

MINUTES OF THE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Of the Board of Education
Riverside School District No. 96
Held on Wednesday, June 3, 2026
Hollywood Elementary School

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

20-586 A. President Wesley Muirheid called the Regular Business Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and on roll call the following members were recorded as being present:

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

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

B. Public Comment/Response.

There were no public comments at this time.

C. Committee Reports

1. Policy Committee - Ms. Gunn

PRESS Policies Memo #121 - First Reading

- Policy Chair Ms. Gunn highlighted the Spring Policy Update, Issue #121.
- This bundle was broken into the following categories: Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act, Personnel, Student Records, School Code Article 27 Reorganization, Title I Parent and Family Engagement, Five-Year Reviews, and Miscellaneous.
- The following policies were discussed: Policy 2:200, Policy 2:220, Policy 2:250, Policy 2:260, Policy 4:165, Policy 5:30, Policy 5:250, Policy 5:330, Policy 6:65, Policy 6:100, Policy 6:145, Policy 6:170, Policy 7:20, Policy 7:50, Policy 7:100, Policy 7:185, Policy 7:240, Policy 7:260, Policy 7:300, and Policy 8:90.
- A progress report was shared on legislation to watch for.
- In addition, there were several D96 Edits policies: Policy 1:30, Policy 2:265, Policy 5:10, Policy 5:20, Policy 5:170, Policy 7:180, and Policy 7: 255.
- These policies will be brought back to the board for second reading and approval at the June regular business meeting.

D. 2022-2026 Strategic Plan Update.

1. Strategic Plan Scorecard.

- This scorecard incorporates all of the committees.
- Casimira Gorman shared highlights of Goal One: Student Growth and Achievement.
- The first topic covered was Standards-Based Grading and Reporting Progress:

- Key highlights included:
 - Developed a clear report card template designed for easy interpretation by students and families.
 - Planned the rollout of a new digital reporting tool to track student progress efficiently.
 - Math Framework: Finalized a comprehensive K–5 Mathematics scope and sequence to ensure direct alignment with reported standards.
 - Implementation Timeline:
 - 2025–2026: K–5 students will receive standards-based report card markings in Mathematics and Science.
 - 2026–2027: English Language Arts and Social Studies will transition to standards-based reporting.
 - *Family Communication:*
 - Families will be supported through ongoing education efforts on the new K–5 report card and PowerSchool tools for middle school.
 - Advanced Learning
 - NWEA MAP results indicate that reading achievement remains high. Spring 2026 percentiles range from the 71st (Grade 5) to the 78th (Grade 2), maintaining consistency with last year’s performance (SY25 CKLA range: 69th percentile in 3rd - 81st percentile in 2nd).
 - This spring, K–5 teachers thoroughly "unpacked" the CKLA curriculum to ensure every lesson and resource is directly mapped to our ELA priority standards.
 - We are currently aligning our ELA Enrichment Programming with the CKLA framework. This ensures that advanced learners engage with a cohesive set of standards that deepen, rather than deviate from, the core curriculum.
 - We will continue to track CKLA implementation and student data to refine instruction and ensure ongoing growth for all learners.
 - Mathematics
 - Mathematics achievement and growth also show continued strength:
- Nora Geraghty shared highlights of Goal Two: Learning Environment and Culture
- Key highlights included:
 - The 2025-26 school year saw both the introduction of the Elementary Intervention and Support Coordinator (ISC) and increased synthesis of social-emotional supports and structures at Hauser Junior High. The district leadership team identified a priority goal for the year related to implementing our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) for students developing their social-emotional and emotional regulation skills. This goal area was a key area of focus for the added ISC.
 - Staff across the district continued to build consistency in behavioral responses and in tracking concerns or incidents within our Educator Handbook system, to allow for more strategic deployment of resources and interventions. A refinement in the coding and use of Educator Handbook has resulted in better methods for tracking student behavioral challenges across all 5 schools.
 - Work in the summer of 2025 by our district social work and leadership team established a common language and response across district buildings, so that students could receive consistent responses between elementary and junior high.
 - PASS/Renaissance student screeners were completed twice this school year, and the results continue to indicate that our students are in the expected-to-high-average range in their attitudes toward self and school. Our district mental health staff will conduct

some work this summer to select an alternative screening tool that may provide additional useful information as we continue to support students' social and emotional skill development and mental health. ‘

- Finally, we continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to the Responsive Classroom model of classroom structures and community building. Fourteen staff members have applied to participate in Responsive Classroom training this summer. As a district, we are committed to the principles of classroom community and student ownership of their classrooms and learning, which are embedded in the Responsive Classroom model.
- Martha Ryan-Toye shared highlights of Goal Three: High Quality Staff
- Key Progress Highlights (to name a few):
 - To enhance consistency and structure in its interview process, the district refined its hiring practices for certified and administrative roles. A key element of this improvement is the incorporation of rubrics, which will help maintain objectivity and fairness in evaluations by reducing bias and subjectivity. This process was utilized for the recent administrative positions. To better meet student needs for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year, District 96 is adding the following positions:
 - 1 Elementary Intervention & Support Coordinator (administrative)
 - 1 additional Bilingual EL Teacher
 - 1 additional Instructional Coach
 - 1 additional Resource Teacher
 - 1 additional Elementary Physical Education Teacher
 - For the 2026-2027 School Year, an additional middle school math teacher will be added
 - 1 additional middle school math teacher
 - The 2025-2026 school year saw significant personnel changes. This was due to a few anticipated retirements and the resignations of the Director of Finance and Operations and the Director of Teaching and Learning. The following personnel changes are noted here: New Human Resource Specialist, New Director of Facilities and Maintenance (replacing the previous Director of Buildings and Grounds), New Director of Finance and Operations, New Director of Teaching and Learning, New Principal Ames School, and New Principal Blythe Park School
- Martha Ryan-Toye shared highlights of Goal Four: Family and Community Partnerships
 - The overarching goal of this action team, identified as continuing to build trust, capacity, and confidence through robust family and community engagement, resulted in a year of continuous growth and improvement of processes that support strong family engagement. Family engagement and the development of an inclusive community are key components of the current strategic plan and will remain areas of focus in the new strategic plan.
 - Key Progress Highlights (to name a few):
 - Enhanced Communication Platforms: Regular updates and enhanced use of the district website. The district has continued to enhance its social media presence to connect with families, staff, students, and the community at large.
 - Engaging Family Learning Events: We successfully hosted the fourth annual district-wide Family Learning Night, a dedicated math learning event that brought families together.
 - Continued One Book One School at all 4 elementary schools

- Celebrated Cultural Heritage events at all 4 elementary schools
- Hosted a Parent Information Night facilitated by Dr. Doug Bolton on raising resilient children.
- Steve Wilder shared highlights of Goal Five: Stewardship of Resources
- The district maintained an annual School District Financial Profile rating of Financial Recognition (4.0) for Fiscal Year 2025, as calculated and shared in the most recent audit presentation.
- The FY26 Budget will be presented for discussion at the June Board of Education meeting; overall, the discretionary spending increases (aside from salaries and benefits) remained below the Consumer Price Index.
- Summer 2026 Improvement Projects include the following:
 - Masonry work Hauser
 - Window project Hauser
 - New boiler system Central/Hauser
 - New playground Blythe Park school (in cooperation with the Village of Riverside)
- A preliminary FY27 Budget will be presented to the Finance Committee in June.

E. Future Meeting Dates.

1. Due to the construction at Hauser Junior High School, the following meeting will be held at Ames Elementary School.
 - a. June 17, 2026 – Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at Ames School. (The Board will enter into Closed Session at 6:15 p.m., if necessary, and return to Open Session at 7:00 p.m.).
 - b. July 1, 2026 – Canceled.
 - c. July 15, 2026 – Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at Ames School. (The Board will enter into Closed Session at 6:15 p.m., if necessary, and return to Open Session at 7:00 p.m.).
 - d. August 5, 2026 - Committee of the Whole, 7:00 pm in the multi-purpose room at Ames School.
2. August 19, 2026 – 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.).
3. September 2, 2026 - Board Self-Assessment/Committee of the Whole Meeting, 6:00 pm - TBD

I. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

June 3, 2026	
Date Recorded	Date Approved
President, Board of Education	Secretary, Board of Education