DISTRICT 99
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
September 21, 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, September 21, 2026, at the Administrative Service Center.

Attendance/Roll Call:

- Present: Don Renner, President; Kara Casten, Vice President; and Members Christopher Espinoza, April Finan, Michael Riske, and Katie Courtney
- Absent: Ken Dawson
- Also present: Dr. Hank Thiele, Superintendent; Scott Wuggazer, Associate Superintendent for Student Services; Kate Morris, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning; Amada Brode, Assistant Superintendent for Learning Resources; Jeff Bergholtz, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; and Ivy Scherman, Board Secretary
- Visitors: There were nine visitors. A copy of the Visitor Roster is attached.

Student Recognition

- Amy Simler recognized the Special Olympics Track and Field athletes.
  - Silver Medalist: Maya Orozco-Worsham, Running Long Jump
  - State Competitors: Alaiya Hubbard, Softball Throw and 200m; and Aidan Metzl, Mini Javelin
  - State Champions: Jack Delaney, 100m and Standing Long Jump; John Lee, Running Long Jump; Jacob McMahan, Softball Throw and Silver medalist in 100m; Maurice Williams, 100m; Alex Zhao, 800m and Silver Medalist in 3000m; Angelina Orozco-Worsham, 200m; and Kendrell Jordan, 200m

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Kara Casten moved and Christopher Espinoza seconded the motion for the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the August 17, 2026, Monthly Business Meeting; the September 14, 2026, Workshop Meeting; and the September 16, 2026 Policy Committee Meeting.

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

Action: The President declared the motion carried.

Reception of Visitors – Public Comment

- There were no public comments.

Recommendations and Reports Superintendent

- Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report
  - Dr. Hank Thiele reported that the Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report is available on the D99 website.

- Board Expectations of District Surveys
  - Dr. Hank Thiele provided the Board with the cost of the surveys, the free response questions on the Morale survey and whether the surveys require completion in one sitting (CSCI one sitting, D99 survey Nsights one sitting and Morale survey multiple sittings).
  - Dr. Hank Thiele provided additional survey background information and survey options to help the Board identify a survey structure for the District to use going forward. Additional information shared included: Morale survey results, the total number of questions per survey, the margin of error based on the total number of responses, response rates per survey, how the data gathered is used for large scale planning, additional feedback loops and the 2026-2027 areas of focus.
  - The Board of Education decided to consider Option A (all three surveys at different times – CSCI survey in March; D99 survey in January; and Morale survey in November); Option B (CSCI survey in March; and D99 plus Morale in January); and Option E (CSCI survey as the primary survey source in March).
  - The Board of Education will discuss and decide on the survey structure to be used going forward at the October 19, 2026, Monthly Business Meeting.

- 2026-2027 Tentative Budget
  - Dr. Hank Thiele reported that the 2026-2027 Budget will not be approved today due to the newspaper not publishing the Public Notice.
  - District attorneys recommended not pulling the 2026-2027 Budget from the September 21, 2026, agenda so the minutes can reflex the budget as tabled until the October 19, 2026, Monthly Business meeting.
  - Public Hearing and approval of the 2026-2027 Budget will be held at the October 19, 2026, Monthly Business Meeting.

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

Public Hearing

- There were no questions asked regarding the 2026-2027 Tentative Budget.

Motion: April Finan moved and Michael Riske seconded the motion for the Board of Education close the Public Hearing on the Budget.

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

Action: The President declared the motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Motion: Christopher Espinoza moved and April Finan seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, which includes: A. Personnel Report - Appointment-Classified; Appointment-Exempt; One-Time Stipend-Exempt; B. Personnel Report - Retirements-Certified; Resignations-Classified; Resignations-Certified; and C. July Treasurer's Report and August Financial Pages.

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

Action: The President declared the motion carried.

Recommendations for Action

- Approval of the 2026-2027 Budget

Motion: Michael Riske moved and Christopher Espinoza seconded the motion for the Board of Education to table the discussion and approval of the 2026-2027 Budget until the October 19, 2026, Monthly Business Meeting.

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

Action: The President declared the motion carried.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- None

Reception of Visitors – Public Comment

- Mr. Jim Wool spoke regarding TRS contributions for leadership positions during declining enrollment.

Communications and Announcements

- Report on Legislative Education Network of DuPage (LEND)
  - Kara Casten reported that the next LEND meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 25, 2026.

- Report on School Association for Special Education in DuPage County (SASED)
  - Christopher Espinoza summarized SASED's plan for moving forward with obtaining a new building.

- Report on District 99 Education Foundation
  - No update.

- Report on Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB)
  - No update.

- Report on Downers Grove Village Council
  - No update.

- Report on Downers Grove Plan Commission
  - No update.

Upcoming Meetings

- Don Renner announced the following meeting dates:
  - October 5, 2026 - Workshop Meeting - 6:30 p.m. - ASC
  - October 19, 2026 - Monthly Business Meeting - 6:30 p.m. - ASC

Adjournment

Motion: There being no further business or discussion, April Finan moved and Christopher Espinoza seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned.

Vote: Unanimous voice vote by the six members in attendance.

Action: The President declared the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Don Renner, President	10/19/26 Date	Ivy Scherman, Secretary	10/19/26 Date

Community HIGH SCHOOL District 99

BOARD OF EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

VISITOR ROSTER

NAME

Aidan Metzl + Family
Amy Simler
ALEX ZHAO
Karen Spahr-Thomas
Kelly Rae
LYNN ZABA
JACK DALANEY
Peggy Delaney
Tom Delaney

(1)

Please see other side for the
Guidelines for Public Participation at School Board Meetings

COMMENT SLIP

Those wishing to address the Board at tonight's meeting must complete the information below and submit this slip to the Board Secretary in advance of the Reception of Visitors - Public Comment.

I wish to address the Board at this meeting, will limit my comments to 3 minutes, and will comply with the *Guidelines for Public Participation at School Board Meetings*.

☐ **I wish to speak about an Action Item/Consent Agenda Item on the Agenda.**

Agenda item number(s) and/or title(s): _____

☒ **I wish to speak about an item that is not on the Agenda.**

I would like to address the Board on the following topic:

I am requesting to speak for 5 minutes. TRS Contributions. Leadership positions during declining enrollment

Name: Jim Wool

Email Address: JPWool09@gmail.com Phone: 630 203 7581

Address: 220 4th D.G.

☒ **I attest I am a resident of the District 99 attendance area.**

Organization (if applicable): _____

Completion and submission of this form to the Board Secretary is required in order to have the opportunity to address the Board during the Reception of Visitors - Public Comment.

9-21-26