April 20, 2026

The Board of Education, Community High School District 99, met for its Monthly Business Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 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 no visitors

1. STUDENT RECOGNITION – NORTH AND SOUTH HIGH STUDENTS

Kristyn Campos, Head Trostangs Gymnastics Team Coach, introduced Edith Condon, Lauren Deacy, Emilie Kuchta, Kaelyn Landry, Hannah Larkin, Avery Perrone, Stella Perrone, Caroline Phillip and Heidi Schmidt, who were members of the 3rd Place State Gymnastics Team and Edith Condon, Balance Beam State Champion. Senior members of the Team, Emilie Kuchta, Kaelyn Landry and Lauren Deacy, thanked their coaches and expressed gratitude for the memories they share. Dr. Thiele presented Edith Condon with Proclamations from the Village of Downers Grove, naming April 20, 2026, in her honor; and the Village of Woodridge, naming April 21, 2026, in her honor.

South High DECA Coach Paul Krick introduced Saara Raheja, 3rd Place in State in Buying and Merchandising. Ms. Raheja thanked the advisors and shared she was honored to represent the DECA chapter at South High. Mr. Krick also noted the accomplishments of two students who were unable to attend - Neha Higa, 3rd Place in State in Buying and Merchandising, and Arden Gajula, 4th Place in State in Principles of Business Management and Administration.

Courtney DeMent introduced Katie Wittmer, 4th Place in State, Financial Consulting, and Ryan Enright and Vivian Mitropoulos, 5th Place in State, Entrepreneurship Team Decision Making. Student Board member Ryan Enright shared DECA prepares emerging leaders, provides real world applications and fosters networking and social skills. Dr. DeMent also acknowledged the accomplishments of Brynne Burkhart and Rowan Hurd, 5th Place in State, Integrated Marketing Campaign and Ethan Weiner, 2nd Place in State, Human Resources Series.

John Sipple, North High Cross Country Coach, introduced Philip Cupial, who was named the Gatorade Cross Country Player of the Year for Illinois, and noted Mr. Cupial is the most accomplished North High runner in history. Mr. Cupial stated he was thankful and grateful for the amazing opportunities at North High and it has been an emotional journey.

Allyson Passearelli, North High Cheer Coach, introduced Maya Nicholson who was recognized for being named IHSCCO All-State and shared Ms. Nicholson is a former gymnast who came to cheer. North High Associate Principal for Athletics Dave Rose recognized Campbell Thulin, who was unable to attend, for being named to the Girls IBCA All-State Third Team and Illinois Media 2nd Team. South High Boys Basketball Coach Zach Miller introduced Adam Flowers who was named to the Boys IBCA 4A All-State Third Team. Mr. Flowers thanked his mother, sister and coach Miller. Luke Conley, 16th Place in State in the 200 Freestyle was introduced by Bryan Szweda, South High Swim Coach. Mr. Conley stated Coaches Szweda and Krick were great coaches and thanked his mom and the coaches. Mr. Szweda acknowledged Nicholas Belony, who was unable to attend, for placing 14th in State in Diving.

South High Speech Coach Justin Matkovich introduced Jack Melie, Mustaf Mohajir, Abby Heavrin, Charlotte Clinnin, Carly Bleau, Sofie Cooper-Carrero, Jillian Myers, Zoya Siddiqui, Natalie Gay, and Nate Clinnin, members of the 2nd Place in State Speech Team. In addition to the Team recognition, Mr. Matkovich recognized the individual accomplishments of Charlotte Clinnin, 5th in State in Poetry Reading; Carly Bleau, 5th Place in State in Oratorical Declamation; Sofie Cooper-Carrero, 4th Place in State in Humorous Duet Acting; Jillian Myers, 4th Place in State, Extemporaneous Speaking; Zoya Siddiqui, 4th Place in State in both Impromptu Speaking and Informative Speaking; Natalie Gay, 3rd Place in State in Original Comedy; and Nate Clinnin, 4th Place in State in Humorous Duet Acting, and State Champion in Original Comedy. Dr. Thiele noted, in the last 41 years, the South High Speech Team has taken 1st or 2nd Place 30 times. Hank Thiele presented Nate Clinnin with Proclamations from the Village of Woodridge and the Village of Downers Grove naming April 20, 2026 in his honor. Mr. Clinnin shared that speech can take a group of people and make them a family.

Those in attendance applauded all the students on their many accomplishments.

2. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

South High Student Board member Romina Papavero-Gonzalez shared the focus is on finishing strong in both attendance and academics, even with the end of year excitement and stress. Ryan Enright, North High Student Board member, noted the focus on ownership and accountability, with self-regulation playing an important role. Ms. Popavero-Gonzalez and Mr. Enright mentioned State testing for freshmen, sophomores and juniors; prom; May 1 Decision Day; and that sports are in full swing. Both students commented on how their classmates feel supported during this time.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Dawson moved and Member Courtney seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the March 16, 2026 Monthly Business Meeting; the March 16, 2026 Closed Meeting; and the March 25, 2026 Special Meeting with Action Item.

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

4. RECEPTION OF VISITORS – PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

5. HONEYWELL INVESTMENT GRADE AUDIT UPDATE

Dr. McGuire stated Honeywell has completed their Investment Grade Audit and the total cost of Energy Conservation Measures and Capital and Safety Projects is $13,707,570.00. Energy Conservation Measures, which will be handled by Honeywell, according to Travis McGuire, include LED Lighting and Controls, roof replacements, solar PV and water conservation. He shared the projects D99 will handle include HLS controls, DGN auditorium remediations and the DGN fieldhouse roof replacement.

Ms. Ethridge explained the cost of the work will be paid for by issuing debt certificates, with the payments each year supported by the upgrades and solar revenue, and $200,000 coming from the operating budget. Dr. McGuire reviewed the annual savings from the Energy Conservation Projects and noted the District will also receive $1.7M in one-time grants and rebates. He stated there will be an annual savings audit and if the savings do not meet what Honeywell has projected, Honeywell will make up the difference based on the Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC).

Dr. McGuire stated at this time a third party is reviewing the information provided by Honeywell to confirm the accuracy of the projected cost savings. Next steps in the process, according to Dr. McGuire, assuming the review aligns with Honeywell, consist of having the District's attorney review the contract, the posting of a Public Notice, Board vote on the ESPC and submission of the plan to the Capital Development Board.

6. COPY PAPER BID 2026-2027

Dr. McGuire stated the District is required, by Board policy, to use recycled products where economically feasible and therefore the District solicited copy paper bids for both virgin fiber and recycled paper. The cost of the recycled paper was approximately $77,000, compared to the virgin fiber paper at $66,000, according to Dr. McGuire. The Board discussed the paper bid options and the consensus was to proceed with the recycled paper bid.

7. BULK PURCHASING - CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES 2026-2027

Dr. McGuire stated the District went out to bid for the custodial supplies, there were six bidders, and four bidders were awarded one or more line items for an aggregate amount of just over $53,000.

Dr. Thiele stated this is an Action Item.

8. THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Ethridge reported the District's finances are stable, with 94% of Revenues collected and 71% of Expenses paid out. Interest income and State Aid are projected to come in lower than anticipated and purchased services and insurance benefits claims are higher than anticipated, according to Ms. Ethridge. Jeree Ethridge stated the combined fund balance as of March 31 is $36.1M, about $600,000 less than last year. Ms. Ethridge advised the Board the Insurance Fund borrowed $850,000 from the Education Fund due to higher PPO claims.

9. PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR THE REXNORD FACILITY FOR THE 2025 TAX YEAR

Dr. Thiele stated eight years ago the District entered into an Agreement with Rexnord to abate its property taxes and this year the taxes are abated by 30%. He noted in two years the Agreement ends.

Dr. Thiele stated this is an Action Item. Ms. Ethridge stated the Resolution will be submitted to the County.

10. 2025 TAX RATE RE-ALLOCATION

Ms. Ethridge stated on April 1 the District received the preliminary 2025 tax extension from the DuPage County Clerk. She shared the District's original levy request was for $105M, but was reduced by the Clerk approximately $1.56M, resulting in all capped funds being reduced to 98.5% of the District's original request. Ms. Ethridge stated the Administration met the deadline of April 3 to submit the reallocations and recommends the Board approve the 2025 tax rates.

11. FY26 AUDIT SERVICES

Jeree Ethridge stated the District's current auditor, Miller Cooper, is exiting the governmental audit space and therefore the District needs to transition to a new firm for FY26. She explained Betsy Allen, the District's long time audit partner, has transitioned to Sikich, and the District can maintain continuity by entering a one-year engagement with Sikich. The cost of the FY26 audit will be $49,300, compared to $48,300 last year, which is consistent with current market conditions.

Dr. Thiele stated this is an Action Item.

12. TRANSITION SCHOOL TREASURER SERVICES

Ms. Ethridge reported the Administration reviewed the current use of an external treasurer and are recommending the services provided by the external treasurer be handled internally. She noted, after surveying many districts, that most districts use an internal treasurer. She shared the use of an internal treasurer will save $11,000 annually; work will be streamlined with the implementation of the new human resources and financial software; and the District will continue to have an annual outside audit performed. Jeree Ethridge stated the Administration is recommending ending external treasurer services on June 30, 2026 and transitioning to an internal model on July 1, 2026.

13. STAFF RECEIVING TENURE

Dr. Thiele displayed a list of staff being granted tenure by the State of Illinois, based on the District hiring them for the coming year. Those in attendance applauded the staff who received tenure.

14. WOODRIDGE TIF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA)

Dr. Thiele inquired if the Board had any additional questions regarding the Woodridge TIF, as it had already been discussed at previous meetings. He stated approval of the TIF is an Action Item.

15. 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.

16. 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 - Appointment-Certified; Appointment-Classified; B. Personnel Report - Resignation-Exempt; Resignation-Classified; C. Personnel Report - Termination-Classified; D. March Treasurer's Report and Financial Pages; E. Resolution of Appointment to DuPage Area Occupational Education System Board of Directors; F. Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with District 66 - Data Sharing; G. Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) for Placement of Non-District Students in Transition Program; H. Student Trips; I. Anatomy and Physiology Course Title Change to Anatomy and Physiology Honors - Effective the 2026-2027 School Year; and J. Acceptance of Donation - Downers Grove Roadrunners Inc.

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

Dr. Thiele thanked the Downers Grove Roadrunners Inc. for their generous donation.

17. AWARD OF BID - COPY PAPER - 2026-2027

Member Dawson moved and Member Riske seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the approve the recycled paper bid to Murnane Paper Company in the amount of $77,259.50.

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

18. AWARD OF BIDS - BULK PURCHASING - CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES - 2026-2027

Member Dawson moved and Member Espinoza seconded the motion to award bids for custodial supplies to the noted vendors in the aggregate amount of $53,205.52.

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

19. APPROVAL OF PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR THE REXNORD FACILITY FOR THE 2025 TAX YEAR

Member Espinoza moved and Member Courtney seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the Resolution Authorizing Property Tax Abatement for the Rexnord Facility for the 2025 Tax Year.

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

20. APPROVAL OF FINAL 2025 TAX RATES

Member Casten moved and Member Riske seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the 2025 tax rates, as presented.

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

21. APPROVAL OF FY26 AUDIT SERVICES

Member Riske moved and Member Espinoza seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the 1 year audit service proposal from Sikich in the amount of $49,300.

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

22. APPROVAL TO DISCONTINUE EXTERNAL TREASURER SERVICES - EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2026

Member Dawson moved and Member Espinoza seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the termination of the external school treasurer services effective June 30, 2026, and support the establishment of an internal school treasurer function beginning July 1, 2026.

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

23. APPROVAL OF WOODRIDGE TIF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA)

Member Finan moved and Member Courtney seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Woodridge, Woodridge Tax 75th Street Corridor Tax Increment Financing District, and the Taxing Districts.

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

24. OLD BUSINESS – SECOND READING AND APPROVAL OF POLICIES

Member Espinoza moved and Member Dawson seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the policies as presented.

- 2.120, Board Member Development
- 2.140, Communications to and From the Board
- 2.150, Committees
- 2.270, Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited
- 4.10, Fiscal and Business Management
- 4.30, Revenue and Investments
- 4.80, Accounting and Audits
- 4.150, Facility Management and Building Programs
- 5.10, Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment
- 5.50, Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace, E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition
- 5.90, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

- 5.100, Staff Development Program
- 5.200, Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal
- 5.280, Duties and Qualifications
- 5.300, Schedules and Employment Year
- 6.20, School Year Calendar and Day
- 6.40, Curriculum Development
- 6.60, Curriculum Content
- 6.160, English Learners
- 6.270, Counseling and Student Support Services Program
- 6.300, Graduation Requirements
- 6.310, High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students
- 6.315, High School Credit for Students in Grades 7 or 8
- 7.70, Attendance and Truancy
- 7.150, Agency and Law Enforcement Requests
- 7.180, Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment
- 7.190, Student Behavior
- 7.290, Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention
- 7.315, Restrictions on Publications; High Schools
- 7.340, Student Records
- 8.30, Visitors to and Conduct on School Property

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

25. NEW BUSINESS

None.

26. RECEPTION OF VISITORS – PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

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

Member Casten reported the Federal Committee met on March 31 and the federal priorities are to make changes to legislation to increase funding.

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

Dr. Thiele reported SASED is focused on facilities, with the possibility of moving from renting properties to purchasing them and paying a mortgage.

29. REPORT ON DISTRICT 99 EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Member Finan reported the Foundation is restructuring internally and they are moving to bi-monthly meetings.

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

Member Dawson reported the cell phone ban bill is on Governor Pritzker's desk. Dr. Thiele stated our current cell phone policy will be grandfathered in through 2031.

31. REPORT ON DOWNERS GROVE VILLAGE COUNCIL

No report.

32. BOARD PRESIDENT REQUEST

President Renner asked that Board members advise him regarding whether they want to change or continue with their current Committee assignments.

33. UPCOMING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

President Renner announced the following meeting dates:

May 4, 2026	Workshop Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – ASC
May 18, 2026	Monthly Business Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – ASC

34. CLOSED SESSION

Member Dawson moved and Member Espinoza 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).

C. **OMA Exception (11) Litigation:** 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).

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 stated the Board will be taking Action on the items noted in the Agenda when it comes out of Closed Session.

The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 8:07 p.m.

35. RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION

The meeting was reconvened in Open Session with the following members of the Board of Education in attendance: 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; Jeff Bergholtz, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Jeree Ethridge, CSBO; and Juli Gniadek, Secretary.

36. ACTION ITEM - APPROVAL OF RELEASE AND SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Member Riske moved and Member Casten seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the Release and Settlement Agreement to resolve pending litigation in the matter of Doe v. Community High School District 99.

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

37. ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT

Member Espinoza moved and Member Courtney seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the Resignation Agreement - Tenured Teacher.

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

38. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business or discussion, Member Dawson moved and Member Espinoza 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 9:29 p.m.

Don Renner, President

Juli Gniadek, Secretary