

**KILDEER COUNTRYSIDE
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 96**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes for January 20, 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, José Rivera, Amy Feygin, Erika Immel, Cynthia Zarkowsky, and Mike Burns
Remote: None
Late: None
Absent: Dina Manka
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.

Approval of Minutes

December 2025

A motion was presented by Mr. Tepper and seconded by Mr. Rivera to approve the minutes of December 16, 2025, as presented. All members present voted Aye; the motion carried.

Release of Closed Session Minutes

A motion was presented by Ms. Zarkowsky and seconded by Mr. Tepper to release the following closed session minutes in accordance with the Open Meetings Act:

January 14, 2025	March 18, 2025	May 27, 2025
February 4, 2025	April 1, 2025	June 17, 2025
February 18, 2025	April 15, 2025	June 24, 2025
March 4, 2025	May 6, 2025	

All members present voted Aye; the motion carried.

Destruction of Closed Session Recordings

A motion was presented by Dr. Feygin and seconded by Mr. Rivera to destroy the following recordings of closed session meetings in accordance with the Open Meetings Act:

January 16, 2024	March 5, 2024	April 16, 2024
February 6, 2024	March 19, 2024	May 14, 2024
February 20, 2024	April 2, 2024	June 18, 2024

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 December 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 is recommending the approval of three items on the consent agenda tonight, beginning with the annual purchase order cut-off date of March 19, and continuing with the FY27 per-pupil allocation, noting a 2.9% increase in the per-pupil rate. Finally, Dr. Feygin reported on the transportation bid process, which yielded four competitive submissions. The committee is recommending North America Central School Bus of Joliet to be awarded a three-year contract beginning July 1, 2026.

Policy Committee

Ms. Zarkowsky reported that the policy committee reviewed two policies. The first was policy 3:10, where they will be recommending adoption with the updated language provided by PRESSplus. The second is policy 3:52, which will be recommended with updated language to be more flexible. Additionally, the committee is recommending the adoption of 7 policies on the consent agenda.

Legislative Update

Mr. Tepper reported that the Illinois General Assembly has reconvened for an abbreviated spring session. Due to the condensed schedule, the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) has designated March 24 as Capital Advocacy Day to facilitate direct engagement with lawmakers. During a recent Board Articulation Council (BAC) legislative breakfast, Representative Didech indicated that the current session would likely focus on a narrow set of priorities. Mr. Tepper also announced that he and an associate were selected to present at the upcoming COSSBA conference. Furthermore, Ms. Sheridan informed the Board of ongoing efforts to update the Illinois School Student Records Act (ISSRA) in collaboration with Representative Didech, noting that it is expected to become a bill for consideration.

ELC Update

Mr. Burns reported that the ELC board met on December 18, 2025, where they finalized the terms of Dr. Clarke's new contract. The Board addressed budget overruns caused by the late addition of staff for students with visual impairments, which had been omitted from the final budget. Following the resignation of the current CSBO, the ELC is currently seeking a new CSBO and exploring interim options to ensure financial stability. The board will meet again this Thursday, January 22.

Guiding Coalition of Interculturalism Update

Ms. Sheridan reported on the January 13, 2026 GCI meeting, which was also attended by Dr. Idrizi and Dr. Pedersen. The session saw a strong turnout and high levels of community engagement, reaffirming the coalition's commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive environment. The discussion centered on two primary focus areas: cultural connections and community outreach. In the area of cultural connections, members reviewed the various cultural nights held across district schools and identified opportunities to bridge engagement gaps at the middle school level. Regarding community outreach, the coalition focused

on utilizing service-based initiatives to bring the community together. The next GCI meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2026.

Thought Exchange Partnership

The next TEP meeting is January 27, 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

None at this time.

Other

Mr. Burns reported that his tour of the school buildings continues this Thursday, January 22, 2026, when he visits Country Meadows.

Administrative Reports

Student Recognition

The Board members recognized the outstanding achievements of the students who were selected to perform at the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) State Festival. The students were presented with certificates of accomplishment by Ms. Sheridan and were also recognized within their schools today, January 20, 2026. Ms. Sheridan noted that this year included a student who achieved 1st place in the Junior Remix competition, a relatively new music production category for ILMEA, and she remarked on the inspiring level of student engagement, highlighting the enthusiasm with which students enjoy additional musical opportunities offered by the schools.

Long Range and 2026-27 Enrollment Projections

Dr. Pedersen presented the 2026-27 enrollment projections, which include both long-range and one-year forecasts. The projections indicate stable enrollment and will serve as the basis for the 2026-27 staffing plan. While minor shifts are anticipated at the building level, new residential developments are expected to have a minimal impact on overall student numbers. The staffing plan will be presented in February.

Priority Items for Consideration and/or Action

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 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).

- 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: Tepper, Rivera, Feygin, Immel, Zarkowsky, and Burns

Nay: None

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 7:39 p.m.

Reconvene in Open Session

The meeting reconvened in open session at 9:34 p.m.

Approval of Closed Session Minutes

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

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

Nay: None

Action Items

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal – Certified Staff

Resignations

A motion was presented by Mr. Rivera 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>
Levitt, Jordyn	Language Development Coach	1.0	Woodlawn	1/28/26

All members present voted Aye; the motion carried.

Employment

None at this time.

Student Services Coordinator 1.0 FTE Position Recommendation

A motion was presented by Ms. Immel and seconded by Mr. Tepper to approve the addition of a 1.0 FTE Student Services Coordinator position beginning with the 2026-27 school year. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal – Educational Support Personnel

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal

A motion was presented by Ms. Immel and seconded by Ms. Zarkowsky 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: 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 Dr. Feygin and seconded by Ms. Zarkowsky to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

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

Education	\$3,836,291.68
Operations	\$527,771.04
Debt Service	\$4,099.00
Transportation	\$743,851.81
IMRF	\$0.00
Social Security	\$0.00
Capital Projects	\$0.00
Working Cash	\$0.00
Tort Immunity	\$0.00
Life Safety	\$0.00
Totals	\$5,112,013.53

Approval of FY27 Per Pupil Building Allocations – to approve the increase in the per student allotment by the 2025 PTELL CPI factor of 2.9%, as presented.

Approval of FY26 Purchase Order Cut-Off Dates – to approve the cut off of all purchase orders for the 2025-26 school year by 4:30 p.m. on March 19, 2026.

Approval of Regular Transportation Bid Award – to approve North America Central School Bus of Joliet, IL, to be awarded a three-year contract beginning July 1, 2026.

Approval of Revised 2026 Meeting Schedule - to approve the Board of Education Meeting Schedule for 2026 as revised.

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

4:80 - Accounting and Audits

6:60 - Curriculum Content

6:260 - Complaints about Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs

7:180 - Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment

7:150 - Agency and Law Enforcement Requests

6:280 - Grading and Promotion

7:70 - Attendance and Truancy

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Discussion Items

Mid-Year Review of District Goal Activity

Ms. Sheridan provided a mid-year update on the District's goal activity, noting that all schools are consistently addressing goal areas. The administrative team continues to monitor progress and remains available for Board inquiries. Key areas of advancement include measurable growth in school improvement plans, the fostering of inclusive practices, and ongoing curriculum reviews. Additionally, the District is collaborating with Stevenson High School and the consortium to align acceleration pathways and student choice. Additionally, the District has modernized staff recognition through the new Staff of Distinction award and conducted an impact study to ensure continued fiscal responsibility. Future efforts will focus on strategic staffing for the upcoming school year, with a final progress update scheduled for June.

Information Items

Spring 2026 External Accountability Assessment Plan

Dr. Idrizi updated the Board on the upcoming spring administration of several state-mandated assessments, including the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR), the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA), ACCESS testing for English language learners, and the 5Essentials Survey. She noted that the proficiency scales for these assessments are undergoing significant changes this year to better align with college and career readiness standards. Furthermore, the Board was informed that the state's entire accountability system will undergo a major restructure beginning in the 2026–27 school year. The District will continue to utilize this assessment data to monitor student progress and evaluate the effectiveness of its various educational programs.

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 December 16, 2025, the District has received 6 (six) FOIA request(s).

Board Comments

The Board discussed FOIA requests, potential absences for future meetings, and reviewed Board Member expectations in negotiations.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Board of Education, a motion was presented by Ms. Zarkowsky and seconded by Ms. Immel 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 January 20, 2026, regular meeting of the Kildeer Countryside Community Consolidated School District 96 Board of Education at 9:56 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for February 3, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Date Minutes Approved: _____

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

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