
- 5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited
- 5:60 Expenses
- 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities
- 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited
- 7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment
- 7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited
- 7:190 Student Behavior
- 7:200 Suspension Procedures
- 7:210 Expulsion Procedures
- 7:270 Administering Medicines to Students
- 7:310 Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools
- 2:265 Title IX Grievance Procedure

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Discussion Items

Recap of 2025 Chautauqua and Administrative Retreat

Ms. Sheridan provided an overview of the Chautauqua event held on June 2, 2025. Each school was represented by a team that included the principal, assistant principal, and five staff members. While Chautauqua is typically held offsite, the event, which took place at the TG Collaboratory, which offered a unique opportunity for participants to explore how the space might be utilized to support instruction at the elementary and middle school levels.

Ms. Sheridan also reported on the two-day administrative retreat. The first day, held on June 10, 2025, featured an Administrative Academy session certified by the Regional Office of Education, with a focus on inclusive practices. The second day, June 11, 2025, included a team-building activity at Reed Turner Nature Center, where administrators engaged in exercises tied to 15 core leadership qualities.

Review of Recommended Goals for the 2025-26 School Year

Ms. Sheridan presented the Board with recommended goals for the 2025-26 school year and offered an opportunity for discussion to gather Board input. Following the Board's discussion, the goals will be revised to incorporate the feedback provided and supplemented with supporting details outlining the proposed implementation plan. The finalized goals will be brought to the Board for formal action at the July 15, 2025, meeting.

Information Items

Curriculum Review Cycle Update - Literacy Plan

As part of the district's formal curriculum review process, it was anticipated that it is time to renew the district's core literacy resource. Phase 1 of the review is nearing completion, and the district will seek formal Board approval for the adoption of a new literacy resource during the upcoming school year.

FOIA Requests

Since May 27, 2025, the District has received 3 (three) FOIA requests, which are being responded to appropriately.

Board Comments

Discussed upcoming board member interviews. Discussed AI use in education.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Board of Education, a motion was presented by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Dr. Feygin to adjourn the meeting. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Mr. Burns adjourned the June 17, 2025, regular meeting of the Kildeer Countryside Community Consolidated School District 96 Board of Education at 8:39 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for July 15, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Date Minutes Approved: _____

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education