September 8, 2025

The Board of Education, Community High School District 99, met in Workshop Session at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, September 8, 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 was absent.

Also present were Hank Thiele, Superintendent; Scott Wuggazer, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Jeff Bergholtz, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Travis McGuire, Assistant Superintendent for Learning Resources; Jeree Ethridge, Chief School Business Official; Phil Howard, Chief Technology Officer; Lisa Bollow, Director of Special Services; Ryan Doherty, Direct of Student Experiences; Courtney DeMent, North High Principal; Arwen Lyp, South High Principal; Student Board Members Ryan Enright and Romina Papavero-Gonzalez; and Juli Gniadek, Secretary.

There were no visitors.

1. STUDENT PERSPECTIVES – NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

Jeff Grant, North High Science teacher and Science Club sponsor, shared the Science Club students presented to the North High Administration their desire to build a rain garden at North High. North High students Melina Kyroudis, Chloe Lange, Cullen Larkin, Megha Nambisan and Olivia Tan explained what a rain garden is, its purpose, the planned location and the benefits of a rain garden. Mr. Grant stated the American Geosciences Institute donated sensors and they are hoping to get a WeatherBug. He noted the data gathered from the rain garden will be used in science classes. Mr. Grant thanked the D99 Education Foundation for their grant to purchase plants for the garden.

Those in attendance thanked the students for coming and sharing information about their plans for the rain garden.

2. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Student Board Members Ryan Enright and Romina Papavero-Gonzalez stated scanning is going well overall, with the app loading slowly occasionally. Both students commented that students in class are more engaged and participate more with the new cell phone policy in place. Mr. Enright noted some teachers have written three or four referrals for improper cell phone usage. However, Ms. Papvero-Gonzalez shared she was not aware of any referrals being written and that students know what the repercussions will be if they use their phones.

3. 2025 SUMMER SCHOOL AND EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR (ESY) REPORT

Mr. Doherty stated EL English classes were added to the regular slate of classes this summer. He noted eight students graduated after completing online courses in Summer School; grade distribution is consistent with that of the regular school year; and the number is on the rise of students self-reporting they are taking a Summer School course to repeat a class for an improved grade.

Ms. Bollow shared ESY is mandated by law for MN students, so they do not experience a regression in skills. She stated for the last six years District 99 has had its own ESY program, and the number of students has grown from 27 in 2019, when ESY students attended SASED programs, to 82 in 2025. According to Ms. Bollow, one important feature of the District 99 ESY program is that it is staffed by District 99 special education teachers, with some regular education teachers working as paraprofessionals.

4. WIGHT & COMPANY CONTRACTS

Dr. McGuire stated this information was shared at the last Board meeting and the Administration will be asking for approval of the Wight contracts at the next Board meeting. The cost of the Architectural and Engineering Services is built into the Life Safety Funding, and the Construction Management Services will likely be built into the bonds, according to Travis McGuire.

5. FIELDHOUSE FLOORING

Travis McGuire shared the floors in the fieldhouses are more than 20 years old and need replacing. He stated the Administration is recommending using Mondo flooring and having Kiefer install the floors. Pictures of both North and South High's fieldhouses were displayed with the proposed markings. The cost of installing the floors at North High is $678,280 and at South High is $660,300, according to Dr. McGuire, with an additional combined cost of $205,420 if the existing floors need to be ripped up.

Dr. McGuire stated no borrowing will be needed to fund the project, with 25% of the cost coming out of Working Cash Bonds this year and the remaining 75% paid out of FY27 budget allocations. He noted at the September 22 Board meeting the Administration will ask the Board for approval of the contract with Keifer and, if approved, the project will be done next summer.

6. ASBO INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

Dr. Thele stated, for the 26th year in a row, the District received the ASBO International Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting. He commended Jeree Ethrdige, CSBO, and Tammy Maska, Business Manager, for their work. Those in attendance acknowledged the work of the Business Department.

7. TENTATIVE SUPERINTENDENT LEADERSHIP EVENTS 2025-2026

Dr. Thiele displayed a list of the leadership roles in professional organizations he holds as well as a list of the professional learning opportunities, with associated costs, he intends to participate in this year. He noted he is presenting at all of the conferences he is attending.

President Renner stated the District receives a significant return on this investment as Dr. Thiele has the opportunity to talk to other leaders, bring back ideas to District 99 and serve as an ambassador for the District.

8. RECEPTION OF VISITORS – PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, Member Espinoza moved and Member Courtney seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the unanimous voice vote of the six members in attendance, the President declared the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Don Renner, President

Juli Gniadek, Secretary