DISTRICT 99
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 5, 2026, 6:30 PM

Call to Order and Roll Call

The Board of Education, Community High School District 99, met for its Workshop Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, October 5, 2026, at the Administrative Service Center.

Attendance/Roll Call:

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

Recognitions and Student Perspectives

- Student Perspectives - GAPP Student Exchange
  - Dr. Courtney DeMent introduced students participating in Downers Grove North High School exchange program with the Thomas Mann School in Lübeck, Germany.
  - Downers Grove North High School students Jill McClanahan, Grace Zellner, and Jocelyn Nifong along with students from Thomas Mann School, Emil Richter, Ella Warnk and David Eisenbarth, shared their exchange program experience and favorite things.

- Recognition - Chef of the Year - Amanda Dobson
  - Amy Carrigan and Rebecca Schultz recognized Amanda Dobson as Chartwells Chef of the Year for the incredible work she does at Downers Grove North and South.

- Presentation of District 99 Education Foundation Checks to Grant Recipients
  - Martha Merilos from the District 99 Education Foundation awarded a total of $11,966.81 in grants. Teachers present at the meeting to receive their grant checks included John Waite and Katie Wood from DGN; Patrick Hayes from DGS; and Jaclyn Williams from T99.

- Student Board Member Questions and Comments
  - Meghan Walker (DGS) reported on the college representative visits, an upcoming Technology Center of DuPage field trip and the opening of the new Academic Resource Center. Meghan also provided feedback on the retake and bathroom pass policies.
  - Olivia Tan (DGN) reported that the first issue of the student-run Omega newspaper is available; and shared positive feedback on the Homecoming dance and the first Student Advisory Committee meeting.

- Recognition - Staff
  - Dr. Hank Thiele presented the revised staff recognition process going forward. At each Monthly Board meeting, statistics and examples will be shared and a nomination from one core value will be spotlighted.

Board Workshop

- 2027-2028 Course Proposals
  - Dr. Kate Morris presented the new course proposals for the 2027-2028 school year.
  - Social Studies Department Chairs Michael Roethler (DGN) and Christopher Esposito (DGS) proposed a Chicago History course.
  - English Department Chairs Katie Wood (DGN) and Tracy Sebastian (DGS) proposed adding a Dual Credit College Composition course.
  - Department Chairs from Career and Technical Education, Brian Veit (DGN) and Patrick Fardy (DGS) proposed adding Architecture, Construction and Engineering 2 (ACE 2).
  - Math Department Chair Phil Culcasi (DGS) proposed adding AP Precalculus AB and BC courses.

- Facilities Rental and Usage Data
  - Dr. Amanda Brode-Rico presented the District's facility rental and usage data from the 2025-26 school year. District facilities were rented for a total of 521 days, generating $260,872 in revenue. Rental types include groups sponsored by District 99; feeder programs; non-for-profit community groups and educational institutions; and other entities.

- Board Expectations of District Surveys
  - Dr. Hank Thiele presented the total number of questions on each survey, including which surveys have free response questions, and when the surveys are distributed.
  - Board Members discussed having access to raw data responses, third-party analysis, the possibility of consolidating the District 99 and staff morale surveys, and revising the survey release dates.

- The Board decided to consider Option A (all three surveys at different times – CSCI survey in March; D99 survey in January; and Morale survey in November), and Option B (CSCI survey in March; and D99 plus Morale in January).

Reception of Visitors - Public Comment

- There were no public comments.

Closed Session

Motion: Christopher Espinoza moved and Ken Dawson seconded the motion for the Board of Education to go into Closed Session for Open Meetings Act Exception #2 Collective Negotiating Matters.

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

Action: The President declared the motion carried.

The Board of Education returned to Open Session at 9:06 p.m.

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 five members in attendance.

Action: The President declared the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

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

Community HIGH SCHOOL District 99

BOARD OF EDUCATION

OCTOBER 5, 2026

VISITOR ROSTER

NAME
Maria Georgou