

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
Of the Board of Education
School District No. 96
Held on Wednesday, December 17, 2025
Hauser Jr. High School
Riverside, IL

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

20-579 A. President Wesley Muirheid called the Regular Business Meeting to order at 6:15 p.m., and on roll call, the following members were recorded as being present:

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

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

20-580 B. A motion was made by Mr. Barsotti and supported by Ms. Claps to adjourn to Closed Session for the following reasons:

- Security** procedures and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8).
- 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).
- Discussion** of minutes of meetings lawfully closed, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21).
- Any** matter involving an individual student. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10).

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

C. Return to Open Session.

The board returned to open session at 7:00 pm.

The meeting began with a moment of silence in remembrance of a Hauser student.

Superintendent Ryan-Toye expressed her deepest condolences to the family during this difficult time.

D. Public Comment/Response.

- Daniel Loucks, D96 parent, urged the Board of Education to add the district's participation in the Be SMART program to a future agenda. The Be SMART framework provides parents, caretakers, and community leaders with actionable steps to promote responsible gun storage and enhance community safety.

E. Changes to the Agenda.

There are no changes to tonight's meeting agenda.

F. Superintendent's Report.

1. Strategic Plan Living the Plan Updates - December 5.

- The administration presented an overview of the district's Strategic Plan to the board. This framework serves as the foundation for all district decision-making. As the district concludes the final meeting of the 2021–2026 cycle (date to be scheduled), the team will simultaneously begin developing a new five-year plan.

2. Happy Holidays from District 96.

- Superintendent Ryan-Toye wished everyone a Happy Holiday from Riverside School District 96.

20-581 G. Approval of Consent Agenda.

The Vice-President to the Board of Education read the Consent Agenda items aloud.

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

The motion carried the following roll call vote:

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

Superintendent Ryan-Toye extended a warm welcome to Shannon Pride, who attended the meeting as District 96's incoming HR Specialist. Joining the district on December 5th, Ms. Pride will work alongside the retiring Donna McLachlan through February to ensure a seamless leadership

transition.

H. Riverside Education Council Comments.

There were no comments.

I. Board Member Comments.

D96's staff was acknowledged for their outstanding holiday music programs and Central's Science Fair.

20-582 I. Old Business.

1. Resolution Authorizing the Extension of an Interfund Loan from the Educational Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund- **Action Item**.

A motion was made by Mr. Barsotti and supported by Mr. Olech to direct the School Treasurer to make an interfund loan in the amount of \$850,000 from the School District's Educational Fund to its Operations and Maintenance Fund as presented.

It was noted that this matter has been discussed at length at prior board meetings.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

20-583 2. Strategic Planning Facilitator 2026-2031 Recommendation - Action Item.

A motion was made by Mr. Barsotti and supported by Mr. Olech to approve Educational Leadership Solutions to facilitate the district's next five-year strategic plan, as presented.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

K. New Business/Discussion.

There are no new business discussion items.

L. Public Comment/Response.

There was no public comment.

M. Future Meeting Dates.

- January 7, 2026 - After viewing this meeting, it was **canceled**.
- January 21, 2026 - Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Resource Learning 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.).

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 Usage Report.
4. FOIA Requests.
5. Financial Statements.
6. Legal Bills.
7. Architect Bills.
8. School Lunches Served Reports.

O. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

December 17, 2025

Date Recorded

Date Approved

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education