KILDEER COUNTRYSIDE
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 96

BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes for September 15, 2026

Call To Order

Mr. Burns called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Educational Development Center of Ivy Hall School.

Roll Call

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

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. President Burns asked if anyone wished to address the Board. No one responded.

Approval of Minutes

August 2026

A motion was presented by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Ms. Zarkowsky to approve the minutes of August 4, 2026 and August 11, 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 August 2026 appropriately 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. She highlighted several items for approval on tonight's consent agenda, including Approval of Interfund Transfers, Adoption of the FY27 Budget, Authorization to Prepare Tentative 2027-28 Budget, Approval of the Certified Staff Salary Compensation Report, and Approval of the Snow Removal Bid—all of which are routine, recurring items for this time of year.

Policy Committee

Ms. Zarkowsky reported that, although there were no policies for formal review, the committee met to onboard a new board member. Additionally, she highlighted 12 policies on tonight's consent agenda recommended for approval.

Legislative Update
Mr. Tepper reported no current legislative activity but is anticipating a report on the upcoming veto session next month. Ms. Sheridan reported on a recent meeting with an Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA) legislative advocate regarding potential Tier 2 pension reform, as well as ongoing efforts regarding proposed FOIA legislation. Additionally, an update on E-rate funding was shared, highlighting recommendations to advocate with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to ensure continued support for public school funding.

ELC Update
Mr. Burns reported that the ELC Board met on August 20. During the meeting, they covered routine operational business, which included a review of staff members who earned tenure. Additionally, the board received confirmation from the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board (IELRB) regarding the official certification of the ELC Education Association.

Guiding Coalition of Interculturalism Update
Mr. Podeschi provided an update on the Guiding Coalition of Interculturalism, which held its first meeting of the school year on September 8, 2026. The meeting was well attended with new members joining the group, and discussions focused on reviewing past accomplishments and existing district initiatives. Members will explore ways to expand upon these efforts ahead of the coalition's next meeting on October 27, 2026.

Thought Exchange Partnership
For the 2026-27 school year, all TEP meetings will be held in person on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm in the EDC Room. The first meeting is October 6, 2026.

Partnership with KEA Update
The Partnership Meeting Dates for 2026-27 will be Wednesday, October 28, 2026, and Wednesday, March 17, 2027.

Other
None at this time.

Administrative Reports
Sixth Day Enrollment and Enrollment Trends Report
Dr. Pedersen presented the Sixth Day enrollment, which was August 27 for the 2026-27 school year. As of August 27, 2026, the district has a total enrollment of 3,173 students K-8, which is a total decrease of 83 students from last year. Dr. Pedersen explained that this is largely due to a decreased Kindergarten enrollment of 51 students compared to last year. Additionally, Dr. Pedersen informed the board that the district experienced some unenrollments after the start of new teacher orientation, resulting in 2 sections that are smaller than expected.

Empowering Learners: Expanding Student Choice and Access to Enrichment, Extension, and Acceleration
The Teaching and Learning Department presented an update regarding the District’s commitment to empowering learners through expanded equitable access to student choice, enrichment, extension, and acceleration. Administration outlined the District's refined approach to acceleration and detailed action

items for the current school year, which focus on aligning placement practices with consortium partners, broadening opportunities for student choice, and evaluating organizational schedules to ensure equitable access across all schools.

Priority Items for Consideration and/or Action

Public Hearing on the FY27 Annual Budget

Mr. Burns opened the public hearing on the 2026–27 Annual Budget at 7:52 p.m.

Mr. Burns reported that the proposed budget has been on display since June 16, 2026, in accordance with the Illinois School Code. He then gave a brief overview of the budget.

Mr. Burns asked if anyone wished to address the Board. No one responded.

With no additional questions or comments forthcoming from the public, Mr. Burns closed the public hearing at 7:54 p.m.

Closed Session

Adjourn to Closed Session

A motion was presented by Ms. Immel and seconded by Ms. Zarkowsky 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: Immel, Feygin, Rivera, Podeschi, Zarkowsky, Tepper, and Burns
Nay: None

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 8:02 p.m.

Reconvene in Open Session

The meeting reconvened in open session at 8:18 p.m.

Approval of Closed Session Minutes

A motion was made by Dr. Feygin and seconded by Ms. Immel to approve the minutes of the closed session. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:
Aye: Feygin, Rivera, Podeschi, Zarkowsky, Tepper, Immel, and Burns
Nay: None

Action Items

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal – Certified Staff

Resignations

None at this time.

Employment

None at this time.

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal – Educational Support Personnel

Employment, Appointment, and Dismissal

A motion was presented by Mr. Rivera 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: Rivera, Podeschi, Zarkowsky, Tepper, Immel, Feygin, and Burns
Nay: None

Request for Special Education Aide

A motion was presented by Dr. Feygin and seconded by Ms. Zarkowsky to approve an additional 1.0 FTE Special Education Aide for Prairie to address the IEP needs of 1 student in the district. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:
Aye: Feygin, Rivera, Podeschi, Zarkowsky, Tepper, Immel, 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 Mr. Podeschi to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

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

Education	$947,203.44
Operations	$608,154.58
Debt Service	$21,415.28
Transportation	$101,459.94
IMRF	$0.00
Social Security	$0.00
Capital Projects	$0.00
Working Cash	$0.00
Tort Immunity	$0.00
Life Safety	$0.00
Totals	$1,678,233.24

Approval of Resolutions for Interfund Transfers – to approve as presented:

- Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Interest Earned during FY 2026-27 from the Working Cash Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund
- Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Interest Earned during FY 2026-27 from the Debt Service Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund
- Resolution to Effect Interfund Transfer from Education Fund to Debt Service Fund
- Resolution to Effect Transfer to Comply with GASB 87

Approval of Resolution(s) Adopting the FY27 Budget – to adopt the 2026-27 Annual Budget as presented.

Authorization to Prepare Tentative 2027-28 Budget – to designate the business office to begin preparing the 2027-28 Tentative Budget at this time in accordance with Section 5/17-1 of the Illinois School Code.

Approval of P.A. 97-259/2023-24 Certified Staff Salary Compensation Report – to approve and post a report detailing base salary and benefits for all administrators in accordance with PA97-259 as presented.

Approval of Snow Removal Bid – to approve a three-year contract with Ground Effects Maintenance for snow removal services.

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

6:190	Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities
3:50	Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent
4:120	Food Services
4:175	Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications
5:40	Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease
5:140	Solicitations By or From Staff
5:185	Family and Medical Leave
7:30	Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer
7:80	Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance
7:345	Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security
8:100	Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies
6:135	Accelerated Placement Program

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

Discussion Items - None at this time.

Information Items

Opening Professional Development Activities Recap & Feedback

Dr. Idrizi provided a verbal recap of preliminary feedback from the evaluation of the opening professional development activities conducted for faculty and staff ahead of the 2026-27 school year. The report

highlighted positive insights and feedback from New Staff Orientation, Mentor and Team Leader Trainings, and Opening Institute Week.

Fall Lake Division Meeting - October 14, 2026
Ms. Sheridan reminded the board that the IASB Fall Lake Division Dinner will be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at the Waukegan High School Brookside Campus. Ms. McGillian will register the group anyone who would like to attend.

IASB/IASA/IASBO Conference - November 20-22, 2026
Board members are registered to attend the annual conference. Board members were reminded that there will not be a Board/Administration retreat on Friday, November 20, 2026. As planning continues, more information will be shared with the board.

Superintendent Evaluation Document for FY 27
Ms. Sheridan presented the final copy of the Superintendent Evaluation Document for FY 2027, which included feedback offered. Additionally, she informed the board that the process will begin this winter.

FOIA Requests
Since August 11, 2026, the District has received 6 (six) FOIA request(s).

Board Comments
The board discussed the election nomination petition process and timing, the reconvening of the Ad Hoc Compensation Committee, the status of Middle School Science Olympiad, and the success of the district in providing school supplies for all students this school year.

Adjournment
With no further business before the Board of Education, a motion was presented by Mr. Tepper and seconded by Ms. Immel to adjourn the meeting. On a roll call vote, the motion carried:
Aye: Tepper, Immel, Feygin, Rivera, Podeschi, Zarkowsky, and Burns
Nay: None

Mr. Burns adjourned the September 15, 2026, regular meeting of the Kildeer Countryside Community Consolidated School District 96 Board of Education at 9:07 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for October 20, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Date Minutes Approved: _____

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President, Board of Education

_____
Secretary, Board of Education

Fn: minutes 091526