

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
Of the Board of Education
School District No. 96
Held on Wednesday, August 20, 2025
Hauser Jr. High School
Riverside, IL

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

20-544 A. President Wesley Muirheid called the Regular Business Meeting to order at 6:17 p.m. and on roll call, the following members were recorded as being present:

Ms. Gunn
Ms. Kachlic
Mr. Olech
Mr. Hunt
Ms. Claps
Mr. Barsotti, arrived at 6:18 pm
Mr. Muirheid

Absent: None

Superintendent Martha Ryan-Toye, Director of Technology Molly Marquardt, Director of Teaching and Learning Angela Dolezal, Director of Special Education Nora Geraghty, Interim Director of Finance Mark Kuzniewski via Zoom, the Board of Education recording clerk, and a Riverside TV videographer were also in attendance.

20-545 B. A motion was made by Mr. Hunt and supported by Ms. Claps to adjourn to Closed Session for the following reasons:

- Any matter involving an individual student. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10)
- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

C. Return to Open Session.

The board returned to open session at 7:05 pm.

D. Public Comment/Response.

Johann Bayer and wife Tiffani Jaspers, Blythe Park parent, attended tonight's board meeting as a follow-up to his July board meeting comments regarding his primary concern that the Board is not following their policy 6:135. The board thanked Mr. Bayer for his remarks, and he will receive a response.

E. Changes to the Agenda.

There were no changes to the agenda.

20-546 F. Public Hearing for FY 26 Budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Barsotti and supported by Ms. Claps to open the Budget Hearing for Approving the FY 26 Budget.

The motion carried the following roll call vote:

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

20-547 G. Close Public Hearing for FY 26 Budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Barsotti and supported by Ms. Claps to declare the Budget Hearing for approving the FY26 budget to be closed.

There were no questions or comments regarding the FY 26 budget by the board or the public on this matter.

The motion carried the following roll call vote:

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

H. Superintendent's Report.

1. Summer School Thank You.

Superintendent Ryan-Toye thanked everyone involved in this year's summer school. Also, what a great start to the 2025-2026 school year.

2. Student Enrollment 2025-26 Overview

Superintendent Ryan-Toye shared highlights of the student enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year.

3. Board/New Teacher Dinner - September 17.
 - Before the Regular Business Meeting, an informal dinner will be held with Board members, new teachers, their mentors, and administrators.
 - New staff will again be introduced at the September 17th board meeting.
4. Fall Social - October 14, 2025.
 - Superintendent Ryan Toye shared that, by popular demand, a Fall Social is scheduled for after the October 14th Teacher Institute Day. This is an opportunity for staff to connect as one team. It was a huge success last year.
 - Please mark your calendars for October 14.

20-548 I. Approval of Consent Agenda.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Hunt and supported by Mr. Barsotti 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. Olech
	Mr. Barsotti
	Mr. Muirheid
Absent:	None
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None

J. Riverside Education Council.

There were no comments from the Riverside Education Council.

K. Board member comments.

There were no comments from the Board of Education.

20-549 L. Old Business.

1. Approve FY 26 Budget - Action Item.

A motion was made by Mr. Barsotti and supported by Ms. Claps to approve the FY 26 budget as presented.

It was noted that in July, the Board accepted the recommendation of Vistara to approve the Security Infrastructure Upgrade for \$1,275,446. This amount was not reflected in the draft budget. The final budget includes this total amount in the Capital Projects Fund.

To fund the Security Infrastructure Upgrade project, the Board will need to make a fund transfer from the Education Fund to the Capital Projects Fund- similar to what the Board did in June for

the projects at Ames, Hauser, and Hollywood schools this past summer. This fund transfer is also noted in the Final Draft.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

20-550 L. 2. PRESS Plus #118 Policies - Second Reading and Approval - Action Item.

A motion was made by Mr. Hunt and supported by Ms. Gunn to approve the second reading and adoption of PRESS Plus #118 Policies with exceptions to Policy 7:190 by removing the words "receiving" and Policy 2:150, which has D96 edits.

Ms. Gunn noted that PRESS Plus #118 policies were reviewed for first reading at the August 6th Committee of the Whole meeting, and the administration reached out to our legal counsel about the two policy questions that emerged during that meeting. Policy 7:250 and 7:255: Regarding a 12-year-old receiving counseling services without parental permission, it was noted that this practice has always been permissible. However, the new 26-a makes it even more crucial to clarify this point. This new policy requires the district to communicate this to families and students (over 12). We will update this in our Parent Handbook after the policy is approved. In addition, Policy 7:190 Student Behavior, which references a student being the "recipient" of a sexting message, indicates that PRESS seems to have created this language, and it is not actually required by law. The Board could choose to remove that part of the language if interested. Several Board members shared their rationale for their vote.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

20-551 L 3. PRESS Plus #119 Policies - Second Reading and Approval - Action Item.

A motion was made by Ms. Gunn and supported by Mr. Barsotti to approve the second reading and adoption of PRESS Plus #119 Policies with modification to Policy 2:80 by adding this optional sentence "A board member who fails to abide by the oath of office or the *Code* may be subject to action by the Board, including, but not limited to, formal censure and/or referral to the Regional Superintendent for removal from office under Board policy 2:60, *Board Member Removal from Office*."

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

4. Annual Review of Intergovernmental Agreements.

- The board reviews its intergovernmental agreements (IGA) annually. These IGAs are going well, and the district has a very strong relationship with each of these entities. This is a board request and a good practice.
- These agreements are in effect until terminated.
- The board questioned the Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Village of Riverside and the Board of Education of Riverside School District 96 Regarding the Employment of Crossing Guard. Information was requested regarding the district's current payment and clarification of the costs. The IGA states not to exceed \$30,000 (and then states \$35,000 in written-out form).
- The board also questioned whether the Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Village of Riverside and Riverside School District 96 Regarding Improvements to Blythe Park Tennis Courts is still needed.

M. New Business/Discussion.

There was no new business.

N. Public Comment/Response.

There was no public comment.

O. Future Meeting Dates.

- September 3, 2025 - Board Self-Assessment, 6:00 p.m. in the library at Ames School.
- September 17, 2025 - 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.).
- October 1, 2025 - Committee of the Whole Meeting, 7:00 pm in the multi-purpose room at Hollywood School.
- October 15, 2025 - 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.).

P. Information Items.

The Board received updates and information on the following monthly reports:

1. District 96 Student Enrollment Report.
2. Budget Progress Statement.
3. Financial Statements.
4. Architect Bills.

20-552 Q. A motion was made by Mr. Barsotti and supported by Ms. Claps to reconvene to Closed Session at 7:50 pm for the following reasons:

- Any matter involving an individual student. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10)
- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

R. Return to Open Session.

The board returned to open session at 9:07 pm.

S. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

August 20, 2025

Date Recorded

Date Approved

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education