# DISTRICT 99
# MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
# August 17, 2026, 6:30 PM

## Call to Order and Roll Call

The Board of Education, Community High School District 99, met for its Monthly Business Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 17, 2026, at the Administrative Service Center.

- Board Members Present: Don Renner, President; Kara Casten, Vice President; and Members Christopher Espinoza, Ken Dawson, Katie Courtney, April Finan, and Michael Riske
- Also present: Dr. Hank Thiele, Superintendent; Scott Wuggazer, Associate Superintendent for Student Services; Dr. Kate Morris, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning; Dr. Amada Brode-Rico, Assistant Superintendent for Learning Resources; Jeree Ethridge, Chief School Business Official; Olivia Tan and Meghan Walker, Student Board Representatives; and Ivy Scherman, Board Secretary
- Visitors: There were six visitors. A copy of the visitor log is attached.

## Approval of Minutes

**Motion:** Christopher Espinoza moved and April Finan seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of July 27, 2026, Monthly Business Meeting.

**Vote:** **Ayes**: Kara Casten, Katie Courtney, Ken Dawson, Christopher Espinoza, April Finan, Michael Riske and Don Renner
**Nays:** None

**Action:** The President declared the motion carried.

## Student Perspectives Report

Olivia Tan (DG North) and Megan Walker (DG South) shared updates regarding the first days of school. They highlighted the welcoming start to the new school year, the implementation of stricter cell phone usage, school scanning policies, pass systems, bus schedules, and the college planning common app workshop.

## Recommendations and Report of Superintendent

- Strategic Plan Indicators: Course Grades & Support Interventions
  - ❖ Jake Giblin and Keith Palz presented an update on the District's academic goals, noting upward trends in students earning grades of C or better. The report detailed academic resource centers, teacher office hours, and structured early intervention strategies designed to assist students who have D or F grades.

- ❖ Scott Wuggazer presented data on district interventions, showing that over 90% of students received support during the 2025-26 school year. The report also indicated that 100% of students have an active four-year plan. Scott detailed the PaCE framework curriculum, the School Links planning platform, efforts to establish a master course code schedule to align DG North and DG South high schools, and results from the 2025 Senior Survey.

- End of Year Financial Report
  Jeree Ethridge presented the end-of-year financial report for the 2025-26 fiscal year, highlighting prior year financial pressures including prorated state transportation reimbursements, state grant funding delays, TIF payment delays, increased insurance plan costs, additional capital repairs, and an increase in unpaid school fees. The year ended in the negative by about $200K (a margin of about 0.15%) below what was forecasted.

- 2026-2027 Tentative Budget
  Jeree Ethridge and Dr. Hank Thiele presented the tentative budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year. The proposed budget outlines a conservative fiscal approach, projecting $123.6 million in revenues and $123.7 million in expenditures. After projected transfer, the District's total operating fund balance is projected to decrease by approximately $1.2 million.

- 2026-2027 Concussion Oversight Team
  Dr. Hank Thiele stated the Concussion Oversight Team is presented to and approved by the Board annually.

- 2026-2027 Crisis-De-escalation and Physical Management Oversight Team
  Dr. Hank Thiele stated the Crisis-De-escalation and Physical Management Oversight Team is presented to and approved by the Board annually.

- Grant Allocations Report
  Dr. Kate Morris presented the annual federal grant allocations report (funding decreases occurred in Title I, Title IA, Title IVA, and CTEI, while Title III LIEP language instruction funding increased by nearly $6,000). Zero loss of student services or programming was achieved through targeted efficiency measures, restructured professional development plans and streamlined supply budgets.

- District Goals Update
  Dr. Hank Thiele advised the Board that the District Goals have been posted on the website.

- Facilities Summer Projects Update
  Dr. Amanda Brode-Rico reported on the status of summer facilities projects, confirming that all classrooms were fully accessible for the first day of school. Completed items include asbestos removal and abatement, intercom upgrades, LED lighting installations at T99 and ASC, field house flooring at North and South, window installation at North, and HVAC work at North. Ongoing work includes security camera transitions, tennis court work at South, pool repairs at North and South, and boiler plant upgrades. Work continuing through the fall includes door replacements at North and South, roof replacements in preparation for solar panel installation, bleacher adjustments at North, pool repairs at South, water conservation upgrades, and handrail replacements.

- Tentative Superintendent Leadership Events 2026-2027
  Dr Hank Thiele presented the leadership events he will be attending for 2026-2027 school year.

- Freedom of Information Requests
  Dr. Hank Thiele reported the District received and responded to Freedom of Information Act requests and they are posted on the District's website.

**Consent Agenda**

**Motion:** Christopher Espinoza moved and Ken Dawson seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, which includes: A. Personnel Report - Appointment-Classified, Transfer of Position-Classified, Contract Adjustment-Certified; B. Personnel Report - Resignations-Classified; C. June Treasurer's Report and July Financial Pages; D. 2026-2027 Concussion Oversight Team; and E. 2026-2027 Crisis-De-escalation and Physical Management Oversight Team.

**Vote:** **Ayes**: Kara Casten, Katie Courtney, Ken Dawson, Christopher Espinoza, April Finan, Michael Riske and Don Renner
**Nays:** None

**Action:** The President declared the motion carried.

**Recommendations for Action**

**Motion:** Ken Dawson moved and Mike Riske seconded the motion for the Board of Education to accept the Tentative Budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year and establish 6:30 p.m., September 21, 2026, for the Public Hearing to be held at the Administrative Service Center, 6301 Springside Ave., Downers Grove, Illinois.

**Vote:** **Ayes**: Kara Casten, Katie Courtney, Ken Dawson, Christopher Espinoza, April Finan, Michael Riske and Don Renner
**Nays:** None

**Action:** The President declared the motion carried.

**Old Business**
None

**New Business**
None

**Reception of Visitors – Public Comment**
Jim Wool spoke about property taxes as they relate to District 99.
Lisa Schmidt asked for an allowance for her sons to attend Hinsdale South.

**Communications and Announcements**

- Report on Legislative Education Network of DuPage (LEND)
  Kara Casten reported that the next in-person meeting with state legislators is scheduled for the end of September.

- Report on School Association for Special Education in DuPage County (SASED)
  Christopher Espinoza reported that the next meeting is scheduled for August 26, 2026.

- Report on District 99 Education Foundation
  April Finan reported that the next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, August 19, 2026.

- Report on Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB)
  Ken Dawson reported that the next meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2026.

- Report on Downers Grove Village Council
  Don Renner stated there is nothing to report at this time.

- Report on Downers Grove Plan Commission
  Don Renner stated there is nothing to report at this time.

**Upcoming Meetings**
Don Renner announced the following meeting dates:

- September 14, 2026, Workshop Meeting
- September 21, 2026, Monthly Business Meeting

**Adjournment**

**Motion:** There being no further business or discussion, Kara Casten moved and Ken Dawson seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned.

**Vote:** Unanimous voice vote by the seven members in attendance.

**Action:** The President declared the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

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| Don Renner, President | 9/21/26 Date | Ivy Scherman, Secretary | 9/21/26 Date |