

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
Of the Board of Education
School District No. 96
Held on Wednesday, June 18, 2025
Ames Elementary School
Riverside, IL

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

20-530 A. Board 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
	Mr. Olech
	Ms. Claps
	Mr. Muirheid
Absent:	Ms. Gunn
	Ms. Kachlic
	Mr. Hunt

Also in attendance were Superintendent Martha Ryan-Toye, Director of Teaching and Learning Angela Dolezal, Director of Special Education & Student Services Nora Geraghty, Director of Technology Molly Marquardt, Director of Finance Jim Fitton, community member, the Board of Education recording clerk, and a Riverside TV videographer.

B. Public Comment/Response.

There were no public comments.

C. Changes to the Agenda.

There were no changes to the agenda.

D. 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. As of today, the enrollment numbers are slightly lower than last year's numbers. The administration will continue to update the board on this matter.

2. Strategic Plan End of Year Update.

a. Strategic Plan Scorecard.

The administration shared the progress of the strategic plan during this school year.

Goal One- Student Growth & Achievement

- Angela Dolezal, the goal champion for Goal , shared that this year, significant progress was made across multiple areas tied to student achievement.
- Standards-Based Grading and Reporting - The standards-based grading committee's work included aligning instruction and assessments to Illinois Learning Standards and preparing for a new reporting tool.
 - 2025-26: K-5 report cards will reflect standards-based reporting in Mathematics, Science, and Learning Behaviors.
 - 2026-27: ELA, Social Studies, and Special Areas will transition to standards-based reporting.
 - Middle School: Students will continue receiving letter grades, but all assessments

will be linked to standards in PowerSchool.

- Family Education: Families will be supported through information sessions and guidance materials to understand these changes.
- ELA Achievement - Our first year of Amplify CKLA implementation is complete. Spring 2025 MAP reading achievement percentiles ranged from 69th (Grade 3) to 81st (Grade 2), consistent with the prior year's range (68th–79th). We will continue monitoring both implementation and student outcomes. Based on the board question and answer session, historical data will be added to goal 1.1, and ELA concerns were raised.
- Math Achievement - Spring 2025 MAP math achievement percentiles ranged from 76th (Grade 7) to 93rd (Grade 4), similar to the prior year. Continued analysis will help align MAP data with forthcoming IAR results.
- State Assessment Updates - The Illinois State Board of Education is revising cut scores for the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR). Final determinations are expected in August 2025. The district will analyze and respond accordingly to any shifts in reported performance.

Goal Two - Social-Emotional Learning and Wellbeing

- Nora Geraghty, the goal champion for Goal 2, shared that following the adoption of a district-wide SEL curriculum in 2023–24, the Goal 2 action team aligned a common scope and sequence across all elementary buildings.
- Student Screener Results - District-wide PASS/Renaissance screeners were administered twice this year. Results remain in the expected to high-average range for student attitudes. Mental health teams will explore alternative tools to deepen insights next year.
- Attendance and Belonging - Our district achieved a 94.2% average daily attendance rate, and chronic absenteeism decreased to 9.36%. Leadership teams emphasized student belonging, consistent parent communication, and school connectedness to support these outcomes.
- Responsive Classroom Commitment - As outlined in the newly ratified collective bargaining agreement, the district will offer a stipend to staff who complete Responsive Classroom training this summer. New staff will be encouraged to complete this training early in their tenure.
- Goal 2.3 will be completed in the fall of 2025.
- Only a handful of schools offer universal screening for mental health.

Goal Three: High-Quality Staff

- Don Tufano was the goal champion for Goal 3. With his retirement, Martha Ryan-Toye shared highlights regarding teacher qualifications, hiring process enhancements,
- professional development feedback, employee satisfaction survey, and staffing model adjustments.
- The board shared their concern regarding the data used for this goal and inquired about what actions have come out of the surveys referenced.
- Martha thanked the board for their feedback, and she and David Barsotti will revisit this goal, share what 5Essentials provides the district, make some shifts around this goal, and bring back revisions to the board.

Goal Four: Family and Community Partnerships

- Martha Ryan-Toye, the goal champion for Goal 4. Martha Ryan-Toye shared that the Family and Community Partnerships (FCP) action team advanced efforts to strengthen engagement and trust with families and the broader community.
- Communication Improvements - D96 enhanced outreach using updated family engagement guidelines, the district's new website and app, and a part-time

communications role to boost our social media presence.

- Highlighted family learning events, including a district-wide Family Literacy Night and 'One Book, One School' initiatives across all elementary buildings to promote shared reading experiences.
- While the family survey was postponed to avoid redundancy, the team evaluated Panorama as a replacement for 5Essentials. After review, the district chose to continue with the 5Essentials survey.
- The following steps for 2025–26 include: expand family learning events, launch a revised family survey in Fall 2025, aligned with parent-teacher conferences, host professional development with Rachel Mahmood on fostering belonging, and utilize a newly formed Board Committee to support strategic plan implementation.

Goal Five: Fiscal Responsibility and Operational Excellence

- Jim Fitton, the goal champion for Goal 5, shared that the District maintained a Financial Recognition rating of 4.0 for FY24, the highest possible tier.
 - 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.
 - All scheduled maintenance and capital improvement projects were completed on time and within the Board-approved budget.
 - Discussions took place regarding the renovation and reconfiguration of library media centers as more digital education, i.e., STEM/STEAM, is being implemented.
 - The administration thanked the board for the feedback and will bring a revised scorecard back to them at a future board meeting.
- b. 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 and was included in the Goal Two discussion above.
 - The board shared its appreciation for all the work done by the administration team.

20-531 E. Approval of Consent Agenda.

The Vice-President to the Board of Education read the Consent Agenda items aloud.

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

It was shared that the IGA with Riverside Parks & Rec is included tonight, because when it was approved at the May regular business meeting, a caveat was added stating that *the final agreement is pending legal review with both District 96 and the Village of Riverside*. This is the final agreement. D96 will receive a fully executed copy once the Village of Riverside signs it.

The motion carried the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: None
Abstain: None

F. Riverside Education Council.

There were no comments from the Riverside Education Council.

G. Board member Comments.

There were no comments from board members.

20-532 H. Old Business.

1. Approval of the Teamster Contract, 2025-2030 - Action Item.

A motion was made by Mr. Barsotti and supported by Ms. Claps to approve the Teamster Contract, 2025-2030, as presented.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

20-533 2. Approval of Proposal for Blythe Park Playground - Action Item.

A motion was made by Mr. Barsotti and supported by Ms. Claps to authorize the Architect to provide professional services for the Project identified herein, which professional services shall be subject to all terms and conditions of the Master Agreement B101, unless specifically provided otherwise in this Project Scope of Work Proposal.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

20-534 3. Resolution Approving Emergency Expenditure of Funds And Change Order For Masonry Work at Hauser Junior High School - Action Item.

A motion was made by Ms. Claps and supported by Mr. Barsotti to approve the additional work of \$156,600, and Vistara recommends that RSD96 approve the funds for this work. These repairs should be considered as part of an emergency repair that would alleviate an unsafe condition at

the school and result in long-lasting repairs. MBB's contract will be increased to \$1,111,039.00.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

J. New Business/Discussion.

1. FY 26 Draft Budget.

- Mr. Fitton presented the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget to the Board of Education for review, feedback, and eventual adoption. The annual budget process encompasses several critical steps to ensure transparency, compliance, and stakeholder engagement. These are the required steps along with their latest dates for FY26:
- Budget and public notice requirements, and adopted budget filing requirements, were shared.
- In addition to meeting these statutory requirements, D96 recognizes the importance of iterative refinement and collaboration with stakeholders to facilitate a smooth budget adoption process. Each administrator has contributed input toward the development of the FY26 Budget.
- The Operating Revenues of \$38,115,955 minus the Operating Expenditures of \$38,115,954 result in a balanced Operating Budget.
- Fund Balance Transfers in the FY26 Budget net to a \$2 million transfer from Operating Funds to the non-Operating Capital Projects Fund in the amount to pay for: Hauser tuckpointing \$954,439, Ames Boiler replacement \$764,000, Hollywood Lower Roof \$296,000, totalling \$2,014,439.
- This matter will be brought back to the board for approval.

20-535 2. Resolution Authorizing Transfer of \$2,015,000 from the Educational Fund to the Capital Projects Fund - Potential Action Item.

A motion was made by Mr. Barsotti and supported by Mr. Olech to approve the resolution transferring funds in the amount of \$2,015,000 from the educational fund to the capital projects fund as presented.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

20-536 3. Resolution Authorizing Transfer of \$600,000 from the Working Cash Fund to the Transportation Fund - Potential Action Item.

A motion was made by Mr. Barsotti and supported by Mr. Olech to approve the resolution transferring funds in the amount of \$600,000 from the working cash fund to the transportation fund as presented.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

J. Public Comment/Response.

There was no public comment.

K. Future Meeting Dates.

- July 2, 2025 - **Canceled**- Committee of the Whole Meeting.
- July 16, 2025—Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Hauser Learning Resource Center.
- August 6, 2025 - Committee of the Whole, 7:00 p.m. in the library at Blythe Park School.
- August 20, 2025—Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Hauser Learning Resource Center.
- August 6, 2025 - Committee of the Whole, 7:00 p.m. in the library at Blythe Park School.
- September 3, 2025 - Board Self-Assessment, 6:00 p.m., location TBD.

L. 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. Budget Progress Statement.
6. Financial Statements.
7. School Lunches Served Report.

M. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

June 18, 2025

Date Recorded

Date Approved

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education