MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
Of the Board of Education
School District No. 96
Held on Wednesday, September 16, 2026
Hauser Jr. High School
Riverside, IL

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING

20-604 A. President Wesley Muirheid called the Regular Business Meeting and Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. and on roll call, the following members were recorded as being present:

Ms. Gunn arrived at 7:02 p.m.
Ms. Kachlic
Mr. Olech
Mr. Hunt
Ms. Claps
Mr. Muirheid

Absent: Mr. Barsotti

Also in attendance were Superintendent Martha Ryan-Toye, Director of Finance and Operations Steve Wilder, Director of Teaching and Learning Casimira Gorman, Director of Special Education and Student Services Nora Geraghty, Director of Technology Molly Marquardt, the recording clerk to the Board of Education, a videographer from Riverside TV, several new teachers, community members, and a reporter with *the Landmark*.

B. Public Comment/Response.

- Mickey Novak, a D96 parent, shared an update with the board regarding a new family group founded by Mickey and his wife, Jill, called D96 Families of Diverse Learners. This group was inspired by their own children. The Novaks started this group to bring families together and foster a deeper sense of inclusivity across the district. Nora Geraghty was acknowledged, and the families discussed their shared goals. He shared highlights from the group's inaugural event. The event was a wonderful success and a great first step toward building meaningful connections. Because many D96 diverse learners attend school at off-site programs like LADSE, the group will also collaborate closely with other community organizations to ensure everyone stays connected. This collaboration will ensure that D96 diverse learners are fully seen, heard, and supported, while helping to make the district's core values of equity, belonging, and inclusion a reality. The group looks forward to growing its membership and partnering with district leadership in the future.
- Owen O'Riordan, a District 96 parent, addressed the board regarding the crossing guard situation at Woodside Avenue and Kimbark Avenue. He highlighted the ongoing dangers at these intersections and noted that he has previously proposed multiple solutions. O'Riordan called on the board to assume responsibility and help secure a safer crossing environment for students during morning and afternoon commutes.

C. Changes to the Agenda.

The agenda remained the same.

20-605 D. Public Hearing for FY 27 Budget.
A motion was made by Mr. Hunt and supported by Ms. Claps to open the Budget Hearing

for the FY 27 Budget.

The motion carried the following roll call vote:

Ayes:	Ms. Claps
	Mr. Olech
	Ms. Gunn
	Ms. Kachlic
	Mr. Hunt
	Mr. Muirheid
Absent:	Mr. Barsotti
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None

20-606 E. Close Public Hearing for FY 27 Budget.
Ms. Gunn made a motion, supported by Ms. Claps, to close the FY27 budget hearing.

Mr. Wilder shared a presentation highlighting the FY 27 budget. Ms. Newsome, a D96 parent, asked about the remaining 12% of funding, since 88% of the district's revenue comes from local property taxes. Property tax increases are limited to a 2.9% increase under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL).

The motion carried the following roll call vote:

Ayes:	Mr. Olech
	Ms. Gunn
	Ms. Claps
	Ms. Kachlic
	Mr. Hunt
	Mr. Muirheid
Absent:	Mr. Barsotti
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None

F. Superintendent's Report.

1. Introduction of District 96 New Teachers.

- Superintendent Ryan-Toye introduced Casimira Gorman, who introduced this year's class of new teachers. The district welcomed D96's new teachers for the 2026-2027 school year. Several new staff members attended tonight's board meeting, and the board welcomed them to District 96.

2. Blythe Park playground opening (**Goal 2 and Goal 5)**.

- Superintendent Ryan-Toye shared that the Blythe Park playground was commemorated on Tuesday, September 15. Both the Village of Riverside and the D96 Board of Education celebrated the new playground. What a great turnout, and complimentary Jolly Sprinkle ice cream was distributed to all in attendance. The board is very happy with how the playground turned out.

20-607 G. Approval of Consent Agenda.

The Secretary to the Board of Education read the Consent Agenda items aloud.

A motion was made by Mr. Hunt and supported by Ms. Gunn to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes:	Mr. Hunt
	Ms. Kachlic
	Ms. Gunn
	Mr. Olech
	Ms. Claps
	Mr. Muirheid
Absent:	Mr. Barsotti
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None

H. Riverside Education Council.

The Riverside Education Council made no comments.

I. Board Member Comments.

Member Gunn commented on how great the Hauser window project turned out.

J. Old Business.

20-608 1. Approval of FY 27 Budget - **Action Item - (Goal 5)**

A motion was made by Ms. Claps and supported by Mr. Olech to approve the FY 27 Budget as presented.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes:	Ms. Kachlic
	Ms. Gunn
	Mr. Olech
	Ms. Claps
	Mr. Hunt
	Mr. Muirheid
Absent:	Mr. Barsotti
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None

20-609 2. IASB Board Self-Assessment Follow-up - **Action Item**.

A motion was made by Mr. Olech and supported by Ms. Kachlic to approve the Board-Board and Board-Superintendent agreements as presented.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes:	Mr. Olech
	Ms. Claps
	Mr. Hunt
	Ms. Gunn
	Ms. Kachlic
	Mr. Muirheid

Absent:	Mr. Barsotti
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None

K. New Business/Discussion.

No new business was discussed.

L. Public Comment/Response.

No public comment or statement.

M. Future Meeting Dates.

- October 7, 2026 - Committee of the Whole Meeting, 7:00 pm in the library at Blythe Park School.
- October 21, 20256 - Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Hauser Learning Resource Center. **(The Board will enter into Closed Session at 6:15 p.m., if necessary, and return to Open Session at 7:00 p.m.).**
- November 4, 2026 - Committee of the Whole Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at Central School.
- November 18, 2026 - Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Hauser Learning Resource Center. **(The Board will enter into Closed Session at 6:15 p.m., if necessary, and return to Open Session at 7:00 p.m.). Note: Hauser's Fall Play is scheduled that evening, starting at 5:30 pm in the Auditorium.**

N. Information Items.

The Board received updates and information on the following monthly reports:

1. District 96 Student Enrollment Report.
2. District 96 Absence Report
3. District 96 Substitute Report.
4. FOIA Responses.
5. Financial Statements.
6. Legal Bills.
7. Architects Bills.
8. School Lunches Served Report.
9. August 2026 Construction Monthly Report.

O. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

September 16, 2026	
Date Recorded	Date Approved
President, Board of Education	Secretary, Board of Education