

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
Of the Board of Education
School District No. 96
Held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026
Hauser Jr. High School
Riverside, IL

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

20-578 A. Vice-President David Barsotti 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. Hunt
	Ms. Gunn
	Mr. Olech
	Ms. Claps
	Mr. Barsotti
Absent:	Mr. Muirheid
	Ms. Kachlic

Also in attendance were Superintendent Martha Ryan-Toye, Director of Special Education & Student Services Nora Geraghty, Interim Director of Finance Mark Kuzniewski, Director of Finance Steve Wilder, Director of Facilities and Maintenance Zachary Piros, Director of Technology Molly Marquardt. Hauser Principal Chris Harvalis, Hauser Assistant Principal Katie Kayastha, Jennifer Debruin, Gary Zabilka of Educational Leadership Solutions, strategic planning members, students and families receiving awards, staff members, 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. Student Achievement Awards

- Hauser Principal Chris Harvalis and Hauser Assistant Principal Katie Kayastha introduced students who were recognized for their achievements for the second half of the school year in the following categories:
 - Riverside Historical Society Women's Poster Contest Winners
 - Riverside Historical Society Women's Poster Contest Honorable Mentions
 - Illinois Principals Association Student Recognition NOETIC Competition Team Winners and Honorable Mentions
 - Hauser Students Recognized for Participation in Strategic Planning Sessions
 - West40 School Citizen of the Year Award Winners
 - Hauser History Bee Winners
 - 39th Annual West40 Speech and Drama Competition Winner
 - 7th grade Girls Basketball Team - Salt Creek Valley Conference Champions
 - 8th grade Girls Basketball Team - Salt Creek Valley Conference Champions
 - Student of the Month (February, March, April)
 - Hauser Creative Writing Contest Winners

- o WSCAE Annual Student Art Expo Participants and Winners
- o Exhibiting Artist at the WSCAE Annual Student Art Expo
- o Hollywood School Coloring Page Contest Winner
- o WSCAE Brookfield Zoo Science Fair Winners

The students were recognized with certificates and personally congratulated by the Board members. The administration thanked all of the families for their continued support.

2. Strategic Plan Overview - 2026-2031.

- Superintendent Ryan-Toye introduced Gary Zabilka of Educational Leadership Solutions, who facilitated the Strategic Planning Sessions.
- This plan outlines District 96's Mission, Vision, Values, and Strategic Goals, as well as the characteristics that should be embodied by students, parents, teachers, and adults who influence their growth, and by the school system as a whole.
- November, 2025: District 96 Board of Education approved EdLS to facilitate a comprehensive Strategic Planning process, scheduled to begin in the February of 2026.
- January, 2026: A district perception survey was administered throughout Riverside, providing data on perceptions of the district. In total, 432 parents, staff members, and community members responded to the survey.
- February-April, 2026: Over 40 representative staff, parents, administrators, Board members, community members, and students met for 3 sessions (approx. 9 hours) to create D96's recommended plan.
- April, 2026: Participants of the process rated the components of the recommended plan with a 97% Satisfaction rating.
- The following was agreed upon:
 - Mission Statement
 - Nurturing and empowering every learner, every day.
 - Motto Statement (WILL REMAIN THE SAME)
 - Empowering learners for life.
 - Vision Statement
 - To cultivate a joyful, inclusive community that fosters a love of learning and inspires confident, courageous students.
 - Core Values
 - These values will guide our behaviors and actions:
 - Respect - Respect everyone through empathy, kindness, dignity, and fairness.
 - Community - Build lasting relationships across our community to foster a culture where everyone thrives.
 - Creativity - Empower each other to lead with curiosity and solve with creativity.
 - Belonging - Ensure everyone belongs, that every voice matters, and every person is safe to show up exactly as they are.
 - Equity - Recognize and respond to diverse needs, removing barriers and providing access necessary for everyone to flourish.
 - Achievement & Knowledge - Believe knowledge is realized through continuous opportunities for everyone to achieve their fullest potential.
- The recommended Strategic Goal Target Areas are Student Learning & Student Experience, Learning Environment & School Culture, Talented & Invested Staff, Communication & Community Engagement, and Finance & Facilities.
- Next Steps: The D96 Administration, working with EdLS, will begin developing specific goals and objectives for each overarching goal to make each goal area actionable and complete with timelines.

- A communications plan will be developed to begin sharing the new plan, what it means, and how it will impact students, staff, and the community in the years ahead.
 - The new 2026-2031 Strategic Plan will be brought before the Board of Education for approval at a future board meeting.
 - Mr. Zabilka closed by thanking the D96 Board of Education for the opportunity to develop a new plan for the district's future.
3. Staff Appreciation.
 - Superintendent Ryan-Toye acknowledged Teacher Appreciation Week, which took place from May 4 to 8. D96 greatly appreciates our teachers and all they do for our students. A proclamation is attached. Thank you!
 - This month is also National Nurses Week. Thank you!
 4. NAMM Best Communities for Music Education.
 - Superintendent Ryan-Toye shared that District 96 has been recognized as one of the Best Communities for Music Education!
 - It was shared that this is the district's fifth consecutive year and sixth overall receiving the National Association for Music Merchants (NAMM) Best Communities for Music Education award.
 - Congratulations to our outstanding music department in District 96!
 5. Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Governance Recognition.
 - Superintendent Ryan-Toye congratulated the board on receiving the School Board Governance Recognition Award for the second time. The board received this award initially in September of 2023.
 - This recognition is designed to acknowledge school boards that have engaged in activities and modeled behaviors that lead to excellence in local school governance and support quality public education.
 - The recognition plaque is in the foyer of the district office.
 6. 2026 Annual Safety Meeting.
 - The district held its annual Safety Meeting on April 22, 2026.
 - Police and fire personnel from Riverside, Brookfield, and North Riverside joined the D96 administration.
 - The meeting focused on student and school personnel safety.
 - It was a productive way to continue dialogue with the communities that serve District 96.
 7. Half-day professional development - April 24, 2026
 - The district held a half-day professional development on April 24th.
 - An agenda was shared with the board.
 - Nora Geraghty and Molly Marquardt were acknowledged for bringing these topics to our staff.
 8. Hauser Graduation - May 26, 2026
 - Mark your calendars. Hauser Junior High School graduation is scheduled for May 26, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at Riverside Brookfield High School. All board members are invited to attend.

20-579 E. 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 Ms. Gunn to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

The motion carried the following roll call vote:

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

20-580 F. Approval of Administration Contracts - Action Item.

A motion was made by Ms. Claps and supported by Mr. Hunt to approve the administrators' contracts for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.

The motion carried the following roll call vote:

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

20-581 G. Approval of Contract Modification - Action Item.

A motion was made by Ms. Claps and supported by Ms. Gunn to approve the modified administrators' contract for Steve Wilder as presented.

It was shared that Director of Finance Steve Wilder's new start date with D96 will be June 1, 2026. It was shared that Interim Director of Finance Mark Kuzniewski's last day with the district will be Tuesday, May 26.

The motion carried the following roll call vote:

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

20-582 H. Approval of Elementary Intervention and Support Coordinator - Action Item.

A motion was made by Ms. Claps and supported by Mr. Hunt to approve the 2026-2027 contract for the Elementary Intervention & Support Coordinator to Jennifer DeBruin as presented.

Jennifer DeBruin, who is in attendance tonight, will be replacing Nikki Mazza, who will soon take the helm as principal at Ames School. Welcome to Jennifer, and D96 is looking forward to working with Ms. DeBruin come July 1.

The motion carried the following roll call vote:

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

I. Riverside Educational Council Comments

There were no public comments from the Riverside Educational Council.

J. Board member comments.

- Member Hunt shared that he attended the Blythe Park Coffee and met Chris Reid, the new Principal for Blythe Park School.
- Member Gunn mentioned the end of year activities that showcase our District. Thanks to our D96 staff and hopes everyone has a relaxing summer.

20-583 K. Old Business.

1. Final Trane Turnkey Proposal for the Hauser Junior High/Central School Boiler Plant System Retrofit - Action Item

A motion was made by Mr. Olech and supported by Ms. Claps to accept the Trane Turnkey proposal in the amount of \$1,349,890 for the completion of the Hauser/Central boiler plant retrofit.

This matter was discussed at the May Committee of the Whole meeting.

Mark Kuzniewski shared that this proposal shows a \$30,000 decrease.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Mr. Muirheid
Nays: None
Abstain: None

20-584 K. Old Business.

2. Proviso School Township Treasurer - Action Item.

A motion was made by Ms. Gunn and supported by Mr. Olech to appoint its Director of Finance and Operations, Steve Wilder, to serve for a one-year term, which term may be renewed, as the District's trustees of schools for Riverside Township.

Superintendent Ryan-Toye extended a sincere thank you to Mark Kuzniewski for stepping in as the Interim Director of Finance. Finance Chair Ms. Claps warmly echoed this appreciation, applauding the creativity and expertise Mark brought to the district.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

20-585 K. 3. Hauser Math Curriculum Adoption - Action Item.

A motion was made by Ms. Claps and supported by Mr. Hunt to approve the anticipated Hauser Math Curriculum adoption pending favorable results and feedback based on the math curriculum pilot during the 2026-2027 school year.

The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

L. New Business/Discussion.

There was no new business.

M. Public Comment/Response.

There was no public comment.

N. Future Meeting Dates.

- June 3, 2026 - Committee of the Whole Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at Hollywood School.
- June 17, 2026 - Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Hauser Learning Resource Center.
- July 1, 2026 - **Canceled**- Committee of the Whole Meeting.
- July 15, 2026—Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Hauser Learning Resource Center.
- August 5, 2026 - Committee of the Whole, 7:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at Ames School.
- August 19, 2026—Regular Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Hauser Learning Resource Center.
- September 2, 2026 - Board Self-Assessment/Committee of the Whole Meeting, 6:00 p.m. at Blythe Park School.

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. Legal Bills.
7. Architect Bills.
8. School Lunches Served Report.
9. April 2026 Construction Monthly Report.

P. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

May 20, 2026

Date Recorded

Date Approved

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education