

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
Of the Board of Education
School District No. 96
Held on Wednesday, June 17, 2026
Ames Elementary School
Riverside, IL

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

20-587 A. Vice-President David Barsotti 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. Olech
	Mr. Hunt
	Ms. Claps
	Mr. Barsotti
Absent:	Mr. Muirheid
	Ms. Gunn
	Ms. Kachlic

Also in attendance were Superintendent Martha Ryan-Toye, Director of Finance Steve Wilder, Director of Technology Molly Marquardt, the Board of Education recording clerk, and a Riverside TV videographer.

20-588 B. A motion was made by Mr. Hunt and supported by Ms. Claps to adjourn to Closed Session for the following reasons:

- **The** appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or of the District's legal counsel, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or legal counsel to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).
- **Minutes** of meetings lawfully closed, whether for purposes of approval or semi-annual review. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21).
- **Collective** negotiating matters or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).
- **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. Hunt
	Mr. Barsotti
Absent:	Mr. Muirheid
	Ms. Gunn
	Ms. Kachlic
Nays:	None

C. Return to Open Session.

The Board returned to open session at 7:02 p.m.

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. Kindergarten Enrollment - June update

- Superintendent Ryan Toye updated the board on enrollment numbers for the upcoming school year. District 96 uses a school assignment algorithm for this process. The administration will continue to update the board on this matter.

2. 2025-2026 Trimester III update on chronic absenteeism.

- This was an informational item for the board. This topic is shared with the board each trimester.
- The board shared its appreciation for all the work done by the administration team.

3. Riverside Junior Woman's Charity Gift to D96.

- The Riverside Junior Woman's Charity was acknowledged for their recent donation to cover the remaining food balances of students in need in Riverside School District 96. District 96 greatly appreciates the support and assistance from Riverside Junior Woman's Charity.

20-589 G. Approval of Consent Agenda.

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

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

The motion carried the following roll call vote:

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

H. Riverside Educational Council Comments

There were no public comments from the Riverside Educational Council.

I. Board member comments.

- Mr. Hunt shared that summer construction projects are underway in the district.

20-590 J. Old Business.

1. Approve Strategic Plan

A motion was made by Mr. Hunt and supported by Mr. Olech to approve the 2026-2031 Strategic Plan, as presented.

This is the next iteration of D96's vision. The administration will continue working with Educational Leadership Solutions to develop specific goals and objectives for each overarching goal, making each goal area actionable and complete with timelines.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

20-591 J. Old Business.

2. PRESS Policies #121 - Second Reading and Approval - Action Item.

A motion was made by Ms. Claps and supported by Mr. Hunt to approve PRESS Policies #121 along with six D96 edit policies, as presented.

The first reading of PRESS Policy #121 took place at the June Committee of the Whole meeting.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

K. New Business/Discussion.

1. 5Essentials Alternative Survey considerations.

- The Illinois State Board of Education recently approved the Panorama Survey as an official, allowable alternative to the mandated 5Essentials survey for students (Grades 4-8), parents, and staff.
 - Currently, District 96 utilizes the free 5Essentials tool but supplements it with an annual EAB membership to administer a specialized staff morale survey. Our EAB contract expires in September 2026. Transitioning to Panorama allows us to consolidate all student, family, and staff morale feedback into a single, cohesive platform.
 - By eliminating EAB and adopting Panorama, the district will reduce its annual survey software expenditures while gaining a superior tool.
 - Over the past several months, I have actively vetted this transition with internal and external leadership groups. The shift to Panorama has been endorsed by:
 - The District Leadership Team
 - The Family and Community Partnerships Action Team
 - Parent Leadership Team
 - The Riverside Education Council (REC)
 - The Goal 3 Action Team (focused on staff morale)
 - The board shared their thoughts on this matter and reached a consensus to proceed with the recommendation to transition from the 5Essentials survey to the Panorama Survey platform beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, and to concurrently discontinue our membership with EAB. This is a one-year decision, so the district can always revert to 5Essentials if needed.
 - Next Steps are to continue planning to non-renew EAB membership and begin onboarding the Panorama platform for the 2026-2027 school year.
2. 10-Year Health Life Safety Assessment Proposal.
- Director of Finance Steve Wilder presented the 10-year health and life safety assessment proposal to the board of education.
 - This is a requirement by the ISBE
 - This document will provide D96 with a comprehensive planning tool for the next 10 years.
 - There are specific tasks that must be completed to prepare the required documentation for the Illinois State Board of Education.
 - DLA Architects shall do the following: update existing digital drawings and create Safety Reference Plans in CAD format for all your buildings; create a summary of the existing conditions of all your buildings; conduct a visual inspection of all of the District's facilities (including the sites) and identify violations.
 - The last survey was done in 2016 by Legat Architects
 - The administration recommends moving forward with DLA on this project.
 - It should be noted that the facility and finance are looking to put together a 5-year timeline for all 5 schools that focus on compliance issues.
- This matter will be placed on the agenda for the July board meeting.

L. Public Comment/Response.

There was no public comment.

M. Future Meeting Dates.

- July 1, 2026 - **Canceled**- Committee of the Whole Meeting.
- July 15, 2026—Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Ames multi-purpose room.
- August 5, 2026 - Committee of the Whole, 7:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at Ames School.
- August 19, 2026—Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Hauser Learning Resource Center.
- September 2, 2026 - Board Self-Assessment/Committee of the Whole Meeting, 6:00 p.m. at TBD.

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 Report.
9. May 2026 Construction Monthly Report.

20-592 O. A motion was made by Mr. Olech and supported by Mr. Hunt to adjourn to Closed Session at 7:43 pm for the following reasons:

•**Collective** negotiating matters or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).

•**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. Hunt
	Mr. Barsotti
Absent:	Mr. Muirheid
	Ms. Gunn
	Ms. Kachlic
Nays:	None

P. Return to Open Session.

The Board returned to open session at 7:43 p.m.

Q. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

June 17, 2026

Date Recorded

Date Approved

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education