April 27, 2026

The Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee, Community High School District 99, met at 6:06 p.m. on Monday, April 27, 2026 at North High School in the Community Room.

The following were present: Board Members Ken Dawson and April Finan (6:30 arrival).

Also present were: Gina Ziccardi, Associate Superintendent for Student Learning; Travis McGuire, Assistant Superintendent for Learning Resources; Patrick Fleming and Karen Taylor, Associate Principals; Nicole Walus and Andy Goldberg, PATH Coordinators; and Juli Gniadek, Secretary.

There were 11 visitors. A copy of the Visitor Rosters is attached.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Gina Ziccardi welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Ms. Ziccardi introduced the staff members and Mr. Dawson. Ms. Ziccardi stated that feedback received at these meetings has resulted in changes to some practices and procedures.

2. Pause Ask Think Heal (PATH) Program

Ms. Walus (South High) shared the PATH Program, a 3-day alternative to out-of-school suspensions, has the goal of students learning what went wrong so as not to repeat the behavior and for students to continue working on their academic assignments so they don't fall behind. She explained, in the Program, students are asked to reflect on their actions so they make different choices in the future. Mr. Goldberg (North High) stated PATH has an 80% success rate, with the number of repeat offenders minimal. He shared many students use the PATH room as a safe space and return during Resource, after their 3-day assignment is complete.

Academic Integrity is another behavior that PATH is addressing, according to Ms. Walus. She stated the consequences for violations become progressively worse and are cumulative through all four years. Mr. Goldberg shared there are two modules students must work through who commit Academic Dishonesty; the first module following first offense. He noted less than a handful of students ever need to take the second module.

Parents discussed the responsible use of AI, noting it is used in business and students need to be educated on its proper use. Ms. Walus stated there is a committee working on AI and Dr. Taylor stated there is professional development for teachers planned.

3. Attendance and Cell Phones

Dr. McGuire shared attendance data that included 80% of students have at least one tardy and 77% of students have at least one single period unexcused absence. He stated improved attendance has been the main area of focus this year, noting that seniors have the worst attendance and the first period of the day has the most tardies.

Parents discussed the attendance issues, the need for consequences and parent involvement and offered ideas on how to encourage better attendance, which included making classes more engaging.

Travis McGuire shared the District's new cell phone policy is having a positive impact on the learning environment and there is more engagement and less distractions.

There was discussion around more secure locations to store student cell phones. Dr. McGuire stated, if the State mandates secure cell phone storage, it will likely be an unfunded mandate and districts will be responsible for the cost of the storage units.

4. CONSOLIDATED DISTRICT PLAN

Gina Ziccardi shared the Consolidated District Plan encompasses most grants the District receives. She stated, as part of the District's Local Needs Assessment, graduation rates, ACT scores, chronic absenteeism and grade data were reviewed. Ms. Ziccardi displayed data demonstrating District 99 exceeds the State of Illinois in average ACT scores and ACT's Benchmarks; noting District 99 has the second highest ACT scores of the high school districts in DuPage County. However, a key takeaway, according to Ms. Ziccardi, is that not all groups are performing at the same level and there need to be interventions to help all students. Ms. Ziccardi shared, to that end, key interventions in place are: a full time Spanish speaking liaison; social emotional supports; additional math interventions, such as Math 3 Lab and extended time classes; Strategies for Academic Success; additional EL offerings during the school year and EL English Summer School classes; and, new in 2026-27, a District Multilingual Coordinator.

Parents offered ideas for additional interventions and shared some ways their students struggle.

5. CLOSING REMARKS

Ms. Ziccardi thanked the parents, Board members April Finan and Ken Dawson, and staff for attending and asked that attendees to please respond to the follow-up form that will be emailed to them.

Board Member Ken Dawson thanked the parents for coming to offer their suggestions and input.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at 7:38 p.m.

Don Renner, President

Juli Gniadek, Secretary

Community HIGH SCHOOL District 99

BOARD OF EDUCATION

PARENT-TEACHER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

APRIL 27, 2026

VISITOR ROSTER

NAME

Keri Norris
Jill Espinosa
KEN DAWSON
MAREK DRON
NICOLA ZINGRAF BOLTON
April Finan

091615

Community HIGH SCHOOL District 99

BOARD OF EDUCATION

PARENT-TEACHER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

APRIL 27, 2026

VISITOR ROSTER

NAME

Mindy Knox
Jeff Knox
Elizabeth Shah
Yan Wang

Community HIGH SCHOOL District 99

BOARD OF EDUCATION

PARENT-TEACHER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

APRIL 27, 2026

VISITOR ROSTER

NAME

Dale Pacourek