

**KILDEER COUNTRYSIDE
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 96**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes for May 12, 2026**

Call To Order

Mr. Burns called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Educational Development Center of Ivy Hall School.

Roll Call

Present:	Marc Tepper, Erika Immel, Amy Feygin, Dina Manka, Cynthia Zarkowsky, and Mike Burns
Remote:	None
Late:	None
Absent:	José Rivera
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. Mr. Burns led the Pledge of Allegiance. President Burns asked if anyone wished to address the Board. No one responded.

Staff Recognition

Mr. Burns asked if there were any objections to moving this agenda item to the beginning of the meeting. There were none. The Board recognized a group of 7 outstanding KCSD96 staff members across our district who were nominated by students, staff, administrators, and/or alumni and chosen to receive our first-ever Staff of Distinction Awards (for Trimester 3). Dr. Jane Pedersen, school administrators, and Lindsey Diehl surprised each recipient with a gift at their school in front of students and/or colleagues prior to our meeting.

Mary Margaret Kahanic, Country Meadows Elementary School
Leslie Levin, Ivy Hall Elementary School
Ida Marquez, Kildeer Countryside Elementary School
Michele Demas, Prairie Elementary School
Jen Didech, Twin Groves Middle School
Rachel Melamed, Willow Grove Early Learning Center
Jen Zbylut, Woodlawn Middle School
Scott Eichaker, District

Approval of Minutes

April 2026

A motion was presented by Dr. Feygin and seconded by Ms. Immel to approve the minutes of April 7, 2026 and April 21, 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 April 2026 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 and highlighted two standard, recurring items slated for approval on the evening's consent agenda. The first item authorizes the release of purchase orders for the 2026-27 fiscal year. The second item concerns the annual reappointment of the School Treasurer, who is designated as the sole lawful custodian of district funds in accordance with statutory requirements. Additionally, the Committee reviewed the district's discretionary budget.

Policy Committee

Ms. Zarkowsky reported that the Policy Committee reviewed 7 policies to ensure alignment with current legal standards and operational best practices. Policy 6:170 underwent substantive content revisions to bring the district into full compliance with updated Title I regulations, and minor language adjustments were made to Policies 7:300 and 8:90. Furthermore, as part of the district's standard five-year cyclical review process, Policies 7:130 and 7:325 were evaluated and maintained with no changes.

Legislative Update

Mr. Tepper reported a busy week at the Capitol ahead of the scheduled May 31 adjournment. Key priorities under ongoing deliberation include the state budget and a major projects bill. Mr. Tepper detailed several notable pieces of legislation, including Senate Bill 2914, regarding the notice-to-remedy process, which recently advanced out of the House, and Senate Bill 3735, which has been split into two separate initiatives. He also noted the resurgence of previously stalled legislation concerning radon testing. Additionally, the Board took a moment to recognize Director of Facilities and Transportation Sam Miranda in celebration of Facility Manager Day. Ms. Sheridan concluded the report by sharing an ED-RED legislative summary, highlighting twenty-nine specific bills currently being monitored for their potential impact on district operations.

ELC Update

Mr. Burns reported that the ELC Board will meet this upcoming Thursday.

Guiding Coalition of Interculturalism Update

Ms. Manka reported that GCI convened for its final meeting of the current school year. Members reflected on the group's overall impact and achievements over the past several months, celebrating progress made toward district-wide inclusivity goals. The meeting also featured updates from various subcommittees, which emphasized a desire for more hands-on, actionable initiatives moving forward. The meeting concluded with strategic planning to sustain momentum and continue its efforts into the next school year.

Thought Exchange Partnership

Dr. Idrizi reported that TEP met on May 5, during which members reviewed the student handbook. The discussion focused primarily on the discipline section, utilizing scenario-based examples to evaluate student safety, privacy protections, and the district's philosophy of using disciplinary actions as proactive

teaching opportunities. They also identified potential topics for next year's agendas and outlined future areas of need to ensure the handbook remains current and responsive to the community.

Partnership with KEA Update

The Partnership Committee will meet in October of 2026.

Board Articulation Council

None at this time.

Space/Facilities/Innovation Committee

None at this time.

Other

Mr. Tepper shared that the speakers for the upcoming IASB/IASA/IASBO Joint Annual Conference (JAC) have been officially announced, and noted the potential opportunity for District 96 to lead a presentation during the conference. Additionally, Ms. Manka shared a thank-you note received from Ivy Hall Elementary School Principal Mike Senatore, expressing appreciation to the Board.

Administrative Reports

Student Recognition

The Board members recognized the outstanding achievements of our students who placed in the top 5 at the SHS Math Competition. The students were presented with certificates of accomplishment by Ms. Sheridan and were also recognized within their schools on Friday, May 8, 2026. Ms. Sheridan noted that the students shared that the Math Club provided guidance and a foundation for them to pursue this competitive opportunity, and how much they value challenging themselves and participating in enriching activities beyond the traditional school day.

Elevating Access and Inclusion - Supportive School Environment

Dr. Idrizi and Mrs. Dunne presented an update regarding the progress of Board Goal 1, Objective A, Action 2, focusing on the evaluation and refinement of the district's Tier 1 Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). The presentation detailed the efforts of the comprehensive steering committee and the results of the districtwide audit conducted throughout the spring of 2026, which analyzed student voice data and classroom climate strategies. Furthermore, a district-wide recommendation was provided outlining enhanced, scalable structures for student supportive environments and a proposed implementation plan for the 2026–2027 school year.

Priority Items for Consideration and/or Action

School Resource Officer MOU with the Village of Buffalo Grove

Ms. Sheridan presented an updated memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Village of Buffalo Grove. This MOU updates the district's agreement with the Village to align with Senate Bill 1519 (Public Act 104-0430). A motion was presented by Ms. Manka and seconded by Ms. Zarkowsky to approve the MOU as presented.

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Closed Session

Adjourn to Closed Session

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

Nay: None

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 8:24 p.m.

Reconvene in Open Session

The meeting reconvened in open session at 8:51 p.m.

Approval of Closed Session Minutes

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

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

Nay: None

Action Items

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal – Certified Staff

Resignations

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

Name	Position	FTE	School	Eff. Date
Brodeur, Brianna	Speech Language Pathologist	1.0	Willow Grove	06/30/26
Roberson, Paige	1st Grade Teacher	1.0	Country Meadows	06/02/26
Boyd, Mathew	PE Teacher	1.0	Ivy Hall	06/02/26
Crum, Lindsey	Speech Language Pathologist	1.0	Country Meadows	06/02/26

All members present voted Aye; the motion carried.

Employment

A motion was presented by Ms. Zarkowsky 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
Hotard, Greg	Special Education Teacher	1.0	Twin Goves	08/10/26
Beuckman, Jennifer	Interventionist	1.0	Ivy Hall	08/10/26
Lorentzen, Emma	Speech Language Pathologist	1.0	Willow Grove	08/10/26
Tebben, Jenna	Speech Language Pathologist	1.0	Willow Grove	08/10/26
Dimayuga, Hanna	Special Education Teacher	1.0	Willow Grove	08/10/26
Buckley, Kaitlyn	PE Teacher	1.0	Ivy Hall	08/10/26

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Annuity Contribution Consideration

A motion was presented by Mr. Tepper and seconded by Dr. Feygin to approve an administrator annuity contribution as presented.

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal – Educational Support Personnel

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal

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

Authorization to Release 2026-27 Purchase Orders - to recommend that the approved purchase requisitions for the 2026-27 school year be released.

Approval of Treasurer Appointment FY27 - to approve appointing Jonathan G. Hitcho, Treasurer, for the FY 2027 fiscal year.

Approval of Literacy Resource Adoption - to approve the following literacy resource for 6th grade in the following amount for the 2026-27 school year:

Title: Amplify ELA 2nd Edition
Publisher: Amplify
Price: \$118,303.34

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

4:30 - Revenue and Investments
2:200 - Types of Board of Education Meetings
2:220 - Board of Education Meeting Procedure
2:250 - Access to District Public Records
2:260 - Uniform Grievance Procedure
4:165 - Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors
5:30 - Hiring Process and Criteria
5:50 - Drug-and-Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition
5:250 - Leaves of Absence
5:330 - Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves
6:65 - Student Social and Emotional Development
6:100 - Using Animals in the Educational Program
6:145 - Migrant Students
7:20 - Harassment of Students Prohibited
7:50 - School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools
7:100 - Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students
7:185 - Teen Dating Violence Prohibited
7:240 - Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities
7:260 - Exemption from Physical Education

On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Discussion Items - None at this time.

Information Items

2026-27 Summer Reading List

Dr. Idrizi presented the 2026-27 K-8 Summer Reading Lists, developed in collaboration with English/Language Arts staff, instructional coaches, and building principals. She highlighted that the district will be shifting slightly and is partnering with local libraries to provide resources regardless of where students live.

Curriculum Review Cycle Update

The Department of Teaching and Learning provided an update on the Curriculum Review Cycle for the current academic year associated with Board Goal 1, Objective B. She reviewed the 4 phases of the review

cycle and how the department is looking forward to facilitating conversations within job-alikes during the upcoming school year about which phases have been completed.

Faculty Retirement and Recognition Celebration – May 22, 2026

Information was provided regarding the upcoming faculty retirement and recognition celebration scheduled for Friday, May 22, 2026, at the Woodlawn/Country Meadows campus. The event, held in conjunction with the half-day school improvement, will include a Board-sponsored lunch to honor staff achievements and retirees. Board members were invited to participate.

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.

Institute Day Feedback – March 17, 2026

Dr. Idrizi provided a summary of feedback collected from staff members who participated in the March 17 Institute Day. Elementary school-certified staff focused on implementing the Amplify resource, with specialized grade-level trainers. Middle school staff engaged in advanced training centered on Google Classroom integration, while specialists and support staff participated in tailored professional learning sessions featuring guest speakers. While technical challenges within the Frontline platform temporarily delayed the aggregation of formal survey data, administrative feedback indicated that the programming was highly collaborative and well-received across the district.

ED-RED/ROE Mini-Summit – June 11, 2026

Information was shared regarding a joint mini-summit hosted by Ed-Red and the Lake County ROE titled “From Purpose to Practice: Leadership, Growth and Advocacy in Action,” scheduled for June 11, 2026. Any board members who would like to attend should let Ms. McGillian know.

FOIA Requests

Since April 21, 2026, the District has received 7 (seven) FOIA request(s).

Board Comments

Board members received an update about the JAC conference and an update on the upcoming BOE retreat.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Board of Education, a motion was presented by Ms. Zarkowsky and seconded by Dr. Feygin to adjourn the meeting. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:

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

Nay: None

Mr. Burns adjourned the May 12, 2026, regular meeting of the Kildeer Countryside Community Consolidated School District 96 Board of Education at 9:02 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for May 26, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Date Minutes Approved: _____

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

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