

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
Of the Board of Education
School District No. 96
Held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026
Hauser Jr. High School
Riverside, IL

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

20-599 A. President Wesley Muirheid 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. Barsotti
Ms. Gunn
Ms. Kachlic
Mr. Olech
Mr. Hunt
Ms. Claps
Mr. Muirheid

Absent: None

Also in attendance were Superintendent Martha Ryan-Toye, Interim Director of Finance and Operations Mark Kuzniewski, Director of Teaching and Learning Angela Dolezal, Director of Technology Molly Marquardt, Ames Principal Todd Gierman, Ames PE Teacher Joe Romano, Ames PE students and their families, the recording clerk to the Board of Education, a videographer from Riverside TV, a community member, and a staff member.

20-560 B. A motion was made by Mr. Barsotti and supported by Ms. Gunn to adjourn to Closed Session for the following reasons:

- 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)
- 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. Barsotti
Mr. Hunt
Ms. Gunn
Ms. Kachlic
Mr. Muirheid

Absent: None

C. Return to Open Session.

The board returns to open session at 7:00 p.m.

D. Public Comment/Response.

- Nicole Cavaliere, a parent at Hauser Jr. High, addressed the board regarding her son's educational placement. She expressed frustration over the extensive efforts required to secure appropriate services for her child. Ms. Cavaliere noted that a mediation session with the district is scheduled for next week through the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

E. Changes to the Agenda.

There are no changes to the agenda.

F. Superintendent's Report.

1. Student Presenters - Ames Elementary School.

- Principal Gierman introduced Ames Elementary PE teacher Joe Romano and his fifth-grade students for a spotlight on the school's Physical Education program. The presentation highlighted how students track their progress through fitness testing—including the PACER, push-up, sit-and-reach, and curl-up tests—to measure cardiovascular endurance, flexibility, and muscular strength.
- Beyond physical metrics, the program emphasizes the Illinois state requirement to develop lifelong healthy habits, emotional management, and relationship-building. Students learn to set realistic health goals by gaining a deeper understanding of their personal fitness levels.
- The session turned interactive when Board President Muirheid joined a student to demonstrate the PACER test and proper push-up form. Following a Q&A session with the students, the Board expressed its gratitude to Mr. Romano and his class for the engaging demonstration.

2. Superintendent Search Firm-interviews.

- Interim Director of Finance Mark Kuzniewski shared that the Board has begun interviewing executive search firms to fill the Superintendent role. BWP & Associates and Hazard Young Attea Associates (HYA) each presented their unique approaches to the Board during 45-minute sessions. All presentation documents are available for public review in the board packet.

3. Strategic Plan Update.

- Strategic planning team members (Dan Hunt, Marlowe Kachlic, and Matt Olech) provided updates from the first two planning sessions. With the final meeting set for April 8, more details will be forthcoming.

20-561 G. Approval of Consent Agenda.

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

A motion was made by Ms. Gunn supported by Mr. Barsotti to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with a modification to remove #C & D from the personnel report.

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

20-562 H. Resolution Authorizing Notice of Non-Renewal to Long-Term Substitute Teachers - Action Item.

A motion was made by Mr. Barsotti and supported by Mr. Hunt to approve the Resolution Authorizing Notice of Non-Renewal to Long-Term Substitute Teachers.

This is standard procedure. These positions were offered with the understanding that they were not permanent and are not intended to be tenured.

The motion carried the following roll call vote:

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

20-563 I. Resolution Authorizing Notice of Non-Renewal to Non-Tenured Permanent Substitute Teachers - Action Item.

A motion was made by Mr. Barsotti and supported by Mr. Olech to approve the Resolution Authorizing Notice of Non-Renewal to Non-Tenured Permanent Substitute Teachers.

This is standard procedure. This position was offered with the understanding that it was not permanent and was not intended to be tenured.

The motion carried the following roll call vote:

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

J. Riverside Education Council (REC).

- There were no comments from the REC.

K. Board Member Comments.

- Board members Claps shared that D96's middle School students participated in the Women's History Month poster contest this week. This contest was sponsored by the Riverside Historic Society. Students chose a woman who changed the world and let their creativity soar. Stop by the library through the end of the month to view these posters.

- Board member Hunt mentioned that students took learning beyond the classroom with a field trip to the Brookfield Zoo to research this year's March Mammal Madness combatants!
- The competition mimics a bracket-style tournament, utilizing scientific evidence regarding animal behavior and ecology to determine winners.
- Mrs. Faletti, who is attending tonight's board meeting, was acknowledged for her work with this.

20-564 L. Old Business.

1. 2025-2026 Trimester II update on chronic absenteeism.
 - The board discussed the second-trimester report developed by the Technology department. At the end of each trimester, it summarizes the current school year's enrollment, attendance, and chronic absenteeism data.
 - The board thanked the administration for this report and found value in discussing this several times a year.
 - The administration will continue to provide updates to the board on this topic.

M. New Business/Discussion.

1. Central/Hauser Boiler Replacement Considerations.
 - Interim Finance Director Mark Kuzniewski updated the Board on replacement options for the Central/Hauser boilers, a topic recently reviewed by the Finance and Faculty Advisory Committees.
 - The Director of Facilities and Maintenance confirmed that the campus is currently served by three boilers. The district is now in the third phase of a turnkey process with Trane. Following a formal discovery letter, the district is awaiting an executive summary—expected within 7–10 days—which will detail the budget, projected costs, and specific project scopes.
 - While this item was placed on the March 18th agenda for preliminary discussion, several Board members expressed frustration regarding this matter.
 - It is important to note that the district is under no obligation to proceed at this stage.
 - Further discussion is scheduled for the April regular Board meeting once the full summary is available.

N. Public Comment/Response.

There was no public comment.

O. Future Meeting Dates.

- April 1, 2026 - CANCELED Committee of the Whole.
- April 15, 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.).
- May 6, 2026 - Committee of the Whole Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at Central Elementary School.
- May 20, 2026 - 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.).

P. 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. March 2026 Construction Monthly reports.
- 9. School Lunches Served Report

20-565 Q. A motion was made by Mr. Barsotti and supported by Mr. Hunt to adjourn to Closed Session for the following reasons:

- 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)

- 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 Ms. Gunn Mr. Barsotti Ms. Kachlic Mr. Hunt Mr. Muirheid
Absent:	None

R. Return to Open Session.

The board returns to open session at 10:45 p.m.

S. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

March 18, 2026
Date Recorded

Date Approved

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education