DISTRICT 99
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 19, 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, October 19, 2026, at the Administrative Service Center.

Attendance/Roll Call:

- Present: Don Renner, President; Kara Casten, Vice President; and Members Christopher Espinoza, Ken Dawson, April Finan, Michael Riske, and Katie Courtney
- Absent: None
- Also present: Dr. Hank Thiele, Superintendent; Scott Wuggazer, Associate Superintendent for Student Services; Dr. Kate Morris, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning; Dr. Amanda Brode, 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Ken Dawson moved and Christopher Espinoza seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the Minutes of the September 21, 2026, Monthly Business Meeting, the October 5, 2026, Workshop Meeting, and the October 5, 2026, Workshop Meeting - Closed Session.

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

Action: The President declared the motion carried.

RECEPTION OF VISITORS – PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public comment.

SUPERINTENDENT RECOGNITION – RECOGNITION OF PRINCIPALS

- Dr. Thiele stated it is Illinois Principals Week. He recognized the building administrators for their leadership and noted Dr. DeMent and Ms. Lyp are at a statewide conference.
- Dr. Thiele also recognized Dr. Courtney DeMent for receiving the Herman Graves Award from The Illinois Principals Association.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS SUPERINTENDENT

- **School Report Card**
  - Dr. Kate Morris shared an overview of the Illinois State Report Card. ISBE has designated five performance levels: exemplary, approaching exemplary, commendable, developing, and comprehensive. Measurements are divided into two main categories, core indicators (proficiency, growth and graduation rate) and elevating indicators (EL progress, consistent attendance and climate survey).
  - District 99 report card results will be available at the end of October and will be shared at the November 2, 2026, Workshop Meeting. This year's ratings will be used as a baseline for future years.

- **2027-2028 Course Proposals**
  - The 2027-2028 Course Proposals were presented at the October 5, 2026, Monthly Board Meeting. There were no questions regarding the 2027-2027 course proposals presented for approval today.

- **Calendar Year 2027 Medical, Dental, and Vision Plans and Premiums**
  - Dr. Hank Thiele summarized the changes to the 2027 insurance plans and premiums.
  - The standard PPO plan will be eliminated for 2027.
  - Open enrollment begins November 1, 2026.
  - Plan options for 2027 include HMO plan and self-funded PPO with a Health Savings Account. First Stop Health will be added in 2027, which provides virtual visits to board-certified doctors at no cost to employees. First Stop Health will be available to answer questions in the coming weeks.

- **Board Expectations of District Surveys**
  - Dr. Hank Thiele summarized the remaining two Survey options available for the Board to select from (Option A, 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).
  - The Board agreed to move forward with Survey Option B which includes CSCI Survey in March and D99 plus Morale survey in January. Free response questions from the Morale Survey will be scored by a third party at a slightly higher cost.
  - Administrators will continue to present the survey data to the Board. Raw data will also be provided to the Board.

- **2026-2027 Tentative Budget**
  - There were no additional questions regarding the 2026-2027 Tentative budget.
  - The budget was not approved at the September 21, 2026, Monthly Business Meeting because the newspaper did not publish the budget public notice.
  - ISBE was informed of the reason why the budget was not yet submitted and agreed the budget can be submitted after the Board approves it tonight.

- **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: Michael Riske moved and Ken Dawson seconded the motion for the Board of Education to close the Public Hearing on the 2026-2027 Budget.

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

Action: The President declared the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Ken Dawson moved and Christopher Espinoza seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, which includes:

A. Personnel Report - Change in Position-Certified; Appointment-Classified
B. Personnel Report - Retirements-Certified; Retirements-Classified
C. September Financial Pages
D. Acceptance of Donation - District 99 Education Foundation
E. Student Trips

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

Action: The President declared the motion carried.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- **Approval of 2027-2028 Course Proposals**

Motion: Ken Dawson moved and Katie Courtney seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the 2027-2028 Course Proposals as presented.

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

Action: The President declared the motion carried.

- **Approval of Calendar Year 2027 Medical, Dental, and Vision Plans and Premiums**
  Motion: April Finan moved and Michael Riske seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve Calendar Year 2027 Medical, Dental, and Vision Plans and Premiums as presented.
  Vote: **Ayes**: Kara Casten, Katie Courtney, Christopher Espinoza, Ken Dawson, April Finan, Michael Riske and Don Renner
  Nays: None
  Action: The President declared the motion carried

- **Approval of the 2026-2027 Budget**
  Motion: Michael Riske moved and Christopher Espinoza seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the Final Budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, as presented in the exhibits and the official ISBE budget form, and authorized its submission to the Illinois State Board of Education.
  Vote: **Ayes**: Kara Casten, Katie Courtney, Christopher Espinoza, Ken Dawson, 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

- Bob Haddleton spoke regarding WriteMinder and shared his AI privacy concerns.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Report on Legislative Education Network of DuPage (LEND)**
  - Kara Casten reported that the next LEND meeting is scheduled for October 23rd. There will be a panel discussing FOIA requests. Kara also shared that the Federal Committee for LEND will be reviewing E-Rate program and Education Freedom tax credit.

- **Report on School Association for Special Education in DuPage County (SASED)**
  - No update.

- **Report on District 99 Education Foundation**
  - Katie Courtney and April Finan will be attending the D99 Education Foundation meeting on October 21st to discuss grant proposals.

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

- **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:
  - November 2, 2026 - Workshop Meeting - 6:30 p.m. - ASC
  - November 16, 2026 - Monthly Business Meeting - 6:30 p.m. - ASC

CLOSED SESSION

Motion: Ken Dawson moved and April Finan seconded the motion for the Board of Education to go into Closed Session for Open Meetings Act Exception (1): 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, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer 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).

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

Action: The President declared the motion carried.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The Board of Education returned to Open Session at 7:45 p.m.

RECOMMENDATION OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING NOTICE TO REMEDY

Motion: Christopher Espinoza moved and Ken Dawson seconded the motion for the Board of Education to approve the Resolution Authorizing Notice to Remedy to Jon Heldmann.

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

Action: The President declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Public Comment regarding WriteMinder**
  - Dr. Hank Thiele updated the Board on WriteMinder technology and explained the technology was vetted and reviewed by Google. No data leaves our environment.
  - Dr. Hank Thiele will communicate with Bob Haddleton regarding the concerns he shared during public comment.
  - Additional communication regarding WriteMinder will be shared with the Board and staff/parents/students.

- **Pool Update**
  - Ken Dawson asked for a pool update.
  - Dr. Hank Thiele shared that a partial report was received and the district is waiting for the full report from the pool expert to arrive.

- **Board Committee with DGEA**
  - Don Renner indicated he is working with Kara Casten to draft a memorandum which would open the Committee meeting to representatives of all District 99 employees. The draft memorandum will be reviewed and finalized by the Board. The final memorandum will be sent to Dr. Hank Thiele and representatives.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: There being no further business or discussion, Ken Dawson moved and Kara Casten 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 7:59 p.m.

	11/16/26	Ivy Scherman	11/16/26
Don Renner, President	Date	Ivy Scherman, Secretary	Date

Community HIGH SCHOOL District 99

BOARD OF EDUCATION

OCTOBER 19, 2026

VISITOR ROSTER

NAME
Kathleen Congrest
Kelly Roe
J. Bottenheim
Haddleton family

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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:

WriteMinder software

Name: Bob Hadleton

Email Address: bobh@hadleton.net Phone: 630-805-2980

Address: 1506 62nd St. Downers Grove, IL

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

Organization (if applicable): N/A

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.