

**KILDEER COUNTRYSIDE
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 96**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes for April 21, 2026**

Call To Order

Mr. Burns called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Staff Lounge of Ivy Hall School.

Roll Call

Present: Marc Tepper, Erika Immel, Amy Feygin, Dina Manka, José Rivera, and Mike Burns
Remote: None
Late: None
Absent: Cynthia Zarkowsky
Administrators in Attendance: Katie Sheridan, Jon Hitcho, Jane Pedersen, Ninja Idrizi, and Jennifer Dunne

KESPA/Board of Education Annual Meeting (Closed Session)

With no objection from Board members, Mr. Burns moved this portion of the meeting to 5:30 p.m. A motion was presented by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Mr. Tepper to adjourn to closed session for the purpose of:

- 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)

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

The Board moved into closed session at 5:35 p.m. This item was discussed in closed session and no action was taken.

Reconvene in Open Session

The Board reconvened in open session at 5:52 p.m. Mr. Burns recessed the meeting until 7:00 p.m.

Call To Order

Mr. Burns called the meeting back to order at 7:06 p.m. in the Educational Development Center of Ivy Hall School.

Roll Call

Present: Marc Tepper, Erika Immel, Amy Feygin, Dina Manka, José Rivera, and Mike Burns
Remote: None
Late: None
Absent: 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.

Board of Education Distinction Awards Recognition

Ms. Sheridan provided a brief overview of the Board of Education Distinction Award, which is presented to one student from each school in the district. This award honors students who exemplify excellence in academic achievement and effort, social-emotional growth, positive behavior, and leadership. Each school principal introduced their selected student and shared a short statement highlighting the reasons behind their nomination. The following students were recognized with this distinction:

Sloane W.	Woodlawn Middle School
Tia Anshi S.	Twin Groves Middle School
Skanda N.	Prairie Elementary School
Lindley M.	Kildeer Countryside Elementary School
Patrick R.	Ivy Hall Elementary School
Haset M.	Country Meadows Elementary School
Jack K.	Willow Grove Early Learning Center

Public Comment

Mr. Burns asked if anyone wished to address the Board. One person responded:

Sue Bergeson

Approval of Minutes

March 2026

A motion was presented by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Ms. Manka to approve the minutes of March 10, 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 March 2026 appropriately on file in the business office: Treasurer's Report, Budget Report, and Activity Report.

Board Reports

Finance Committee

Mr. Rivera reported that the Finance Committee met to review routine agenda items. There are no other resolutions or recommendations from the finance committee at this time.

Policy Committee

Ms. Manka reported that the Policy Committee reviewed 19 policies, all requiring minor language changes, style updates, or updated legal references. She also highlighted two policies listed for approval on the Consent Agenda.

Legislative Update

Mr. Tepper provided an update on several key items following the legislative deadline for the third reading of bills. The report highlighted state-level discussions regarding student cell phone use in schools, new procedural timelines for 504 plans under HB 4068, and thanked all board members who reached out to their representatives regarding SB 2914. It was noted that HB 4379 regarding adult changing stations is not expected to affect the district's current practices. Additionally, the Board discussed the ongoing ISBE accountability system redesign and received an update on the progress of the IASB member-driven strategic plan.

Ms. Sheridan shared that the proposed unemployment insurance changes did not advance at this time. She addressed the continued underfunding of mandated categorical reimbursements (MCATs) and the potential for HB 2564 to provide flexibility regarding pension contribution caps for staff overload compensation.

ELC Update

Mr. Burns reported that the ELC Board met last Thursday to address routine operational matters, including standard hiring and resignations. Additionally, the board approved a 5-year retirement contract for Superintendent Clarke through 2031 and a contract for a director of business and operations, who will start on July 1. The board also held a finance committee meeting, which focused on the budget for the upcoming school year.

Guiding Coalition of Interculturalism Update

The next GCI meeting is April 28, 2026.

Thought Exchange Partnership

The next TEP meeting is May 5, 2026.

Partnership with KEA Update

Mr. Tepper reported on the recent meeting between the Board and the Kildeer Education Association (KEA), noting that the collaborative dialogue was productive and focused on strengthening the professional partnership. Dr. Feygin added that the meeting was very positive, reflecting a strong, cooperative working relationship dedicated to the continued success of the district.

Board Articulation Council

None at this time.

Space/Facilities/Innovation Committee

None at this time.

Other

Board members shared updates regarding recent district events and professional engagements. Ms. Immel highlighted the KESPA dinner, which provided an opportunity to recognize mutual work and discuss future initiatives. Mr. Rivera reported on the Lake Division meeting, where the focus centered on the role of artificial intelligence in education, IASB leadership priorities, and legislative advocacy updates. During the division meeting, Mr. Burns shared that Mr. Tepper was recognized as a legacy board leader and announced that KCSD96 was one of nine districts to receive the School Board Governance Recognition award.

Ms. Manka read a letter of appreciation from Mr. Keenon for the community's support during a personal loss. Additionally, Mr. Burns shared highlights from recent school visits, noting the active use of the Collaboratory at Twin Groves and his experience reading to and visiting with students across multiple grade levels at Kildeer.

Administrative Reports

While there were no official administrative reports given, Ms. Sheridan provided an update on next month's report. While originally scheduled for an update on the district's curricular review cycle, the administration noted that the board has already received several updates on this process this school year. Consequently, a proposal was made to shift the next meeting's COW topic to Board Goal 1, Objective A, specifically focusing on inclusive practices.

Priority Items for Consideration and/or Action

2027-28 Academic Calendar

Dr. Idrizi presented feedback on the 2027-28 academic calendar options and his recommendations for approval. A motion was presented by Dr. Feygin and seconded by Ms. Manka to approve the 2027-28 academic calendar as presented. All members present voted Aye; the motion carried.

Action to Adopt Resolution directing the Regional Superintendent of Schools for The County of Lake, Illinois, to certify to the County Clerk of said County the question of imposing a retailers' occupation tax and a service occupation tax to be used exclusively for school facility purposes, school resource officers, and mental health professionals, for submission to the electors of said County at the general election to be held on the 3rd day of November, 2026

The President announced that the Board of Education would consider the adoption of a resolution directing the Regional Superintendent of Schools for The County of Lake, Illinois, to certify to the County Clerk of said County the question of imposing a retailers' occupation tax and a service occupation tax at a rate of 1% to provide revenue to be used exclusively for school facility purposes, school resource officers, and mental health professionals, for submission to the electors of said County at the general election to be held on the 3rd day of November, 2026.

Whereupon President Burns presented, and the Secretary read by title a resolution as follows, a copy of which was provided to each member of the Board of Education prior to said meeting and to everyone in attendance at said meeting who requested a copy.

A motion was made by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Ms. Manka to approve the resolution as presented. After a full discussion thereof, the President directed that the roll be called for a vote upon the motion to adopt said resolution. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Whereupon the President declared the motion carried and said resolution adopted, approved and signed the same in open meeting and directed the Secretary to record the same in the records of the Board of Education of Kildeer Countryside Community Consolidated District 96, which was done.

Closed Session

Adjourn to Closed Session

A motion was presented by Mr. Tepper 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)

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 8:21 p.m.

Reconvene in Open Session

The meeting reconvened in open session at 8:45 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, Rivera, Tepper, and Burns

Nay: None

Action Items

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal – Certified Staff

Resignations

None at this time.

Employment

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

Name	Position	FTE	School	Eff. Date
Cromie, Adriana	TASOL Teacher	1.0	Woodlawn	8/10/26

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Ivy Hall Assistant Principal Approval

A motion was presented by Ms. Manka and seconded by Mr. Rivera to approve the contract for Elizabeth Freibrun to become the next assistant principal of Ivy Hall Elementary School.

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Approval of Administrator Contracts

A motion was presented by Ms. Manka and seconded by Mr. Rivera to approve the 2026-27 school year contracts of the following administrators, as directed by the Board of Education:

Zelek, Michelle	Aska Lempke
Miranda, Samuel	Lauren Fix
Pedersen, Jane	Rachel Seiger
Diehl, Lindsey	Colleen Hickey
Hanrahan, Robert	Ania Kopacz
Idrizi, Ninja	Greg Bays
Keenon, Jason	
Bird, Meghan	
Dunne, Jennifer	
O'Connor, Elizabeth	

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: Tepper

Leave of Absence Request - Unpaid

A motion was presented by Ms. Immel and seconded by Mr. Tepper to approve a leave of absence, unpaid, under Section 8.6 of the KEA contract, from Kristen Matheson, a 3rd grade teacher at Ivy Hall Elementary School, for the 2026-27 school year. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with the KEA

A motion was presented by Dr. Feygin and seconded by Ms. Immel to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Kildeer Education Association (KEA) as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion carried.

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

Nay: None

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal – Educational Support Personnel

Non-reemployment and Reduction of Assignment – Educational Support Personnel

A motion was presented by Mr. Tepper and seconded by Dr. Feygin to approve the resolution for the honorable non-reemployment of the following full time educational support personnel:

Monika Kopec
Parmumita Raisinghani

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

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal

A motion was presented by Mr. Teppar 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: Teppar, Immel, Feygin, Manka, Rivera, and Burns
Nay: None

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 Mr. Rivera and seconded by Ms. Manka to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

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

Education	\$3,765,997.30
Operations	\$620,034.87
Debt Service	\$4,099.00
Transportation	\$726,546.58
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	\$5,116,677.75

Approval of the ISBE Consolidated District Plan for Grant Applications – to approve the Consolidated District Plan (CDP) which is submitted to the Illinois State Board of Education.

Approval of Resolution Declaring Official Last Day of School - to declare June 2, 2026 the last half-day of school for the 2025-26 school year.

Approval of the Concussion Oversight Committee - to approve the Concussion Oversight Committee for the 2026-27 school year.

Approval of Spanish Resource Adoption - to approve the following Spanish resource in the following amount for the 2026-27 school year:

Title: Auténtico
Publisher: Savvas Learning Company
Price: \$23,310.50

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

7:220 - Bus Conduct
7:280 - Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease

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

Discussion Items

Literacy Resource Adoption

The Department of Teaching and Learning recommended the adoption of Amplify ELA 2nd Edition as the district's literacy resource for 6th grade, beginning with the 2026–27 school year. This recommendation follows a comprehensive two-year curriculum review process and is grounded in a strong alignment with the Science of Reading, district literacy priorities, and the specific needs of the Dual Language program. This selection ensures a cohesive transition for students by aligning middle school instructional practices with the district's elementary literacy framework. Furthermore, the district has negotiated a ten-year agreement for this resource, providing long-term programmatic stability and predictable costs. The proposal is currently on public review and will be presented for formal Board approval at the next meeting.

Information Items

Faculty Retirement and Recognition Celebration – May 22, 2026

The faculty retirement and recognition celebration will be held on Friday, May 22, 2026, at the Woodlawn/Country Meadows campus in connection with the half-day Teacher Institute. The board will be providing lunch, with faculty recognition and celebration. Board members are invited to attend, and we will keep you updated on the plans.

Graduation Update – May 26, 2026

Graduation will take place in the Sports Center at Stevenson High School on May 26, 2026. Twin Groves will graduate at 5:30 p.m., and Woodlawn at 8:00 p.m. Board members will meet in room 3000 at 7:00 p.m. for a light dinner and short meeting.

FOIA Requests

Since March 10, 2026, the District has received 6 (six) FOIA request(s).

Board Comments

The board received an update on the superintendent evaluation process and discussed the student of distinction award reception. Additionally, the board discussed the COSSBA convention.

Adjournment

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

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

Nay: None

Mr. Burns adjourned the April 21, 2026, regular meeting of the Kildeer Countryside Community Consolidated School District 96 Board of Education at 8:58 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for May 12, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Date Minutes Approved: _____

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

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