

**KILDEER COUNTRYSIDE  
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 96**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
Minutes for October 21, 2025**

**Call To Order**

Mr. Burns called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Educational 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, Meghan Bird, and Jennifer Dunne

**Welcome to Visitors**

President Burns welcomed members of the faculty, community, and press to the meeting. Members of the audience introduced themselves. President Burns led the Pledge of Allegiance. President Burns asked if anyone wished to address the Board. The following people spoke:

Jizhou Ai  
Brian Doudna

**Approval of Minutes**

**September 2025**

A motion was presented by Mr. Tepper and seconded by Ms. Manka to approve the minutes of September 16, 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. Burns directed the business office to place the following financial statements for September 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. The Committee reviewed the annual budget timeline, examined the solar field financials, and received an update on transportation funds. The Committee further discussed and is recommending the estimated tax levy for approval as part of tonight's Consent Agenda.

### Policy Committee

Ms. Zarkowsky reported that the Policy Committee did not meet this evening. The meeting was deferred pending the release of a PRESS packet, which is expected to contain 28 policies requiring review.

### Legislative Update

Mr. Tepper provided an update on the Veto Sessions, reporting that the first session occurred October 13-17, and the second is scheduled for October 27-31. He highlighted key legislative action on SB 243 (FOIA/OMA) and noted three significant bills the board should continue to monitor closely: the Tier 2 Pension Reform bill, the proposed Property Tax Relief Grant Program, and the Early Childhood through 2nd Grade Student Discipline Bill (HB 3772).

Ms. Sheridan then provided background information and an update on HB 3772, adding that she has been invited to participate in a conversation with other area superintendents and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) regarding this bill.

### ELC Update

Mr. Burns reported that the ELC board met last week. In addition to routine agenda items, the board is working on finalizing a new contract for Dr. Clarke since hers expires this year. Additionally, Mr. Burns reported that the board is suggesting a review of some structures and systems to standardize some practices.

### Guiding Coalition of Interculturalism Update

Ms. Manka reported that GCI met for the first time this school year on October 7. She noted the group was a good size while remaining intimate. During the meeting, the members received an overview of the GCI's history, watched the updated student voice video from last school year, and reflected on the initiatives they would like to move forward with this year. Ms. Manka concluded that the meeting was productive.

### Thought Exchange Partnership

Mr. Rivera reported that TEP met for the first time this school year on October 14. The group discussed and reaffirmed its core purpose. The meeting included a presentation by Director of IT, Bob Hanrahan, on the topics of digital citizenship and the responsible use of technology. Mr. Rivera concluded his report with a reminder of two upcoming community events: the Newcomer Coffee scheduled for October 28, and the Consortium Parent Event featuring speaker Doug Bolton in November.

### Partnership with KEA Update

Ms. Sheridan provided an overview of the agenda, which was collaboratively designed for the first Partnership with KEA meeting scheduled for October 22.

### Board Articulation Council

Dr. Feygin reported that all members should have received a save-the-date for the BAC December 1 event. More details will be forthcoming.

### Lake Division Meeting Update

Mr. Rivera provided an update on the recent Lake Division Dinner, held on October 8, 2025, which featured presentations and updates from the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) and breakout sessions with three elected legislators.

Space/Facilities/Innovation Committee

None at this time.

Other

Dr. Feygin reported on a recent visit to Twin Groves Middle School to observe how AI tools are currently being used in instruction and to be a mystery reader. Additionally, she toured the school's vocational space, which teachers spent time developing over the summer.

**Administrative Reports**

Elevating Access and Inclusion

Pursuant to Board Goal 1 Objective A, Dr. Idrizi, Ms. Dunne, and Ms. Bird will shared key data from the Inclusive Practices Assessment with a focus on multilingual learners from the spring of 2025, and highlighted district priorities for advancing inclusive practices and enhancing universal (Tier 1) supports provided to all students, as well as outlined the district plans for action steps related to this goal, including key actions and progress monitoring.

**Priority Items for Consideration and/or Action**

Closed Session

Adjourn to Closed Session

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

- The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10)
- Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 8:22 p.m.

Reconvene in Open Session

The meeting reconvened in open session at 8:50 p.m.

Approval of Closed Session Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Ms. Immel 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

None at this time.

Employment

None at this time.

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal – Educational Support Personnel

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal

A motion was presented by Ms. Manka and seconded by Mr. Tepper 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: Manka, Immel, Zarkowsky, Tepper, Rivera, Feygin, 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 - October 2025 - to approve the October 2025 bills as presented in the following amounts:

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Education        | \$4,018,086.02 |
| Operations       | \$414,738.00   |
| Debt Service     | \$4,099.00     |
| Transportation   | \$1,131,845.48 |
| IMRF             | \$0.00         |
| Social Security  | \$0.00         |
| Capital Projects | \$0.00         |
| Working Cash     | \$0.00         |
| Tort Immunity    | \$0.00         |
| Life Safety      | \$0.00         |
| Totals           | \$5,568,768.50 |

Approval of Resolution for Estimated Amounts for 2025 Tax Levy – to approve the resolution for the estimated amount of taxes to be levied as presented.

Appointment of IASB Delegate – to designate José Rivera to serve as the IASB delegate at the 2025 Joint Annual Conference.

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

## **Discussion Items**

### **COSSBA Conferences**

The Board engaged in a discussion regarding the prioritization and attendance of a Board member at key COSSBA conferences, specifically the COSSBA Federal Advocacy Conference held annually in the fall, and the COSSBA National Conference held annually in the spring. Mr. Tepper submitted a proposal to present in the spring and Mr. Rivera intends to participate in the fall conference for federal advocacy.

### **IASB/IASA/IASBO Joint Annual Conference – November 21-23, 2025**

The Board of Education members will participate in a district workshop on Friday, November 21, 2025. Ms. Sheridan reported plans were being developed. All participants have been registered for the Joint Annual Conference sponsored by the IASA, IASB, and IASBO. Ms. Sheridan also encouraged board members to carefully review the sessions being offered and highlighted several that she thought would be of particular interest to the Board.

### **IASB 2025 Resolutions Committee Report**

Mr. Tepper highlighted a key resolution that the Resolutions Committee has recommended as a "Do Adopt," along with the 10 constitutional changes currently being suggested. He encouraged all board members to review the IASB resolutions prior to next month's board meeting, during which the board will discuss and provide guidance to KCSD96 IASB Delegate, José Rivera.

## **Information Items**

### **2025 School Board Governance Recognition**

Ms. Sheridan shared that the board has been named one of 42 boards to earn the IASB 2025 School Board Governance Recognition designation. This recognition is designed to acknowledge those school boards that have engaged in activities and modeled behaviors that lead to excellence in local school governance in support of quality public education.

### **Principal Appreciation Week**

Ms. Sheridan informed the board that this week is Principal and Assistant Principal Appreciation Week. Illinois Principals Association (IPA) encourages all communities in Illinois to celebrate our school leaders this week, October 19-25, 2025, especially on Principal Appreciation Day on Friday, October 24, 2025. Ms. Sheridan expressed her profound gratitude for the leadership and dedication of our Principals and Assistant Principals in supporting our students and families. She also noted that, in addition to this public acknowledgment, the district has planned some surprises to be distributed to all principals on October 24, 2025.

### **LEA Determination**

Ms. Dunne noted that District 96 has achieved "Meets Requirements," the highest rating, in implementing all seven requirements of IDEA. This is an annual determination.

### **FOIA Requests**

Since September 16, 2025, the District has received 12 (twelve) FOIA request(s).

## **Board Comments**

Discussed updates from the Board Reports. Clarified a public comment from tonight.

**Adjournment**

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

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

Nay: None

Mr. Burns adjourned the October 21, 2025, regular meeting of the Kildeer Countryside Community Consolidated School District 96 Board of Education at 9:17 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for November 18, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Date Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Board of Education

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Board of Education

Fn: minutes 102125