

MINUTES OF THE BIENNIAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
FOR THE PURPOSE OF REORGANIZATION
Of the Board of Education
Riverside School District No. 96
Held on Wednesday, May 7, 2025
Ames Elementary School
Riverside, IL

BIENNIAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

20-513 A. The Biennial Organizational Meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m. by President Wesley Muirheid and on roll call, the following members were recorded as being present:

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

Absent: None

Also present were Superintendent Dr. Martha Ryan-Toye, Director of Teaching and Learning Angela Dolezal, Director of Special Education Nora Geraghty, Director of Finance Jim Fitton, Director of Technology Don Tufano; Incoming Board of Education Member Matt Olech; Riverside Education Council Co-President Claire LaForge, Board of Education recording clerk, community members, and a Riverside TV videographer.

B. Public Comment/Response.

Nicole Newsome, a parent of students at Hauser and Ames, shared her concern regarding the handling of a racial bullying incident that occurred while her daughter was in elementary school. Instead of meaningful communications, things were handled quietly and behind closed doors. When a child is being bullied and targeted, their parents must be informed; otherwise, the parents are robbed of their ability to support and protect them. The board was urged to review its current communication protocols to ensure priority is given to transparency, consistency, and students' well-being.

Member Claps apologized to this parent for what her family has been experiencing. The board will examine how the district communicates with families when harm has been done to their child(ren). The Superintendent will follow up with her regarding her concerns.

C. Changes to the Agenda.

There were no changes to the agenda.

D. New Business.

1. Confirmation of the Consolidated Election Canvass Results.

This year, the Board had four (4) positions to fill and four (4) candidates for these positions. The Cook County Clerk's Office confirmed the April 1, 2025, Consolidated General Election results are as follows:

School B.M., Riverside 96, 4yr - Vote For 4		
13 of 13 Precincts Reported		
Candidate Name	Votes	%
David Barsotti (Nonpartisan)	1,265	25.44%
Stephanie Basanez Gunn (Nonpartisan)	1,283	25.80%
Daniel Hunt (Nonpartisan)	1,235	24.84%
Matt Olech (Nonpartisan)	1,189	23.91%

Mr. Barsotti, Mr. Hunt, and Ms. Gunn ran unopposed and were elected to the Riverside School District 96 Board of Education for a four-year term, which will expire in April 2029. Mr. Olech ran for the seat vacated by Joel Marhoul on the Riverside School District 96 Board of Education for a four-year term through April 2029.

E. Old Business.

There was no old business to attend to at this time.

F. New Business.

There was no new business to attend to at this time.

20-514 G. Appointment of President Pro Tem (until the election of the Board President).

Mr. Hunt recommended that Mr. Marhoul be appointed as President Pro Tem until the election of the Board President.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Ms. Claps
 Mr. Marhoul
 Mr. Barsotti
 Mr. Hunt
 Ms. Gunn

Ms. Kachlic
Mr. Muirheid

H. Oath of Office and Seating of Elected Board Members.

The Oath of Office (Policy 2:80 Board Member Oath and Conduct) was administered by President Pro Tem Mr. Marhoul to the newly elected Board Member Matt Olech and re-elected Board Members Dan Hunt, David Barsotti, and Stephanie Gunn to each serve on the Board for a 4-year term.

After reciting the Oath of Office, the Board Members took their seats at the Board table.

19-515 I. Organizational Business.

I.1. Election of Officers - President for a 2-year term.

Mr. Barsotti nominated, and Mr. Hunt seconded Mr. Muirheid for President of the Board of Education for a 2-year term.

There were no additional nominations.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Mr. Muirheid assumed the role of President for a 2-year term.

20-516 I.2. Election of Officers - Vice President for a 2-year term.

Mr. Muirheid nominated, and Ms. Gunn seconded David Barsotti for Vice President for a 2-year term.

There were no additional nominations.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

20-517 I.3. Election of Officers - Secretary for a 2-year term.

Mr. Muirheid nominated, and Ms. Claps seconded Ms. Gunn for Secretary for a 2-year term.

There were no additional nominations.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

I.4 Appointment of Committee Chairs.

a. Education Committee.

Mr. Muirheid nominated Mr. Hunt as the Chair of the Education Committee. There were no other nominations for this position.

Mr. Hunt agreed to chair the Education Committee. The Board agreed by consensus to have Mr. Hunt serving as chair of the Education Committee.

b. Finance Committee.

Mr. Muirheid nominated Ms. Claps to Chair the Finance Committee. There were no other nominations. The Board agreed to a consensus with Ms. Claps serving as the Finance Committee Chair.

c. Policy Committee.

Mr. Muirheid nominated Ms. Gunn to Chair the Policy Committee. There were no other nominations. The Board agreed by consensus to have Ms. Gunn serve as the Policy Committee Chair.

d. Facilities Committee.

Mr. Muirheid nominated Mr. Olech to chair the Facilities Committee. There were no other nominations. The Board agreed by consensus to have Mr. Olech serve as the Chair of the Facilities Committee.

e. Personnel Committee.

Mr. Muirheid nominated Mr. Barsotti for chair of the Personnel Committee. There were no other nominations. The Board agreed by consensus to have Mr. Barsotti serve as the Personnel Committee Chair.

f. Family and Community Partnerships - New Board Committee.

Mr. Muirheid nominated Ms. Kachlic to chair this newly established Family and Community Partnerships Committee. There were no other nominations. The Board agreed by consensus to have Ms. Kachlic serve as the Family and Community Partnerships Committee Chair.

I.5. Appointment of Representatives/Liaisons.

Board members have agreed to serve as a Liaison or Representative to the following committees:

- PTA/PTO: Ms. Kachlic and Mr. Olech as backup at monthly meetings
- Ed-Red: Ms. Gunn
- IASB: TBD, as needed
- R.E.C.: Mr. Muirheid
- Behavioral Intervention Committee: Ms. Kachlic

I.6. Action Items.

20-518 a. Establishment of Regular Meeting Dates, Times and Places - Action Item

Mr. Hunt made a motion, supported by Mr. Barsotti, that the Board continue the Establishment of Regular Meeting Dates, Times, and Places as presented.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

20-519 a. Establishment of Committee of the Whole Meeting Dates, Times and Places - Action Item

Ms. Gunn made a motion, supported by Mr. Barsotti, that the Board continue the Establishment of Committee of the Whole Meeting Dates, Times, and Places as presented.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

b. Board Continues to Operate Under the Present Policies.

There is no vote needed. The Board is in consensus to continue to follow these policies.

c. Board continues to Operate Under the Present Board Agreements and Board/ Superintendent Agreements.

There is no vote needed. The Board is in consensus to continue to follow these agreements.

20-520 6.d. Authorization of Signatories for Board, in addition to President and Secretary.

A motion was made by Mr. Hunt and supported by Mr. Barsotti to approve the Vice President to have signatory authority should the President or Secretary not be available To sign necessary documents.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

20-521 I.6.e. Authorization of Signatories for Imprest Account and Financial Reports.

A motion was made by Ms. Kachlic and supported by Mr. Barsotti to approve the following positions as signatories on the Imprest Account and Financial Report:

- Superintendent
- Director of Finance and Operations
- Director of Teaching and Learning

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

J. Acknowledgement of Appreciation.

Departing Board member Joel Marhoul was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and a small token to commemorate his eight years of service to Riverside School District

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K. Riverside Education Council (REC).

Riverside Education Council's Co-President Claire LaForge shared a statement honoring Mr. Marhoul's years of service to the district.

L. Superintendent.

Superintendent Ryan-Toye welcomed Mr. Olech to the Board and thanked Mr. Hunt, Mr. Barsotti and Ms. Gunn for their return to the Board for another four years of service.

Superintendent Ryan-Toye thanked Mr. Marhoul and bid him a fond farewell. She thanked Mr. Marhoul for his assistance with the facility committee, to name a few. The work he did was for our students, team, and staff, which has been very much appreciated. He will be greatly missed.

M. Board of Education.

Board members shared their tributes to member Marhoul and thanked him for his eight years of service to Riverside School District 96. Joel, you will be greatly missed.

Mr. Marhoul read a statement thanking the Board, the Superintendent, her cabinet members, the board recording clerk, and D96 educators for their ongoing efforts in providing an excellent education to our students. He believes the district is in a good place and thanked the board for allowing him to be a part of this.

N. Future Meeting Dates.

- May 19, 2021, Regular Business Meeting - 7:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at Ames School. (The Board will enter into Closed Session at 6:30 p.m., if necessary, and return to Open Session at 7:00 p.m.).
- June 4, 2025 - Board Self-Assessment, 6:00 p.m. - library at Ames Elementary School.
- June 18, 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.).

O. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

May 7, 2025

Date Recorded

Date Approved

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education