

MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
Of the Board of Education  
School District No. 96  
Held on Wednesday, December 18, 2024  
Hauser Jr. High School  
Riverside, IL

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING

20-471 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:

	Mr. Barsotti
	Ms. Gunn, via teleconference
	Ms. Kachlic
	Mr. Marhoul
	Mr. Hunt
	Ms. Claps
	Mr. Muirheid
Absent:	None

Also in attendance were Superintendent Martha Ryan-Toye, Director of Finance and Operations Jim Fitton, Director of Technology Don Tufano, Director of Teaching and Learning Angela Dolezal, Director of Special Education and Student Services Nora Geraghty via Zoom, the recording clerk to the Board of Education, Communication and Marketing Molly Castor, Assistant Principal Chris Harvalis, Chris Harvalis' family, Hauser Principal April Mahy, Hauser staff, and a videographer from Riverside TV.

B. Public Comment/Response.

There was no public comment.

C. Public Hearing on the 2024 Property Tax Levy.

1. A motion was made by Mr. Marhoul and supported by Mr. Barsotti to open the 2024 Property Tax Levy Hearing.

There was no public comment specific to the tax levy.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

2. Adjourn the Public Hearing on the 2024 Property Tax Levy.

A motion was made by Mr. Marhoul and supported by Mr. Barsotti to close the Public Hearing on the 2024 Property Tax Levy.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

D. Approval of Principal for Hauser Junior High School.

A motion was made by Mr. Marhoul and supported by Mr. Barsotti to approve Christopher Harvalis as the new principal of Hauser Junior High School.

Chris Harvalis will replace the current principal, April Mahy, who will be retiring at the end of the 2024-25 school year. Mr. Harvalis will be the new principal of Hauser Junior High School starting July 1, 2025.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

A round of applause was shared after Chris Harvalis was approved as the next Principal of Hauser Junior High School. The board congratulated Chris on his new position and looks forward to his leadership at Hauser Junior High School..

The district will share a family communication tomorrow regarding this announcement.

1. Staff Comments.

Matt Muto, an eighth-grade teacher at Hauser, shared a prepared statement on behalf of the Hauser staff and congratulated Chris Harvalis on his appointment to become the next principal of Hauser Junior High School. Hauser Principal April Mahy, who retires June 30, 2025, was thanked for her many years of service as principal.

E. Recess for a Brief Intermission

A brief intermission was taken to allow the handful of current and former colleagues and his family a few moments to acknowledge Mr. Harvalis' principal appointment.

F. Reconvene Meeting.

The meeting reconvened at 7:17 p.m.

G. Changes to the Agenda.

There are no changes to tonight's meeting agenda.

H. Superintendent's Report.

1. Happy Holidays from District 96.

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

The Board President asked for any updates regarding the Blythe Park intergovernmental agreement. There are no updates to report.

20-472 I. Approval of Consent Agenda.

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

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

The motion carried the following roll call vote:

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

J. Board Member Comments.

D96's staff was acknowledged for their outstanding holiday music programs.

K. New Business.

1. Communication and Marketing - Molly Castor.

- Superintendent Ryan-Toye introduced Molly Castor. Ms. Castor shared her draft communication, brand guide, and marketing plan with the board of education.
- Ms. Castor's consultant agreement was approved at the November business meeting.

- With the launch of the district’s new website, this is an opportune time to update district communications. Ms. Castor’s consultant agreement was approved at the November business meeting to assist the district.
- The district utilizes multiple communication channels to reach all D96 stakeholders. A communication plan chart was shared, denoting a clear strategy for how, when, and to whom communication should be delivered.
- A point-of-contact progression chart was also included, showing clear channels for stakeholders to reach the correct contact closest to the area of concern.
- Broad goals were developed for this inaugural plan.
- How can the district be unique yet cohesive and on-brand.
- The board thanked Ms. Castor for her comprehensive presentation and was asked to reach out with any feedback.

20-473 L. Old Business.

1. Acceptance of Bids for Ames Elementary School 2024 Boiler Report - **Action Item.**

A motion was made by Mr. Marhoul and supported by Mr. Barsotti to award a contract of \$764,000 to C. Acitelli Heating and Piping Contractors, as presented.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

20-474 2. Tax Year 2023 Levy - Action Item.

A motion was made by Mr. Marhoul and supported by Mr. Barsotti to approve the Tax Year 2024 Tax Levy Resolution, for a levy amount total of \$31,286,285; a Certificate of Compliance with the Truth in Taxation Act; and a Resolution Authorizing Reduction of Certain Fund Levies for the 2024 Levy Year, as presented.

Board Vice President Marhoul added that the district continues to increase the levy at the rate of inflation.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Abstain: None

20-475 3. PRESS Policy #117 - Second Reading and Approval - **Action Item.**

A motion was made by Mr. Hunt and supported by Ms. Gunn to approve the second reading and approval of PRESS #117 Policies only, as presented. Policy 7:190 (D96 edits) was removed to seek further clarification.

Policy Chair Gunn shared highlights of the above policies. Board member Claps shared her understanding of revised Policy 7:190. A brief discussion took place, and because there were additional clarifications, this policy was tabled to reach out to the attorney to provide the board with an overview of the requirements of the law and any modifications.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

20-476 4. Approval of DLA MOU for Hollywood Roof Replacement - Action Item.

A motion was made by Mr. Marhoul and supported by Ms. Kachlic to approve the design services to DLA Architects, Ltd. in the sum of \$25,296.00.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

20-477 5. Approval of DLA MOU for Hauser Masonry - **Action Item.**

A motion was made by Mr. Marhoul and supported by Ms. Kachlic to approve, per Vistara's recommendation, the design services to DLA Architects Ltd. for the sum of \$67,054.00.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Marhoul  
Mr. Barsotti

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

20-478 6. Approval of DLA MOU for Blythe Park Windows - **Action Item.**

A motion was made by Mr. Marhoul and supported by Mr. Barsotti to approve, per Vistara's recommendation, the design services to DLA Architects Ltd. in the sum of \$66,150.00.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

M. Public Comment/Response.

There was no public comment.

N. Future Meeting Dates.

- January 1, 2025 - Canceled.
- January 15, 2025 - 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.).
- February 5, 2025 - Committee of the Whole, 7:00 p.m. - Blythe Park Elementary School.
- February 19, 2025 - Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Hauser Auditorium (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. 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. Budget Progress Statement.
7. Legal Bills.
8. Architect Bills.
9. School Lunches Served Report.

P. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

December 18, 2024

Date Recorded

Date Approved

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President, Board of Education

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Secretary, Board of Education