

**KILDEER COUNTRYSIDE
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 96**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes for March 10, 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: Marc Tepper, Erika Immel, Amy Feygin, Dina Manka, and Mike Burns
Remote: None
Late: None
Absent: José Rivera, Cynthia Zarkowsky
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.

Staff Recognition

Mr. Burns asked if there was any objection to moving this agenda item to the beginning of the meeting. There were none. The Board recognized a group of outstanding KCSD96 staff members. 7 staff members across our district were nominated by students, staff, administrators, and/or alumni and chosen to receive our first-ever Staff of Distinction Awards (for Trimester 2). Dr. Jane Pedersen, school administrators, and Lindsey Diehl surprised each recipient with a gift in their school in front of students and/or colleagues prior to our meeting.

Meg Larson, Country Meadows Elementary School
Laura Barshefsky, Ivy Hall Elementary School
Amanda O'Kerns, Kildeer Countryside Elementary School
Abby Heuer, Prairie Elementary School
Jenn Leverentz, Twin Groves Middle School
Laura Felleson, Willow Grove Early Learning Center
Sarah Gordon, Woodlawn Middle School

Consideration of Collective Bargaining Agreement

A motion was presented by Ms. Manka and seconded by Mr. Tepper to approve the collective bargaining agreement between the Board of Education and the Kildeer Education Support Professionals Association for 6 years, 2026-27, 2027-28, 2028-29, 2029-30, 2030-2031, and 2031-32, as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

Aye: Manka, Tepper, Immel, Feygin, Burns
Nay: None

Mr. Burns thanked all members of the bargaining teams for their collaboration in the negotiating process.

Approval of Minutes

February 2026

A motion was presented by Mr. Tepper and seconded by Ms. Immel to approve the minutes of February 3, 2026 and February 17, 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 February 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. She also highlighted that Mr. Hitcho would be giving his annual 5 Year Financial Presentation later in the meeting.

Policy Committee

Ms. Manka reported that the Policy Committee met to continue the routine five-year review process, evaluating five policies that were found to require no changes. Additionally, she highlighted eight policies appearing on the consent agenda, including seven recommended for approval and one slated for removal.

Legislative Update

Mr. Tepper provided a report on recent legislative engagements, including his participation in an IASB and ISBE Listen and Learn session with State Superintendent Tony Sanders, as well as an IASB Board of Directors meeting featuring a presentation by IASB (Iowa Association of School Boards) on a school board's role in creating school districts where all students succeed. Mr. Tepper shared he will be attending the COSSBA Conference this weekend and presenting on AI, and that he will be engaging in conversation in Grant City concerning pending cell phone in schools legislation. Additionally, Mr. Tepper invited the Board to join the advocacy event in Springfield on March 24 to address key legislative items, specifically those concerning unemployment insurance for educational support professionals. Ms. Sheridan concluded the update by reviewing the district's current cell phone practices in relation to the discussed legislation.

ELC Update

Mr. Burns reported that the ELC Board met last month to address routine operational matters, including standard hiring and resignations. The meeting included discussions regarding staffing, with further deliberation scheduled for the upcoming ELC Board meeting to review the proposed staffing plan for the next school year. Additionally, Mr. Burns noted that conversations regarding Dr. Clarke's contract remain ongoing.

Guiding Coalition of Interculturalism Update

Dr. Idrizi reported that GCI met on February 24, 2026. The group reviewed the district's current initiatives surrounding community service and the celebration of diversity, noting the progress made throughout the district's developmental journey. Discussion centered on identifying future opportunities to amplify student voice, increase active participation in service learning, and deepen cultural understanding across the school community. The group intends to reconvene to formalize recommendations for the implementation of these enhanced engagement strategies.

Thought Exchange Partnership

Ms. Manka attended the TEP meeting on behalf of Mr. Rivera, and reported there was a good turn out. The group engaged in a discussion regarding current and future staff development opportunities within the district. Additionally, the proposed academic calendar for the 2027–2028 school year was presented for initial review, with formal board approval scheduled for the April 21 meeting. The TEP committee is slated to convene for one final session during the current academic year.

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

None at this time.

Other

None at this time.

Administrative Reports

Student Recognition

The Board members recognized the outstanding achievements of our students who are moving on to the state MathCounts competition, students who scored over a 1 at IGSMA, and students who received Honors (Top 5%) or Distinguished Honors (Top 1%) in the AMC8 Math competition. The students were presented with certificates of accomplishment by Ms. Sheridan and were also recognized within their schools on Friday, February 27, 2026. Ms. Sheridan expressed her admiration for recent student achievements, noting how much she enjoyed hearing about the poise shown during IGSMA preparations and the resilience of AMC8 participants when navigating academic challenges under pressure.

Staff Recognition

The Board recognized seven staff members as the inaugural recipients of the Trimester 2 Staff of Distinction Awards, following nominations from students, colleagues, and alumni. Dr. Jane Pedersen, alongside school administrators and Lindsey Diehl, celebrated these individuals with surprise presentations at their respective buildings prior to the meeting. A photographic presentation of the surprises was shared, and several honorees were present to be formally recognized by the Board for their exceptional contributions to the district.

5 Year Financial Presentation

Mr. Hitcho presented the results of the financial projections for the next 5 years. He noted these projections are the culmination of many finance committee meetings, and for the second time, were projected by a new model created by the finance committee.

Priority Items for Consideration and/or Action

Closed Session

Adjourn to Closed Session

A motion was presented by Dr. Feygin and seconded by Ms. Manka 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)

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 8:02 p.m.

Reconvene in Open Session

The meeting reconvened in open session at 8:39 p.m.

Approval of Closed Session Minutes

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

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

Nay: None

Settlement Approval

A motion was made by Mr. Tepper and seconded by Dr. Feygin to approve the settlement agreement between Sage Integration Holdings, LLC, The Board of Education of Kildeer Countryside Community Consolidated School District No.96, and Blubox Systems, Inc., pending attorney review. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Action Items

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal – Certified Staff

Resignations

A motion was presented by Ms. Manka and seconded by Dr. Feygin to accept the resignation of the following individuals:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>
Elfering, Kaitlyn	2nd Grade Teacher	1.0	Prairie	6/2/26
Komp, Cristina	Speech Language Pathologist	1.0	Willow Grove	6/2/26
Boswell, Kay	Dual Language Teacher	1.0	Country Meadows	6/2/26
Joyal, Alexis	Early Childhood Sped Teacher	1.0	Willow Grove	6/2/26

All members present voted Aye; the motion carried.

Employment

A motion was presented by Mr. Tepper and seconded by Dr. Feygin to approve the employment of the following individual(s) for the 2026-27 school year and place appropriately on the salary schedule:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>
Malisheski, Kevin	Physical Education Teacher	1.0	Twin Groves	8/10/26
Mysliwicz, Amber	Physical Education Teacher	1.0	Ivy Hall	8/10/26

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Superintendent Evaluation

The Board agreed to table this item for a future meeting.

Leave of Absence Request - Unpaid

A motion was presented by Dr. Feygin and seconded by Ms. Immel to approve a leave of absence, unpaid, under Section 8.6 of the KEA contract, from Vrunda Desai, a 2nd grade teacher at Prairie Elementary School, for an additional 4 weeks of maternity leave. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

Aye: Feygin, Manka, Immel, and Burns

Nay: None

Abstained: Tepper

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal – Educational Support Personnel

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal

None at this time.

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. Manka and seconded by Dr. Feygin to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

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

Education	\$4,968,266.50
Operations	\$332,215.05
Debt Service	\$4,099.00
Transportation	\$955,187.90
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	\$6,259,768.45

Approval of Board of Education Meeting Calendar 2026-27 School Year – to approve the Board of Education meeting schedule for the 2026-27 school year.

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

- 6:210 - Instructional Materials
- 1:10 - School District Legal Status
- 1:20 - District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements
- 1:30 - School District Philosophy
- 2:10 - School District Governance
- 3:30 - Chain of Command
- 3:60 - Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal
- 4:182 - Pandemic Preparedness and Management

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

Discussion Items - None at this time.

Information Items

Summer School/Extended School Year Offerings

Ms. Dunne and Dr. Idrizi provided a list of the various summer offerings available to students from Early Childhood to grade 7. Academic Support is offered to students that qualify for tiered literacy and/or math interventions as indicated by student need. Extended School Year (ESY) is offered to students who have Individual Education Plans (IEPs) to work on student IEP goals related to academics, behavior, and classroom functioning, along with providing related services such as speech and language, occupational therapy, and counseling. Jump Start Kindergarten is a program to orient incoming students to Willow Grove.

KESPA/Board of Education Annual Meeting - April 21, 2026

Ms. Sheridan informed the board of the annual KESPA/Board meeting being held on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, in the Ivy Hall Faculty Lounge. The meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. with dinner hosted by the BOE. The meeting will follow at 5:30 p.m. and should conclude by 6:00 p.m., allowing Board members to attend committee meetings.

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 February 17, 2026, the District has received 1 (one) FOIA request(s).

Board Comments

The board discussed recent FOIA requests and received an update on a Leave of Absence request.

Adjournment

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

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

Nay: None

Mr. Burns adjourned the March 10, 2026, regular meeting of the Kildeer Countryside Community Consolidated School District 96 Board of Education at 8:53 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for April 7, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Date Minutes Approved: _____

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

Fn: minutes 031026