August 18, 2025

The Board of Education, Community High School District 99, met for its Monthly Business Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 18, 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, Ken Dawson, April Finan and Michael Riske. Member Christopher Espinoza was absent.

Also present were Hank Thiele, Superintendent; Gina Ziccardi, Associate Superintendent for Student Learning; Scott Wuggazer, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Travis McGuire, Assistant Superintendent for Learning Resources; Jeff Bergholtz, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Jeree Ethridge, Chief School Business Official; Courtney DeMent, North High Principal; Arwen Lyp, South High Principal; Student Board Members Ryan Enright and Romina Papavero-Gonzalez; and Juli Gniadek, Secretary.

There was one visitor. A coy of the Visitors Roster is attached.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Casten moved and Member Riske seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the July 28, 2025 Monthly Business Meeting.

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

2. RECEPTION OF VISITORS – PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

3. STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

Student Board members Romina Papavero-Gonzalez and Ryan Enright both commented on how smoothly scanning into the building went. Ms. Papavero-Gonzalez, South High Student Board member, specifically mentioned how being able to use either a physical or digital ID when scanning is great. North High Student Board member, Mr. Enright, made note of the positive outlook on the new cell phone policy.

4. INDICATORS AND MEASURES - FOUR-YEAR PLAN UPDATE

Stefanie Andrews, North High Counseling and Student Support Services Chair, spoke about the increased engagement of students in their post-secondary planning, noting there is not one path for everyone and the goal is for all students to be happy productive citizens. South High Counseling and Student Support Services Chair Kristin Borman explained the PaCE Framework, which has three components: post-secondary exploration; career exploration and development; and financial aid and literacy. South High College and Career Counselor Dan Mustari shared how the development of a post-secondary plan is a four-year process which includes the 9th Grade Orientation Night, SchooLinks Onboarding, meetings with counselors, parent nights, newsletters and presentations by counselors by class year.

Scott Wuggazer shared 100% of students have a completed a post-secondary plan, 92% of freshman have completed SchooLinks onboarding and 73% of seniors completed the exit survey and noted the team's goal is get all three numbers to 100%.

5. 2025-2026 Concussion Oversight Team

Mr. Wuggazer displayed the names of the 2025-2026 Concussion Oversight Team. Dr. Thiele stated the Team is presented to and approved by the Board annually.

6. 2025-2026 Crisis De-escalation and Physical Management Oversight Team

Mr. Wuggazer displayed the names of the 2025-2026 Crisis De-escalation and Physical Management Oversight Team. He shared, even though ISBE has discontinued requiring schools to submit a plan, District 99 continues to prepare a plan which focuses primarily on the physical management of special education students.

7. Electricity and Natural Gas Bid Process

Dr. McGuire noted, since the presentation at the last meeting, prices for both electricity and natural gas have been trending favorably. He stated the Administration is asking for Board approval for the Administration to sign agreements, of up to four years each, for electricity and natural gas when the market is the best. Dr. Thiele stated this is an Action Item and the Board will be updated when the contracts have been signed.

8. Health Life Safety Update

Travis McGuire shared the Life Safety Survey is required every ten years and during the survey, work to be completed, and the timeframe it is to be done, are identified. He noted District 99 completed its Survey last summer. Work defined as Urgent (Category A) must be completed in 1-2 years, Category B Work must be completed in five years, and Category C Work is recommended, not required, according to Dr. McGuire. Travis McGuire explained the District has enough Life Safety funds on hand to complete the Category A Work and the District can use a tax levy for the Category B Work. He shared all Category A and Category B Work are anticipated to be completed by the end of Summer 2026.

Dr. McGuire stated at the September 22 Board meeting the Administration will be seeking the Board's approval to accept Wight's proposal for both Architectural and Engineering Services and Construction Management Services for the Life Safety Work. He explained the Architectural and Engineering Services include site visits, permitting, preparation of design documents and assistance with the bidding process and Construction Management Services include preconstruction and bidding, construction management and closeout.

Ms. Ethridge shared in September the District will start working with the bond underwriters to determine the best schedule for issuing Life Safety bonds. She noted the issuance of the bonds does not affect the tax cap and the bonds can be issued without a referendum.

9. PURCHASE OF ACTIVITY BUSES

Dr. McGuire reported the District has the opportunity to purchase six additional used activity buses, which are needed to support the schools' after school activities. He stated the District's mechanic, Luke Schulte, will evaluate the buses prior to purchase. He advised the Board the Administration was seeking approval to purchase up to six activity buses, at a cost not to exceed $400,000, based on Mr. Schulte's assessment of the buses available. Travis McGuire noted coaches and advisors can drive these buses as long as they have the required bus permit.

Ms. Ethridge explained the purchase of the activity buses was not in the Tentative Budget presented to the Board; however, the District learned it will be receiving $400,000 more in replacement taxes than initially projected. The purchase, according to Ms. Ethridge, will be cost neutral.

10. E-LEARNING PLAN FOR EMERGENCY DAYS (I.E. SNOW DAYS)

Dr. Thiele stated this Plan was brought to the last Board meeting and is the Plan currently in use. He noted parents can call students out on an e-Learning Day, just like any other school day. Jeff Bergholtz stated notification was sent to the *Daily Herald* and to families and staff the requisite number of days prior to the Hearing. Dr. Thiele stated following the Public Hearing the Board will take Action on the e-Learning Plan.

11. 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. He noted all staff received training on FOIA from the Board's attorney at the Opening Day Institute.

12. PUBLIC HEARING ON E-LEARNING PLAN FOR EMERGENCY DAYS

President Renner opened the Public Hearing on the District's e-Learning Plan for Emergency Days.

No one addressed the Board.

Member Casten moved and Member Riske seconded the motion that the Public Hearing be closed.

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

13. CONSENT AGENDA

Member Finan 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; Appointment-Classified; B. Personnel Report - Resignation-Certified; Resignation-Classified; C. July Treasurer's Report and Financial Pages; D. 2025-2026 Concussion Oversight Team; E. 2025-2026 Crisis De-escalation and Physical Management Oversight Team; F. Intergovernmental Agreement with District 58; and G. Acceptance of Donation - Ruckus Films, LLC.

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

14. APPROVAL OF E-LEARNING PLAN FOR EMERGENCY DAYS

Member Casten moved and Member Dawson seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the District's e-Learning Plan.

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

15. APPROVAL TO SIGN CONTRACTS FOR ELECTRICITY AND NATURAL GAS

Member Riske moved and Member Courtney seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the Administration entering into supply agreements, effective June 2026, for electricity and natural gas, for terms not to exceed 48 months.

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

16. APPROVAL TO PURCHASE ACTIVITY BUSES

Member Casten moved and Member Courtney seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the purchase of up to six 14-passenger activity buses at a cost not to exceed $400,000 for six buses.

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

17. OLD BUSINESS - SECOND READING AND APPROVAL OF BOARD PROTOCOLS

Dr. Thiele stated no changes had been made to the protocols since they were presented at the last meeting.

Member Courtney moved and Member Dawson seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the Board Protocols as presented.

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

18. NEW BUSINESS

None.

19. RECEPTION OF VISITORS – PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

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

Member Casten reported she has joined the Executive Committee. Dr. Thiele reported he and Ms. Ziccardi are on the Mandate Committee.

President Renner commend Member Casten for taking a leadership role in LEND.

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

Dr. Thiele reported the budget was presented and they are developing a long term plan for facilities.

22. REPORT ON DISTRICT 99 EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Member Dawson reported the Foundation presented at the Opening Day Institute.

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

Member Dawson reported the following events are upcoming: Super Saturday for New Board Members, the DuPage Division Meeting on October 29 and the Joint Annual Conference in November.

24. UPCOMING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

President Renner announced the following meeting dates:

September 8, 2025	Workshop Meeting – 6:30 p.m. - ASC
September 22, 2025	Monthly Business Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – ASC

25. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, Member Casten moved and Member Dawson 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 7:46 p.m.

Don Renner, President

Juli Gniadek, Secretary

Community HIGH SCHOOL District 99

BOARD OF EDUCATION

AUGUST 18, 2025

VISITOR ROSTER

NAME

Ryan Morton

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