

**KILDEER COUNTRYSIDE
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 96**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes for February 17, 2026**

Call To Order

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

Roll Call

Present: Erika Immel, Amy Feygin, Dina Manka, José Rivera, Cynthia Zarkowsky, and Mike Burns
Remote: None
Late: None
Absent: Marc Tepper
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. Members of the audience introduced themselves. Mr. Burns led the Pledge of Allegiance. President Burns asked if anyone wished to address the Board. No one responded.

Updated Administrative Appointment

Mr. Burns asked if there was any objection to moving this agenda item to the beginning of the meeting. There were none. Ms. Sheridan stated that after a rigorous and thoughtful interview process, the administration was proud to recommend Sam Heinrich to assume the role of principal of Prairie Elementary School for the 2026-27 school year.

A motion was made by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Ms. Manka to approve the official addendum to the three-year employment contract between the Board of Education of Kildeer Countryside Community Consolidated School District 96 and Samantha Heinrich, who will assume the position of Principal at Prairie Elementary School effective August 1, 2026. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Approval of Minutes

January 2026

A motion was presented by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Ms. Zarkowsky to approve the minutes of January 20, 2026, 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 January 2026 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 also discussed new policy language from PRESS regarding financial institutions, which will now go to the Policy committee for review, and reviewed five-year financial projections, which is done annually. Additionally, the committee reviewed fee-based busing rates and is recommending a rate adjustment, noting that these fees have remained unchanged for the duration of the district's available records.

Policy Committee

Ms. Zarkowsky reported that the Policy Committee met to review seven policies, six of which required no substantive changes. Regarding Policy 4:182, the committee will be recommending removing the policy in its entirety as it is no longer relevant to current operations. Additionally, the committee decided to align with the PRESS timeline for policy reviews rather than reviewing the entire manual annually as has been done in the past. Finally, the committee recommended the adoption of two policies currently included on the consent agenda.

Legislative Update

Ms. Sheridan provided an update on legislative advocacy efforts, noting that Ed-Red is currently collaborating with three local law firms on four House bills designed to mitigate the administrative burden of broad FOIA requests. Additionally, Representative Didech is advancing a bill to amend the Illinois School Student Records Act (ISSRA) slightly to help better protect student information contained within emails between families and district staff that are subject to FOIA. Additionally, Ms. Sheridan noted that Governor Pritzker's upcoming address will provide further guidance on the state's legislative trajectory for the year.

Ms. Manka followed with an update on the recent Ed-Red Legislative Dinner, noting that the event was very reflective with Congressman Schneider addressing a variety of pressing current events and their impact on the educational landscape.

ELC Update

Mr. Burns reported that the ELC board met on January 22. The session covered routine operational matters, including standard hiring and resignations. It was noted that the contract for Superintendent Dr. Megan Clarke was not executed due to late-emerging legal considerations. Additionally, the Board discussed ELC's financial management following the departure of the business manager. Sean Carney, Assistant Superintendent for Business at Adlai E. Stevenson High School District 125, is currently serving as the interim business manager while the cooperative continues its search for a permanent replacement. The ELC Board is scheduled to meet again this Thursday.

Guiding Coalition of Interculturalism Update

The next GCI meeting is February 24, 2026.

Thought Exchange Partnership

Mr. Rivera reported that TEP met on January 27, and focused primarily on the expansion of student choice across all grade levels. Feedback indicates that while families are broadly supportive of current initiatives, there is a strong desire for further expansion of these opportunities. The District remains committed to the continuous review and refinement of these programs to ensure they meet the evolving needs of the student body. The next TEP meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2026.

Partnership with KEA Update

The next Partnership Committee meeting is on March 18, 2026.

Board Articulation Council

None at this time.

Space/Facilities/Innovation Committee

Ms. Sheridan reported that Mr. Keenon and Mr. Hanrahan hosted a group of board of education members, administration, and staff from District 103 to tour and learn about the Collaboratory at Twin Groves as they are considering a similar project.

Other

Ms. Manka shared a formal thank-you letter from Lindsey Diehl with the Board, reading the correspondence into the record. Mr. Burns provided a report regarding a recent visit to Country Meadows, highlighting that during the visit, Ms. Burns had the opportunity to observe several dual language classrooms in action and participated as a mystery reader for the students. It was noted that Mr. Burns' tour of the school buildings will continue in March with an upcoming visit to Twin Groves Middle School.

Administrative Reports

Calendar Options for the 2027-28 School Year

Mr. Keenon facilitated a discussion regarding the potential academic calendar options for the 2027-28 school year. He informed the Board that the administration will present a final version for formal approval in April after gathering feedback from stakeholder groups.

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)
- 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)
- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body 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)

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

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 7:42 p.m.

Reconvene in Open Session

The meeting reconvened in open session at 8:27 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, Zarkowsky, Immel, Feygin, Manka, and Burns
Nay: None

Settlement Consideration

A motion was made by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Ms. Immel to approve the MOU for the settlement of claims between Sage Integration Holdings, LLC, The Board of Education of Kildeer Countryside Community Consolidated School District No.96, and Blubox Systems, Inc. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:
Aye: Rivera, Zarkowsky, Immel, Feygin, Manka, and Burns
Nay: None

2026-27 Staff Compensation

A motion was made by Dr. Feygin and seconded by Mr. Rivera to approve the recommendation for the compensation plan for the 2026-27 WAC/BO employees. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:
Aye: Feygin, Manka, Rivera, Zarkowsky, Immel, and Burns
Nay: None

Action Items

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal – Certified Staff

Resignations

A motion was presented by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Ms. Immel to accept the resignation of the following individuals:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>
Wilson, Elizabeth	Special Education	1.0	Willow Grove	6/2/26
Ohlwein, Mary	Spanish Teacher	1.0	Woodlawn	6/2/26
Dziadus, Amanda	1st Grade Teacher	1.0	Country Meadows	6/2/26

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 Dr. Feyin 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: Feygin, Manka, Rivera, Zarkowsky, Immel, and Burns

Nay: None

2026-27 Staff Compensation

This item was discussed in closed session.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Burns asked the board whether any items needed to be removed from the consent agenda. No one responded.

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

Presentation of Bills - February 2026 - to approve the February 2026 bills as presented in the following amounts:

Education	\$3,673,794.99
Operations	\$348,786.92
Debt Service	\$4,099.00
Transportation	\$905,592.63
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	\$4,932,273.54

Approval of Fee-Based Busing Rate – to approve an increase in the Fee-Based Transportation program fee to \$875.00 for the 2026-27 school year.

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

3:10 - General School Administration

3:52 - Compensation - Administrators

Curriculum Adoption - to approve a 10-year contract not to exceed the amount of \$733,678.00 for Amplify CKLA/Caminos curriculum for K-5 for the 2026-27 school year.

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

Discussion Items

Board of Education Meeting Calendar 2026-27 School Year

Ms. Sheridan presented two versions of tentative Board meeting dates for the 2026-27 school year for discussion. She noted that, alongside this calendar, principals will begin developing activity calendars for each school in the coming month. A final calendar is to be presented for approval at the March 10, 2026, meeting.

Information Items

IASB Lake Division Dinner Spring

The Lake Division spring meeting will be held on April 15, 2026, from 6-8:30 p.m. at the Doubletree by Hilton Libertyville in Mundelein. The topic will be AI in Schools: Shaping the Future of Education, presented by Eric Santos, LTC Illinois. Please let Ms. McGillian know if you would like to attend.

FOIA Requests

Since January 20, 2026, the District has received 5 (five) FOIA request(s).

Board Comments

The Board discussed the annual superintendent evaluation process, the board retreat, and answered questions about the previous CSFT information.

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: Zarkowsky, Immel, Tepper, Rivera, Feygin, and Burns
Nay: None

Mr. Burns adjourned the February 17, 2026, regular meeting of the Kildeer Countryside Community Consolidated School District 96 Board of Education at 8:50 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for March 10, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Date Minutes Approved: _____

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education