

**KILDEER COUNTRYSIDE
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 96**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes for April 7, 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, José Rivera, Cynthia Zarkowsky, and Mike Burns

Remote: None

Late: None

Absent: None

Administrators in Attendance: Katie Sheridan, Jon Hitcho, Jane Pedersen, Ninja Idrizi, and Jennifer Dunne

Welcome to Visitors

Mr. 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. Mr. Burns asked if anyone wished to address the Board. No one responded.

Administrative Reports

Student Recognition

The Board members recognized the outstanding achievements of our conference champions and state qualifiers in Wrestling. The students were presented with certificates of accomplishment by Ms. Sheridan and were also recognized within their schools today, April 2, 2026. Ms. Sheridan shared highlights from her discussions with the students being recognized regarding their successes, specifically how they reach their goals through practice and good habits, and how they, as well as coaches and staff, work hard to create a positive environment filled with support for one another.

Empowering Learners: Expanding Student Choice and Access to Enrichment, Extension, and Acceleration

Dr. Idrizi presented an overview of the district's strategic efforts to enhance student learning experiences by expanding opportunities for choice, enrichment, extension, and acceleration. This initiative directly aligns with Board Goal 1, Objective C, and originated from a commitment to refining the educational journey for students across all grade levels. This work involves a comprehensive analysis of existing frameworks to identify areas for growth and innovation. These findings are being used to inform a multi-year action plan designed to broaden student access to rigorous and personalized learning pathways over the coming years.

Priority Items for Consideration and/or Action

Closed Session

Adjourn to Closed Session

A motion was presented by Ms. Immel and seconded by Mr. Rivera to adjourn to closed session for the purpose of:

- 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 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)
- The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (10)

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 7:37 p.m.

Reconvene in Open Session

The meeting reconvened in open session at 8:43 p.m.

Approval of Closed Session Minutes

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

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

Nay: None

Action Items

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal – Certified Staff

Resignations

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

Name	Position	FTE	School	Eff. Date
Bugay, Iryna	1st Grade Teacher	1.0	Country Meadows	06/02/26
Pietrick, Gillian	Special Ed Teacher	1.0	Ivy Hall	06/02/26
Smith, Amy	Special Ed Teacher	1.0	Ivy Hall	06/02/26
Green, Tammy	Special Ed Teacher	1.0	Ivy Hall	06/02/26
Madrzyk, Agnieszka	Special Ed Teacher	1.0	Twin Groves	06/02/26
Schneider, Erin	Literacy Specialist	1.0	Kildeer	06/02/26

All members present voted Aye; the motion carried.

Employment

None at this time.

Leave of Absence Request - Unpaid

A motion was presented by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Ms. Manka to approve a leave of absence, unpaid, under Section 8.6 of the KEA contract, from Breanna Hill, a school psychologist at Woodlawn Middle School, for the 2026-27 school year. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Leave of Absence Request - Unpaid

A motion was presented by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Mr. Tepper to approve a leave of absence, unpaid, under Section 8.6 of the KEA contract, from Carly Hyman, an instructional coach at Country Meadows Elementary School, for the 2026-27 school year. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Additional Sick Leave Request

A motion was presented by Dr. Feygin and seconded by Mr. Tepper to approve the request for 17 sick days to a certified staff member at Woodlawn Middle School to cover anticipated absences due to a serious medical condition requiring ongoing treatment. On a roll call vote the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal – Educational Support Personnel

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal

A motion was presented by Ms. Zarkowsky and seconded by Ms. Immel 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: Zarkowsky, Tepper, Immel, Feygin, Manka, Rivera, and Burns

Nay: None

Discussion Items

Spanish Resource Adoption

Teaching and Learning presented a proposal to enhance the district's Spanish program through the adoption of a new instructional resource for grades 6 through 8. Following a year-long evaluation of multiple materials and a formal pilot program, the administration recommended a two-pronged approach centered on the resource Auténtico. This selection was identified as the most developmentally appropriate tool to support the Spanish I curriculum while ensuring vertical alignment with the instructional models utilized at Stevenson High School. Grounded in national language standards, this adoption aims to strengthen student communication skills and reflects extensive feedback gathered from both teachers and students during the review process. The Board will consider this proposal for formal approval at the next scheduled meeting.

Information Items

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

The annual KESPA/Board meeting will be 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.

TEP and GCI Committee Dates for 2026-27 SY

The board was presented with the dates for TEP and GCI meetings for the 2026-27 school year.

Board Comments

The Board received updates on the ELC Board meeting and on legislative matters.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Board of Education, a motion was presented by Mr. Tepper and seconded by Mr. Rivera to adjourn the meeting. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Mr. Burns adjourned the April 7, 2026, regular meeting of the Kildeer Countryside Community Consolidated School District 96 Board of Education at 9:13 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for April 21, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Date Minutes Approved: _____

President, Board of Education

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Secretary, Board of Education