

MINUTES OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
Of the Board of Education  
Riverside School District No. 96  
Held on Wednesday, August 6, 2025  
Blythe Park Elementary School

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

20-543 A. Vice President David Barsotti called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and on roll call, the following members were recorded as being present:

	Mr. Hunt
	Ms. Claps
	Ms. Gunn
	Ms. Kachlic
	Mr. Olech
	Mr. Barsotti
Absent:	Mr. Muirheid

Also in attendance were Superintendent Martha Ryan-Toye, Director of Teaching and Learning Angela Dolezal, Director of Special Education & Student Services Nora Geraghty, Director of Technology Molly Marquardt, the recording clerk to the Board of Education, and a videographer from Riverside TV.

B. Public Comment/Response.

There were no public comments.

C. Changes to the Agenda.

There were no changes to the agenda.

D. Committee Reports

1. Education Committee - Mr. Hunt.

a. 2025-2026 School Year Key Topics.

- Dr. Dolezal updated the Board on D96's status at the start of the 2025-2026 school year and highlighted key topics.
- Elementary School Day - An additional 10 minutes will be added to the school day
  - Elementary students will have slightly adjusted school hours starting this year. The elementary school day will begin at **8:10 AM** and end at **3:00 PM**, with supervised drop off beginning at 7:50 am; students should be in their classroom when the bell rings at 8:10 am.
  - This change allows for increased instructional time, expanded physical education (30 additional minutes 3 times/week), reaffirming "Right to Play".
- Standards-Based Grading and Reporting
  - This is a strategic plan goal that the district has worked on for the last four years. During that time, the district has been doing a lot of standards-aligned work.
  - This implementation will be done in two phases.
  - 2025-2026 Partial Implementation
    - Elementary: Math, Science, Learning Behaviors
    - Middle School: Maintain the current grading system through this transition; standards in PowerSchool

- Full Implementation in 2026-2027
- The district will offer ongoing professional learning
- Aligned Proficiency Language
  - Mastered, Proficient, Approaching, Below
- Electronic Gradebook Use
  - Teachers will receive professional development
- Clear Family Communication
  - The new standards-based grades will use the terms Mastered (M), Proficient (P), Approaching (A), or Below (B). learning behaviors (8 of them) are now aligned
  - Families will also see that the eight learning behaviors are now aligned.
- Advanced Learners Program Review
  - The committee will meet in September to review the report findings and prioritize recommendations.
  - Continue the partnership with the Northwestern Center for Talent Development.
  - The district will begin addressing immediate goals.
- CKLA Third Edition Background and Context
  - Why the update since the district just approved the 2nd edition copyright is 2022
  - Publishers update materials to:
    - Incorporate user feedback
    - Improve assessments and data tools
    - Streamline implementation
- Key differences between the editions included 1) instructional Quality, which shows stronger alignment to standards, improved writing and knowledge-building sequences, and updated texts and supports for all learners; 2) Teacher Usability which includes realistic pacing and planning, and unified digital platform; 3) Student Engagement offers more engaging visuals and resources; and 4) Equity & Access: Supports for All Learners which offers embedded support to reach all learners.
- The costs of the CKLA third edition were shared.
- Additional focus areas for this school year were discussed, including empowered teams, a professional learning road map (a three-year plan, still being developed), making the three tiers of MTSS more consistent, Student Growth, STEM Instruction, E-Learning (reapproved every three years), and artificial intelligence in schools.
- A discussion took place regarding whether this vendor is still a good curricular option for the district.
- The board thanked Dr. Dolezal for this insightful presentation.
- The full presentation can be found in Boardbooks.

2. Finance Committee - Ms. Claps.

- a. FY 26 Draft Budget.
  - Finance Committee Chair Ms. Claps shared that this draft was shared with the board at the June 18, 2025, board meeting.
  - Board members should share any additional questions with her.
  - This matter will be returned to the board for public hearing and vote at the August 20 board meeting.

3. Policy Committee - Ms. Gunn.

- a. PRESS Plus Policy #118 Policies - First Reading.
  - Ms. Gunn shared that this bundle is referred to as “The Spring Update” issue.

- Highlights were shared from each category.
  - Title IX Reversion to 2020 Regulations
    - Title IX 2020 is back because of State of Tennessee v. Cardona (1-9-25)
    - Policy 2:265 Suite Plus 12 other materials
  - Ensuring Success in School Law
    - Policy 7:255. This is a new policy.
  - Artificial Intelligence
    - Policy 6:235 - (school districts are already behind),
  - Federal Uniform Guidance for Awards
    - Policy 4:80 - changed capital threshold from \$5,000 to \$10,000
  - Sexting
    - Policy 7:190
    - The administration will reach out to the attorney to clarify #7, which IASB recommends.
  - Progress report
    - A cell phone ban will be forthcoming due to SB 2427.
  - Superintendent Ryan-Toye shared that this topic will be added to a future board agenda for more discussion.
  - The second reading and adoption will be returned to the Board at the August 20, 2025, regular business meeting.
- b. PRESS Plus Policy #119 Policies - First Reading.
- Ms. Gunn shared that this bundle is referred to as the “Summer Edition” issue.
  - Most of the policy revisions are 5-year reviews.
  - The second reading and adoption will be returned to the Board at the August 20, 2025, regular business meeting.
4. Facilities Committee - Mr. Olech.
- a. Facility Advisory Committee Meeting - July 8.
- Mr. Olech shared that this meeting dealt with the security bid, which was approved at the July regular business meeting.
- b. Blythe Park Playground Visioning - September 8.
- The dates were shared regarding the upcoming Blythe Park playground visioning sessions. DLA Architect will be on hand to answer any questions the community may have.
5. Personnel Committee - Mr. Barsotti Hunt.
- a. Board of Education/New Staff Dinner - Save the Date - September 17, 2025, at 5:00 pm in the Hauser cafeteria.
6. Family Engagement Committee - Ms. Kachlic.

There was nothing to report at this time.

#### E. Public Comment/Response.

There were no public comments.

F. Future Meeting Dates.

1. August 20, 2025 – Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Hauser Learning Resource Center. (If necessary, the Board will enter into Closed Session at 6:15 p.m., and return to Open Session at 7:00 p.m.).
2. September 3, 2025 – Board Self-Assessment, 6:00 p.m. in the library at Ames School.
3. September 17, 2025 – Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the LRC at Hauser. (If necessary, the Board will enter into Closed Session at 6:15 p.m., and return to Open Session at 7:00 p.m.).
4. October 1, 2025 – Committee of the Whole Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at Central School.
5. October 15, 2025 – Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the LRC at Hauser. (If necessary, the Board will enter into Closed Session at 6:15 p.m., and return to Open Session at 7:00 p.m.).

G. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

August 6, 2025

Date Recorded

Date Approved

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President, Board of Education

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Secretary, Board of Education