

February 23, 2026

The Board of Education, Community High School District 99, met for its Monthly Business Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2026 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, Christopher Espinoza, April Finan and Michael Riske.

Also present were Hank Thiele, Superintendent; 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; Tammy Maksa, Director of Business Services; Jill Browning, Chief Communications Officer; 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 nine visitors. A copy of the Visitors Roster is attached.

1. RECOGNITION

Dr. DeMent introduced Tess Lerette and Rain Heller who were chosen for the All-State Theater production of "Newsies." Ms. Lerette was on the build crew and worked with the rigging and Ms. Heller was part of the lighting crew, according to Dr. DeMent.

Gina Wych, North High Fine Arts Department Chair, shared 23,000 students across Illinois compete to receive Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) honors. She introduced North High students Andre Cheng and Ryan Perry who received ILMEA All-State Band or Orchestra recognition and Paxxton Rehman and Briley Steffes who received Choir recognition.

Shane Nelson, South High Assistant Band Director, introduced South High students Gretchen Haselhorst, Geovanni Cruz-Romero, Herbert Eli Dojoles, Evangeline Selking, and Eliza Monjes who were named ILMEA All-State Musicians. South High Choral Director Joy Belt-Roselieb introduced the South High ILMEA All-State Choir honorees Taylor Ciucci, Sadie Novosel, Jack Melie, Amari Thomas, Jurate Davies, Cristina Mariano, Olivia Dulik, Emilia Galdun, Abby Heavrin, Maya Peterson and Jonathan Robinson. Ms. Belt-Roselieb noted Mr. Melie received the honor all four years.

Those in attendance congratulated the students.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Casten moved and Member Dawson seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the January 26, 2026 Monthly Business Meeting; the January 26, 2026 Closed Meeting; the February 9, 2026 Workshop Meeting; and the February 9, 2026 Closed Meeting.

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

3. RECEPTION OF VISITORS – PUBLIC COMMENT

Introduction of Members of the Support Staff Association

Dr. Thiele stated members of the large and diverse Support Staff Association bargaining unit requested to address the Board.

Support Staff Association (SSA) President Maria Georgiou and SSA members Joshua Margalus, Christine Christensen, Katie Conquest, Mary Roe, Kelly Roe, Ruby Montano, Stacey Bretwisch, Maribel Tolayo and Julie Witt-Vanorny spoke about their history with District 99 and the community, the position they have in District 99, the responsibilities of their position and the contributions they make to the District.

There were no additional public comments.

4. 2026 HEALTH LIFE SAFETY (HLS) IMPROVEMENTS

Dr. McGuire stated on February 9 there was a bid opening for items that needed to be addressed based on the Ten-Year Life Safety Survey. He advised of eleven bid packages, nine received bids; there were no bids for steel and demolition. The total of the recommended bid packages was approximately \$3.8M, which remains within the \$4.5M in bond sales. Dr. McGuire stated the Board will be asked to approve nine of the eleven packages tonight. Dr. Thiele stated this is an Action Item.

Dr. McGuire noted in the future the Board will be asked to approve a HLS Amendment to the State for structural work at South High to increase the roof load for snow.

5. PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING OF TEACHER CONFERENCES

Dr. Thiele stated this is a proposed Action Item this evening, but it could be moved to March if the Board chooses.

Dr. Thiele presented the results from both the family and staff surveys on the proposed restructuring of Teacher Conferences. He stated both groups were supportive of the changes and shared the key points of strength and implementation considerations raised by each group.

Board members stressed the importance of family communication with the restructuring and the need to make families aware of the many opportunities available to contact and meet with teachers.

At the conclusion of the discussion, President Renner asked the Board if anyone needed more information or was not ready to vote. No one indicated a need for additional information.

6. BOARD REPRESENTATION ON THE PARENT-TEACHER ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026

Several Board members volunteered to serve on the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee. President Renner selected Members Dawson and Finan to serve.

7. 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.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Member Dawson moved and Member Espinoza seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which includes: A. Personnel Report - Leave of Absence-Certified; Appointment-Classified; Transfer of Position-Classified; B. Personnel Report - Retirement-Administration; Resignation-Certified; Retirement-Certified; Retirement-Classified; Resignation-Classified; C. January Treasurer's Report and Financial Pages; D. Student Trip; and E. Acceptance of Donation - Dominic Reda.

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

President Renner expressed appreciation for the donation.

9. APPROVAL OF 2026 HEALTH LIFE SAFETY (HLS) IMPROVEMENTS

Member Casten moved and Member Riske seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve contracts for Life Safety Work at North and South High in the aggregate amount of \$3,779,864, with an additional contingency allowance of up to 5% of the aggregate amount, if necessary.

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

10. APPROVAL OF PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING OF TEACHER CONFERENCES

Member Espinoza moved and Member Dawson seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the proposed restructuring of Teacher Conferences, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, for a minimum of two years, as presented.

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

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

None.

13. RECEPTION OF VISITORS – PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

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

No report.

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

Member Espinoza reported SASED is discussing its Strategic Plan. Dr. Thiele reported staffing and locations for next year are key topics.

16. REPORT ON DISTRICT 99 EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Member Courtney reported Julia Beckman is stepping down as the President of the Education Foundation and there is also a new Secretary. She shared conversations were held around fundraising.

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

Member Dawson reported Dr. Tony Sanders, State Superintendent, was well received at the DuPage Division meeting.

18. REPORT ON DOWNERS GROVE VILLAGE COUNCIL

President Renner reported the Village is looking for opportunities to collaborate with District 99 and is exploring commissioning art projects by District 99 students.

19. UPCOMING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

President Renner announced the following meeting dates:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| March 2, 2026 | Workshop Meeting – 6:30 p.m. - ASC |
| March 16, 2026 | Monthly Business Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – ASC |

20. CLOSED SESSION

Member Dawson moved and Member Finan seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing:

- A. **OMA Exception (1) Personnel:** 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, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer 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).

B. OMA Exception (2) Collective negotiating matters: 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).

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

President Renner stated the only Action the Board will be taking when it comes out of Closed Session is to Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 7:52 p.m.

21. RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION

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, Christopher Espinoza, April Finan and Michael Riske.

Also present were Hank Thiele, Superintendent, and Juli Gniadek, Secretary.

22. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, Member Finan moved and Member Dawson seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Upon the unanimous voice vote of the seven members in attendance, the President declared the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.



Don Renner, President



Juli Gniadek, Secretary

Community HIGH SCHOOL District 99

BOARD OF EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 23, 2026

VISITOR ROSTER

NAME

Karen Spahr-Thomas
MARY ROE
Kathleen Conquest
Kelly Roe
Stacy Britwisch
Julie Witt VanOrny
Zuzanne Robinson-
MARIA GEORGIU
Christine Christensen