

MINUTES OF THE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Of the Board of Education
Riverside School District No. 96
Held on Wednesday, March 5, 2025
Hauser Junior High School

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD

20-493 A. President Wesley Muirheid called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., and on roll call, the following members were recorded as being present:

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

Also in attendance were Superintendent Martha Ryan-Toye, Director of Teaching and Learning Angela Dolezal, Director of Finance Jim Fitton, Director of Technology Don Tufano, the Board of Education recording clerk, a Riverside TV videographer, and a staff member.

B. Public Comment/Response.

There were no public comments.

C. Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

D. Committee Reports

1. Education Committee - Ms. Kachlic.

- a. Update on Advanced Learning Review Process.
 - Director of Teaching and Learning Angela Dolezal shared a presentation on this topic. The committee was acknowledged. Its purpose is to evaluate the district's Advanced Learning/Enrichment program comprehensively.
 - D96 goals are that they are committed to providing all students with challenging and enriching educational experiences that foster their intellectual growth and prepare them for future success
 - Utilize Recommendations to:
 - Ensure Student Needs are Met - Verify that the program effectively meets the needs of our advanced learners, providing them with appropriate challenges and supports
 - Optimize Identification and Qualification—We will refine our identification and qualification processes to ensure equitable access and accurate placement of students in the program.
 - Currently, the program is very test-dependent. D96 is working with a consultant to find out if there are other ways to utilize best practices to ensure we all capture all students.
 - Maintain Program Alignment - Ensure the program aligns with best practices and reflects the district's commitment to continuous improvement and excellence.

- The committee worked with consultants from the Northwest Center for Talent Development. The committee will engage in a collaborative and data-driven process, including:
 - Data Analysis - Review student achievement data, program participation data, and student, staff, and family feedback.
 - Best Practice Research - Examine current research and best practices in advanced learning.
 - Program Evaluation - Evaluate the program's curriculum, instructional strategies, and supports, which have been done through classroom observations, surveys, and focus groups.
 - Stakeholder Input - Gathering feedback through surveys and focus groups with students, staff, and families
 - Collaborative Decision Making - Engaging in open and transparent discussions to review recommendations and make informed decisions regarding the program's future, including strategies for implementation and future evaluation.
 - Next steps
 - Consultants from the Northwestern Center for Talent Development are performing the data analysis (February/early March).
 - Consultants from Northwestern Center for Talent Development will formulate actionable recommendations for program improvement, including strategies for implementation and evaluation (February/early March).
 - Consultants will bring recommendations to the review committee (late March/early April).
 - The committee analyzes recommendations for program improvements, makes informed decisions on which recommendations to implement and when to implement them (April/May), and develops a timeline.
 - Communication to Stakeholders, including the Board of Education, about the plan for recommendations that the committee plans to implement. (May or June). The plan will be created, but implementation will occur during the 2026-2027 school year.
 - The board inquired about the consultants' feedback on the focus groups. Good feedback was shared. The administration received several emails from parents acknowledging their involvement in this process. The identification process needs to be communicated better regarding how one qualifies for this program.
 - The program's current admission criteria were shared. Assessment profile and spring MAP scores, Cohort data, curriculum scores, and matrix are shared with parents. A letter is sent to the family if a student qualifies for the program. An appeal process is available. It's not an appeal process but an additional review of the student's testing data.
 - Does the district look at neighboring school districts regarding this program? Curriculum directors are all looking to revise their programs. An example shared was to move up the identification process early to grade two.
 - Secretary Gunn attended a focus group and shared praise for the staff involved in this program.
 - Superintendent Ryan-Toye shared that the challenge is how school districts ensure their systems are equitable and inclusive and that teachers differentiate the needs of all students. The district wants to bring these opportunities and experiences to all D96 students.
 - The board looks forward to hearing the additional recommendations on this program.
 - The board thanked Dr. Dolezal for this presentation and is glad the administration is undertaking this review.
- b. Goal 4-Family Learning Night. Thank you!
- Superintendent Ryan-Toye shared that Family Literacy Night was held on February 26.

- This was another successful family learning night. Over 75 students were in attendance at the Family Literacy Night.
 - The Family and Community Partnership has committed to an annual learning event to rotate learning areas yearly. The family learning night initially focused on math; last year, science, and this year's topic was literacy.
 - The time needed to plan and prepare for this event is significant. Thank you to Sara Hickey, Instructional Coach, and the 23 staff members who helped make this event successful.
 - Board member Dan Hunt shared that he and his family attended, and it was a great event.
 - Superintendent Ryan-Toye presented the board with an overview of the district's March 5th Strategic Plan, Living the Plan. This work guides all of the district's decisions.
 - It was reiterated that this is the district's fourth year of the plan, and they may want to start developing the next five-year strategic plan.
2. Finance Committee - Mr. Barsotti.
 - a. Member Barsotti did not have anything to share tonight.
 3. Facilities Committee - Mr. Marhoul.
 - a. Facility Advisory Committee Meeting Overview - February 18, 2025.
 - Member Marhoul shared highlights from the February 18th meeting.
 4. Policy Committee - Ms. Gunn.
 - Nothing to report tonight.
 5. Personnel Committee - Mr. Hunt/Ms. Claps.
 - Nothing to report tonight.

E. Public Comment/Response.

There were no public comments.

F. Future Meeting Dates.

1. March 19, 2025 - Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the LRC at Hauser. (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. April 2, 2025 - Committee of the Whole, 7:00 p.m. - Hollywood Elementary School multi-purpose room.
3. April 16, 2025 - Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the LRC at Hauser. (The Board will enter into Closed Session at 6:15 p.m., if necessary, and return to Open Session at 7:00 p.m.).
4. May 7, 2025 - Biennial Organizational Meeting, 7:00 p.m. multi-purpose room at Ames Elementary School.
5. May 21, 2025 - Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium at Hauser. (The Board will enter into Closed Session at 6:15 p.m., if necessary, and return to Open Session at 7:00 p.m.).

20-493 G. A motion was made by Mr. Marhoul and supported by Ms. Gunn 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 motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

The board went into closed session at 7:20 p.m.

K. Return to Open Session.

L. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

March 5, 2025

Date Recorded

Date Approved

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education