

**KILDEER COUNTRYSIDE
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 96**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes for September 16, 2025**

Call To Order

Mr. Burns called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Education Development Center of Ivy Hall School.

Roll Call

Present: Marc Tepper, José Rivera, Amy Feygin, Dina Manka, Erika Immel, Cynthia Zarkowsky, and Mike Burns

Remote: None

Late: None

Absent: None

Administrators in

Attendance: Katie Sheridan, Jon Hitcho, Jane Pedersen, Ninja Idrizi, and Jennifer Dunne

Welcome to Visitors

President Burns welcomed members of the faculty, community, and press to the meeting. President Burns led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Burns gave an overview of public comment procedures, including noting that speakers would have 1.5 minutes to speak each to adhere to our thirty-minute allotment for public comment and that any comment requiring follow up would be followed up on by the Superintendent's office. Mr. Burns asked if anyone wished to address the Board. The following people spoke:

Mel Hach-Mogensen

Maria Neuhaus

Rachel Sapozhnikov

Kristy Worth

Melanie (Finch) Gurel

Suzanne Wahl

Andre Neuhaus

Timothy Teeples

Dariusz Chmielewski

Crista Altergott

Phylis DelRosario

Bill Mangenaro

Annette and Ron Lebovitz

Tim Mottl

Ryan Smith

Arlen Gould

Ann McAuliffe

Approval of Minutes

August 2025

A motion was presented by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Mr. Tepper to approve the minutes of August 5, 2025 and August 19, 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. Mr. Tepper inquired about recent investments, and Mr. Hitcho responded that none had been made, noting that the money market fund currently offers a higher rate than the mutual fund, so funds remain in the money market account. Mr. Burns directed the business office to place the following financial statements for the month of August 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 met to review routine agenda items. She also noted several resolutions on the consent agenda, including interfund transfers, authorization to prepare the tentative budget for 2026-27, approval of the final budget for the current school year, before which there will be a public hearing, and Certified Staff Salary Compensation Report for SY 2025.

Policy Committee

Ms. Zarkowsky reported that the Policy Committee met to review Policy 3:70, which requires no follow-up. She also noted that a large PRESS packet is expected soon.

Legislative Update

Mr. Tepper reported that there is little activity at this time as they await word on a possible special session. He noted that the COSSBA Federal Advocacy Conference took place this past weekend, with 17 attendees from Illinois. Once the conference report is released, he will share it with the Board. Mr. Tepper also attended a luncheon with IASB representatives on Saturday and highlighted the most recent Journal magazine, which included a quote from former D96 administrator Andrew Fenton regarding literacy.

Ms. Sheridan addressed the Board regarding Mandated Categoricals in preparation for the upcoming Lake Division Legislative Dinner. She noted that transportation costs continue to rise while MCAT funding remains flat and encouraged Board members to consider how to advocate for changes. Ms. Sheridan and Ms. Diehl will prepare talking points for the meeting.

ELC Update

Mr. Burns reported that the ELC Board met earlier in the day. In addition to routine agenda items, he noted a new staff attendance issue at ELC West that is affecting administrators who are filling those positions. He also reported that the ELC held a Finance Committee meeting following the Board meeting.

Guiding Coalition of Interculturalism Update

For the 2025-26 school year, all GCI meetings will be held in person on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the EDC Room. The first meeting is on October 7, 2025.

Thought Exchange Partnership

For the 2025-26 school year, all TEP meetings will be held in person on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the EDC Room. The first meeting is on October 14, 2025.

Partnership with KEA Update

The Partnership Meeting Dates for 2025-26 will be Wednesday, October 22, 2025, and Wednesday, March 18, 2026.

Board Articulation Council

Dr. Feygin reported that the BAC is currently working on planning its Fall meeting. They were hoping to schedule it for October but could not find a good date, so they are now looking at December. The meeting will likely take place at Stevenson and consist of dinner and a speaker or panel.

Space/Facilities/Innovation Committee

None at this time.

Other

None at this time.

Administrative Reports

Sixth Day Enrollment and Enrollment Trends Report

Dr. Pedersen presented the Sixth Day enrollment, which was August 25 for the 2025-26 school year. As of August 25, 2025, the district has a total enrollment of 3,322 students including early childhood. Excluding early childhood, enrollment is 3,249 students for K-8. These numbers are within 1% of the predicted numbers. Dr. Pedersen highlighted an overall downward trend for enrollment since 2022 with the exception of Twin Groves Middle School, which has seen 2 years of unexpected increases from 5th grade into 6th grade.

Artificial Intelligence in Education: What Every Board Member Should Know

Mr. Hanrahan presented an overview of emerging trends in artificial intelligence and its implications for teaching, learning, and school governance. Certified staff members shared examples of successful classroom implementation of Magic School AI. Mr. Hanrahan also reported a committee is established to guide the district's implementation and use of AI.

Priority Items for Consideration and/or Action

Public Hearing on the FY26 Annual Budget

Mr. Burns opened the public hearing on the 2025–26 Annual Budget at 8:49 p.m.

Mr. Hitcho reported that the proposed budget has been on display since June 17, 2025, in accordance with the Illinois School Code. He noted that the Administration and the Finance Committee have continued refining and revising the budget leading up to this point.

Mr. Hitcho explained that approximately 90% of the District's revenue is derived from local sources, including property taxes, fees, and investment income, while state funding accounts for about 9%. He emphasized that the District focuses on expenditure-based budgeting, as expenditures are more controllable than revenue, which can fluctuate from year to year.

Mr. Hitcho stated that transportation costs will be closely monitored this year due to elevated rates and limited vendor options. He noted that although transportation expenses are increasing, the District is required to provide these services even as costs outpace revenue.

Mr. Hitcho concluded by highlighting that the District has been spending fund balances to complete approximately \$40 million in infrastructure projects and that maintaining an adequate balance will be a priority in the coming year.

Mr. Burns asked if anyone wished to address the Board. One person spoke: Patrick Merola.

With no additional questions or comments forthcoming from the public, Mr. Burns closed the public hearing at 9:23 p.m.

Closed Session

Adjourn to Closed Session

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

- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors, or specific volunteers of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor, or a volunteer of the District or against legal counsel for the District 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)
- The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10)

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 9:35 p.m.

Reconvene in Open Session

The meeting reconvened in open session at 10:14 p.m.

Approval of Closed Session Minutes

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

Aye: Rivera, Feygin, Manka, Immel, Zarkowsky, Tepper, 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>
Elbers II, John	Special Education Teacher	1.0	Twin Groves	9/15/25

All members present voted Aye; the motion carried.

Employment

None at this time.

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal – Educational Support Personnel

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal

A motion was presented by Mr. Tepper and seconded by Mr. Rivera 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: Tepper, Rivera, Feygin, Manka, Immel, Zarkowsky, and Burns

Nay: None

Request for Special Education Aide

A motion was presented by Dr. Feygin and seconded by Mr. Tepper to approve an additional 1.0 FTE Special Education Aide for Ivy Hall to address the IEP needs of 1 student in the district. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

Aye: Feygin, Manka, Immel, Zarkowsky, Tepper, Rivera, 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 Mr. Tepper and seconded by Ms. Manka to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

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

Education	\$4,766,787.07
Operations	\$551,184.48
Debt Service	\$4,099.00
Transportation	\$461,195.33
IMRF	\$0.00
Social Security	\$0.00
Capital Projects	\$0.00
Working Cash	\$0.00
Tort Immunity	\$0.00
<u>Life Safety</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Totals	\$5,783,265.88

Approval of Resolutions for Interfund Transfers – to approve as presented:

- Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Interest Earned during FY 2025-26 from the Working Cash Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund
- Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Interest Earned during FY 2025-26 from the Debt Service Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund
- Resolution to Effect Interfund Transfer from Education Fund to Debt Service Fund
- Resolution to Effect Transfer to Comply with GASB 87

Approval of Resolution(s) Adopting the FY26 Budget – to adopt the 2025-26 Annual Budget as presented.

Authorization to Prepare Tentative 2026-27 Budget – to designate the business office to begin preparing the 2026-27 Tentative Budget at this time in accordance with Section 5/17-1 of the Illinois School Code.

Approval of P.A. 97-259/2023-24 Certified Staff Salary Compensation Report – to approve and post a report detailing base salary and benefits for all administrators in accordance with PA97-259 as presented.

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Discussion Items

COSSBA Conferences

The board decided to move this discussion item to a future agenda.

Information Items

New Staff Orientation and Mentor Training Feedback

Dr. Idrizi presented evaluation data collected from professional development activities held at the start of the school year. The data included feedback from New Staff Orientation, Year 1 and Year 2 Mentor Training, Team Leader Training, and Opening Institute Week sessions. Feedback indicated that high-interest choice sessions continue to be well-received, while opinions on the inclusion of a keynote speaker were mixed, with many staff preferring more hands-on learning opportunities. Overall, results were very positive, despite some reporting issues encountered in Frontline.

Curriculum Review Cycle - Literacy Implementation Team Update

Dr. Idrizi provided a memo updating the Board on the work of the Literacy Implementation Team, which is reviewing and renewing the District's literacy resources as part of the formal curriculum review process. The last update on this work was presented in June.

Fall Lake Division Meeting - October 8, 2025

Ms. Sheridan reminded the board that the IASB Fall Lake Division Dinner will be held on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at Prairie Trail School in Gurnee SD56. Ms. McGillian will register the group on Thursday, September 18.

IASB/IASA/IASBO Conference - November 21-23, 2025

Board members are registered to attend the annual conference. A retreat will be held on November 21, 2024. As planning continues, more information will be shared with the board.

FOIA Requests

Since August 18, 2025, the District has received 7 (seven) FOIA request(s).

Board Comments

The Board discussed an administrative report delivered earlier in the meeting.

Adjournment

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

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

Nay: None

Mr. Burns adjourned the September 16, 2025, regular meeting of the Kildeer Countryside Community Consolidated School District 96 Board of Education at 10:25 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for October 21, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Date Minutes Approved: _____

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

Fn: minutes 091625