

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
Of the Board of Education
School District No. 96
Held on Wednesday, May 21, 2025
Hauser Jr. High School
Riverside, IL

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

20-522 A. President Wesley Muirheid called the Regular Business Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and on roll call, the following members were recorded as being present:

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

Absent: None

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 Finance Jim Fitton, Hauser Principal April Mahy, students and families receiving awards, staff members, Riverside Educational Council Co-Presidents Rachel King and Claire LaForge, staff members, Director of Riverside Parks and Recreation Ron Malchiodi, Program Coordinator Megan Siska, the Board of Education recording clerk, and a Riverside TV videographer.

20-523 B. A motion was made by Ms. Gunn and supported by Mr. Barsotti to adjourn to Closed Session for the following reasons:

- The** appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

- Any** matter involving an individual student. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10).

- Collective** negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

C. Return to Open Session.

D. Public Comment/Response.

There were no public comments.

E. Changes to the Agenda.

There were no changes to the agenda.

F. Superintendent's Report.

1. Student Achievement Awards

- Director of Teaching and Learning Angela Dolezal and Hauser Principal April Mahy introduced students who were recognized for their achievements for the second half of the school year in the following categories:
 - WSCAE Annual Student Art Expo Winners
 - 28th Annual 4th Graders AAUW Poster Contest Winners
 - 7th grade Girls Basketball Team - Salt Creek Valley Conference Champions
 - Hauser Creative Writing Contest Winners
 - Hauser History Bee Winners
 - Illinois Principals Association Student Recognition NOETIC Competition Honorable Mention and National Honor Roll (fourth and fifth grade students)
 - WSCAE Brookfield Zoo Science Fair Winners
 - Hauser Speech and Drama Team Winners
 - Student of the Month (February, March, and April)

The students were recognized with certificates and personally congratulated by the Board members. The administration thanked all of the families for their continued support.

2. NAMM Best Communities for Music Education.

- Superintendent Ryan-Toye shared that District 96 has been recognized as one of the Best Communities for Music Education!
- It was shared that this is the district's fourth consecutive year, and fifth overall, of receiving the National Association for Music Merchants (NAMM) Best Communities for Music Education award, and our fourth time receiving it overall.
- Congratulations to our outstanding music department in District 96!

3. Staff Appreciation.

- Superintendent Ryan-Toye acknowledged Teacher Appreciation Week, which took place from May 6 to 10. D96 greatly appreciates our teachers and all they do for our students.
- This month is also National Nurses Week. Thank you!

4. 2025 Annual Safety Meeting.

- The district held its annual Safety Meeting on April 23, 2025.
- Police and fire personnel from Riverside, Brookfield, and North Riverside joined the D96 administration.
- The meeting focused on discussing the safety of students and school personnel.
- It was a productive way to continue dialogue with the communities that serve District 96.

5. Half-day professional development - April 25, 2025
 - The district held a half-day professional development on April 25th.
 - An agenda was shared with the board.
6. Hauser Graduation - May 27, 2025
 - Mark your calendars. Hauser Junior High School graduation is scheduled for May 27, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Riverside Brookfield High School. All board members are invited to attend.

20-524 G. Approval of Consent Agenda.

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

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

The motion carried the following roll call vote:

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

20-525 H. Approval of Administration Contracts - Action Item.

A motion was made by Ms. Gunn and supported by Mr. Hunt to approve the administrators' contracts for the 2025-2026 school year as presented.

The motion carried the following roll call vote:

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

20-526 I. Approval of Elementary Intervention and Support Coordinator - Action Item.

A motion was made by Ms. Claps and supported by Mr. Barsotti to approve the 2025-2026 contract for the Elementary Intervention and Support Coordinator to Nicole Mazza, as presented.

It was shared that this is a newly created position to support the principals and students at the elementary level.

Ms. Mazza, who is in attendance tonight, shared her appreciation with the Board of Education and looks forward to this opportunity.

The motion carried the following roll call vote:

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

J. Riverside Educational Council Comments

Riverside Educational Council Co-Presidents Rachel King and Claire LaForge shared the results of the current voting for the Riverside Educational Council contract with the Board of Education. The A slim margin ratified this five-year Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

K. Board member comments.

- There were no comments from the board members.

20-527 L. Old Business.

1. Before/After Care Recommended Provider- Action Item

A motion was made by Ms. Gunn and supported by Ms. Kachlic to approve Riverside Parks and Recreation as an ongoing vendor for the provision of before/after care services at all four elementary schools in District 96. The final agreement is pending legal review with both District 96 and the Village of Riverside.

An extensive process was undertaken, and the interview team utilized a predetermined rubric to score each provider's response, ensuring a fair and objective evaluation. Two finalists were identified through a combination of rubric scores and consensus discussions among the team.

Board President Muirheid shared a summary of the approximately 20 emails were received from the community and thanked the community for the feedback. The themes of these emails were very positive.

Board Member Claps thanked the community for their participation throughout this process. She shared that her vote tonight is based on this feedback, as well as her own experience as a parent who has used these programs. She would like to see Parks and Rec use some of the revenues generated from this program to better serve the families who are in need of the before and after-school program. This RFP process has been constructive, and hope that Parks and Rec do some internal reflection on how to improve their program.

Board President Muirheid and Board Vice President Barsotti piggybacked on Member Claps' comments, stating that they were encouraged by the presentations but had also heard that there were areas for improvement.

Board Secretary Gunn commented on the fact that the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA), which outlines how Parks and RECs plan to create a better pulse year-round on what is happening, has provided her with additional reassurance in renewing this partnership.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Director of Parks and Recreation, Ron Malchiodi, was in attendance at tonight's meeting and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to continue serving the school district and community. Curriculum and communication will be addressed moving forward. The board will receive an annual report each year.

20-528 L. Old Business.

2. Approval of the Riverside Education Council (R.E.C.) Agreement, 2025-2030 - Action Item.

A motion was made by Ms. Claps and supported by Mr. Barsotti to approve the Riverside Education Council (R.E.C.) Agreement for the 2025-2030 school years, as presented.

- Superintendent Ryan-Toye thanked Rachel and Claire for their comments.
- She recommended that the board approve this contract as presented.
- David Barsotti and Salina Claps were recognized for their roles as board representatives on the negotiations team.
- Angela Dolezal, Jim Fitton, and Casimira Gorman were also acknowledged for their role on the negotiations committee.
- Rachel King and Claire LaForge were acknowledged for their leadership. The REC team consisted of Dana Dillon, Debbie Gentilini, Molly Quinoz, Caitlyn Rogers, Carly Williamson, and Jeff Wydra. Negotiations are a collaborative process that involves compromise to set a future direction for D96. There is still work to be done, as the close vote revealed.
- Key contract items were shared:
 - Eliminated long-standing professional development (75 minutes); these have been embedded in institute days and half-day school improvement days.
 - In future years, anticipate that the school calendar will be reviewed to provide professional development time for staff.
 - Increase plan time for elementary staff by adding additional physical education time.
 - Clarified that nothing about the new collective bargaining agreement is intended to change the current practice of allowing employees on parental leave to use their available sick leave. There will be no newly imposed limitations under this CBA. An email was shared with all staff.
 - Compensation - a careful balance of fair compensation to staff and community.
 - Goal to recruit outstanding educators in every class of employees.

- Member Barsotti commented that this was a collaborative process and was done well. He is glad that an agreement was reached, and sorry that it was not more mutually accepted.
- Member Claps thanked everyone involved in the process and shared that the board is available to meet with the REC for ongoing discussions.
- Board President Muirheid closed by echoing the above comments.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

K. New Business/Discussion.

1. Advanced Learning Update
 - Director of Teaching and Learning Angela Dolezal provided the Board with an update on advanced learning.
 - Riverside School District 96 engaged Northwestern University's Center for Talent Development (CTD) to conduct a comprehensive review of its advanced learning services. The review focused on program strengths, areas for growth, and alignment with current research and best practices.
 - The review consisted of five key components:
 - Stakeholder Surveys
In fall 2024, CTD administered surveys to students, parents, and educators to gather insights into experiences, perceptions, and areas for improvement.
 - Focus Groups
CTD facilitated focus groups with 119 students, 34 parents, and 23 staff and administrators. These sessions explored themes that emerged from surveys and student data.
 - Data Analysis
Achievement and growth data from the 2023–24 and 2024–25 school years were analyzed to assess performance and demographics of students in and out of advanced learning services. Assessments included: Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), NWEA MAP (achievement and growth), and Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR).
 - Classroom Observations
Observers visited 35 classrooms (11 at Hauser Junior High and 24 across elementary schools) to assess instructional strategies and student engagement.
 - Document Review
CTD reviewed district policies, handbooks, webpages, State Report Card data, and demographic information.
 - Recommendations for Future Action
 - Improve communication around identification processes and the continuum of services.

- Refine K–8 service alignment, particularly Tier 1 instruction and enrichment opportunities.
- Update identification and acceleration criteria to ensure equitable access.
- Expand professional development to support staff in meeting the needs of advanced learners.
- Next Steps
 - Develop a communication plan to share findings and the timeline for action.
 - Create a roadmap for updating service pathways, identification procedures, and resource allocation.
 - Integrate advanced learner profiles into the district’s MTSS framework.
 - Provide ongoing professional learning focused on instructional strategies and tiered support for advanced learners.

2. Proposal for Blythe Park Playground.

- D96 has finalized the IGA with the Village of Riverside regarding the Blythe Park playground.
- Superintendent Ryan-Toye introduced DLA Architects Steve Wright and Ryan Kelley, who shared a brief presentation on the proposal for the Blythe Park playground. This is a first look for the board.
- This topic has been discussed over the past several months. The current playground’s equipment has been deemed near the end of its useful life. This proposal would include the replacement of all exterior playground equipment at Blythe Park Elementary School, encompassing surfacing, underdrainage, and concrete curb and sidewalk work that access the playground.
- The tentative project schedule was shared with the board.
- The board had a question-and-answer session with DLA.
- Riverside Parks & Rec will be involved in this process.
- The board thanked DLA, and this matter will be brought back to the board at the June regular business meeting.

3. Facility Advisory Committee.

- Highlights were shared from the May 19th Facility Advisory Committee meeting.

N. Public Comment/Response.

There was no public comment.

O. Future Meeting Dates.

- June 4, 2025 - Board Self-Assessment, 6:00 p.m. in the Library at Ames School.
- June 18, 2025 - Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Hauser Learning Resource Center.
- July 2, 2024 - **Canceled**- Committee of the Whole Meeting.
- July 16, 2025—Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Hauser Learning Resource Center.
- August 6, 2025 - Committee of the Whole, 7:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at Blythe Park School.
- August 20, 2025—Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Hauser Learning Resource Center.

P. 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 Usage Report.
4. Budget Progress Statement.
5. Financial Statements.
6. Legal Bills.
7. Architect Bills.
8. School Lunches Served Report.

20-529 Q. A motion was made by Mr. Hunt and supported by Mr. Barsotti to adjourn to Closed Session for the following reasons:

•**Any** matter involving an individual student. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10).

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

R. Return to Open Session.

S. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

May 21, 2025

Date Recorded

Date Approved

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education