

MINUTES OF THE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Of the Board of Education
Riverside School District No. 96
Held on Wednesday, April 2, 2025
Central Elementary School

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

20-505 A. Vice-President Joel Marhoul called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 6:15 p.m., and on roll call, the following members were recorded as being present:

	Mr. Barsotti
	Mr. Hunt
	Ms. Claps
	Mr. Marhoul
	Mr. Muirheid
Absent:	Ms. Gunn
	Ms. Kachlic
	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 Don Tufano, Director of Finance Jim Fitton, Central Principal Pete Gatz, Field Technician Charles Scott, the Board of Education recording clerk, and a Riverside TV videographer.

20-506 B. A motion was made by Mr. Barsotti and supported by Mr. Hunt to adjourn to Closed Session for the following reasons:

- 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 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).

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes:	Ms. Claps
	Mr. Barsotti
	Mr. Hunt
	Mr. Marhoul
	Ms. Kachlic, attending via telephone at 6:15 pm
Absent:	Ms. Gunn
	Mr. Muirheid
Nays:	None

C. Return to Open Session.

Member Kachlic joined the meeting via Zoom.

D. Welcome to Central Elementary School.

- Principal Gatz welcomed the board to Central School.
- Central students are back in school after enjoying spring break.
- IAR testing has begun for math and reading students in grades 3-5.
- Students are making a lasting mark on Central's walls this spring. All current students will contribute to a mural with Artist in Residence Erika Vazzana. The PTO was acknowledged for bringing this wonderful opportunity to Central School. The mural is almost finished, so stop by and check it out.
- Central's Variety Show is scheduled for April 17.
- April is a busy month at the school with upcoming band, chorus, and orchestra concerts.
- The board thanked Principal Gatz for this welcome and update.

E. Public Comment/Response.

There were no public comments.

F. Changes to the Agenda.

There were no changes to the agenda.

G. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee - Mr. Barsotti.

a. Salt Creek Valley Transportation Update.

- Director of Finance Jim Fitton updated the board that the district faces challenges covering transportation for its sports teams.
- Because of this, the district will continue with its solution of having parents help transport the sports teams by forming carpools and transporting the players in their vehicles.
- The administration will continue to look at contracting bus companies for more or all sports next school year.
- The board thanked Jim Fitton for continuing to pursue this matter.

b. Annual Tech 3YR Roadmap.

- Director of Technology and Innovation Don Tufano discussed the following topics with the Board members.
 - Environments: Local, Premise, Hybrid & Cloud
 - Connectivity and Infrastructure
 - Premise Network Hardware
 - Devices
 - Safety & Security
 - Web & Social Media Presence
 - An informal A1 committee is looking into establishing A1 guidelines.
- The Board thanked Mr. Tufano for this presentation.

c. Technology: Wireless Upgrade proposal (initial discussion).

- Director of Technology Don Tufano updated the board regarding the wireless network replacement project planned for the summer of 2025. The Federal E-Rate Program partially subsidizes this project, which was initially presented and discussed in August 2023 as part of the FY24 Technology Roadmap presentation. The project's implementation will replace equipment originally installed eight years ago in 2017. The project focuses on modernizing and enhancing District 96's wireless infrastructure while ensuring continuity with the district's existing network infrastructure.

- The administration will seek the Board of Education's approval of the Cisco Meraki MR46 (WiFi 6) wireless network replacement proposal, utilizing longtime Cisco Meraki partner, Downers Grove-based Mingsight, at the upcoming Business Meeting on April 16th. This initiative, supported by E-Rate funding, will significantly enhance the district's wireless infrastructure, ensuring a robust and reliable network for students and staff for years to come.
- The Board thanked Mr. Tufano for this presentation.

2. Education Committee - Ms. Kachlic.

- Curriculum Updates: Amplify CKLA and Mystery Science.
 - Director of Teaching and Learning Angela Dolezal shared Amplify CKLA and Mystery Science highlights.
 - This is a Tier 1 Curriculum offered for all students.
 - This is a dual-strand Model
 - Foundational Skills Instruction
 - Content-Rich Knowledge-Building
 - This program offers a dedicated focus on listening comprehension in primary grades.
 - Writing tasks are integrated in both strands.
 - Staff and students' reflections on this program were shared.
 - Next Steps
 - Increase primary language arts instruction time to 120 minutes, scheduled throughout the school day.
 - Alignment of assessments, including the removal of Fountas and Pinnell.
 - Continued professional development on Amplify CKLA writing instruction, to name a few.
 - Mystery Science Overview
 - This is the district's other new curricular resource
 - This inquiry-based Science Curriculum is aligned to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).
 - Key Features are:
 - Anchor Phenomena and Real-World Connections
 - Three-Part Lesson Structure
 - Hands-On Learning
 - This is a very easy resource to use.
 - Staff and students' reflections on this program were shared.
 - The Board shared that growth is very encouraging and looks forward to the continuation of showing positive outcomes.
- World Cafe Feedback.
 - Director of Teaching and Learning Angela Dolezal shared feedback regarding the World Cafe with the Board of Education. This program gathers students (grades 5 - 8) insight into their experiences and perspectives.
 - The program's structure focuses on free-flowing dialogue in response to three questions.
 - What do you like most about your school? What do you wish were different about your school?
 - In what ways does your school do a good job of making you feel safe and welcome?
 - What is something you would like us to know?

- The cafe meets for one hour per group, facilitated by a staff member.
 - Next steps
 - Explore the specifics aligned with our values and goals
 - With the current Strategic Plan sunset, this program is looking to develop data points and help inform what might be addressed in the next Strategic Plan
 - Also, one of the goals of the Family and Community Partnership Committee is to align our student council by reviewing this data.
3. Facilities Committee - Mr. Marhoul.
 - a. Facility Advisory Committee - March 17, 2025.
 - Joel Marhoul shared highlights from the March 17th Facility Advisory Committee meeting.
 4. Policy Committee - Ms. Gunn.
 - There is nothing to report tonight.
 - The Board was reminded to review Section 5 of its policies.
 5. Personnel Committee - Mr. Hunt/Ms. Claps.
 - There is nothing to report tonight.

H. Public Comment/Response.

There were no public comments.

I. Future Meeting Dates.

1. April 16, 2025 - 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.).
2. May 7, 2025 - Biennial Organizational Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at Ames Elementary School.
3. May 21, 2025—Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Hauser Auditorium. (If necessary, The Board will enter into Closed Session at 6:15 p.m. and return to Open Session at 7:00 p.m.).

The board went into closed session for the following reasons:

- 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 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).

K. Return to Open Session.

L. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

April 2, 2025
Date Recorded

Date Approved

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education