

Saucon Valley School District
Meeting of the Finance Committee
District Office Conference Room
June 11, 2025 – 6:00 pm

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Welcome to the Saucon Valley School Board Ad Hoc Finance Committee meeting. Our objective is to serve our community's students, parents, and residents. You are an important part of this meeting, and we look forward to your questions and comments. We are all here for the same reason. All opinions are welcomed and equally valuable. Our only request is that we address each other with civility and respect. Our courtesy toward each other is the best way to show our students how much we respect them as well.

The District reserves the right to move agenda items up to other committees as needed.

Committee Members – Cedric Dettmar, Dr. Laurel Erickson-Parsons, Dr. Shamim Pakzad, Donald Carpenter

Agenda

- I. **Call to the Order – Cedric Dettmar, Committee Chair**
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Recording of Attendance – David Bonenberger, Committee Secretary**
- IV. **Motion to Approve Agenda**
- V. **Approval of Minutes – May 14, 2025**
- VI. **Courtesy of the Floor to Visitors – Agenda Items Only – Visitors should state their name and address.**
- VII. **Update: Stadium Weight Room Equipment**
- VIII. **Update: Athletic Trainers' Room Renovation**
- IX. **Discussion & Action: Cardinal Point Contract**
- X. **Discussion & Action: High School Food Service Steamers**
- XI. **Discussion & Action: Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion Resolution**
- XII. **New Business**
- XIII. **Old Business**
- XIV. **Courtesy of the Floor to Visitors - Visitors should state their name and address.**
- XV. **Future Meetings – June 11, 2025 – District Office Conference Room**
- XVI. **Motion to Adjourn**

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, in the District Office Conference Room. Finance Committee members Mr. Donald Carpenter, Mr. Cedric Dettmar, Dr. Laurel Erickson-Parsons, and Dr. Shamim Pakzad were present. Also present were David Bonenberger - Committee Secretary, and Superintendent Jaime Vlasaty.

- I. **Call to the Order** – 6:00 pm – *Cedric Dettmar, Committee Chair*
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Recording of Attendance** – *David Bonenberger, Committee Secretary*
4-present, 0-absent
- IV. **Motion to Approve Agenda** – Mr. Carpenter, seconded by Dr. Pakzad, moved to approve the agenda. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no
- V. **Approval of Minutes** – Dr. Pakzad, seconded by Dr. Erickson-Parsons, moved to approve the minutes of April 9, 2025. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no
- VI. **Courtesy of the Floor to Visitors – Agenda Items Only** – None
- VII. **Discussion & Action: Stadium Weight Room Equipment**

Dr. Erickson-Parsons, seconded by Mr. Carpenter, moved this item to the Board for approval. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no
- VIII. **Discussion & Action: Summer Technology Staff Rate Increase**

Mr. Hanssen has proposed to increase the hourly rate from \$15 to \$23 per hour.

Dr. Pakzad, seconded by Mr. Carpenter, moved this item to the Board for approval. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no
- IX. **Update: Athletic Trainer’s Room** – Will be on the next board agenda.
- X. **New Business** - None
- XI. **Old Business** – Mrs. Demko asked where we are with the playground. Mr. Carpenter started a discussion about turf fields and suggested we develop a plan to fund it.
- XII. **Courtesy of the Floor to Visitors** – None
- XIII. **Future Meetings** – June 11, 2025 – District Office Conference Room
- XIV. **Motion to Adjourn** - Mr. Dettmar adjourned the meeting at 7:03 pm.

SAUCON VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
2025-2026 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution

RESOLVED, by the Board of School Directors of the Saucon Valley School District, that homestead and farmstead exclusion real estate tax assessment reductions are authorized for the school year beginning July 1, 2025, under the provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006), as follows:

1. Aggregate Amount Available for Homestead and Farmstead Real Estate Tax Reduction:

The following amounts are available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction for the school year beginning July 1, 2025:

- a. Gambling Tax Funds - The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.505(b), as a property tax reduction allocation funded by gambling tax funds, the amount of \$1,533,631.50.
- b. Philadelphia Tax Credit Reimbursement Funds - PDE has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.324(3), as reimbursement for Philadelphia tax credits claimed against the School District earned income tax by School District resident taxpayers, the amount of \$23,650.98.
- c. Gambling Tax Funds and Philadelphia Tax Credit Reimbursement Funds from 2024-2025 that weren't distributed and that are available for utilization, \$14,121.23.
- d. Aggregate Amount Available - Adding these amounts, the aggregate amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction is \$1,571,403.71.

2. Homestead/Farmstead Numbers:

Pursuant to Act 50, 54 Pa. C.S. § 8584(i), and Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.341 (g)(3), the County has provided the School District with a certified report listing approved homesteads and approved farmsteads as follows:

- a. Homestead Property Number - The number of approved homesteads within the School District is 4,530.
- b. Farmstead Property Number - The number of approved farmsteads within the School District is 20.
- c. Homestead/Farmstead Combined Number - Adding these numbers, the aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads is 4,550.

3. Real Estate Tax Reduction Calculation:

The school board has decided that the homestead exclusion amount and the farmstead exclusion amount shall be equal. Dividing the paragraph 1(d) aggregate amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction of \$1,571,403.71 by paragraph 2(c) aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads of 4,550 the maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$345.64.

4. Homestead Exclusion Calculation:

Dividing the paragraph 3 maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$345.64 by the School District real estate tax rate of 55.2055 mills (.0552055), the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a homestead exclusion for each approved homestead is \$6,261, and the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a farmstead exclusion for each approved farmstead is \$6,261.

5. Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion Authorization – July 1 Tax Bills:

The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved homestead within the School District shall reflect a homestead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of (a) the County-established assessed value of the homestead, or (b) paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$6,261. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved farmstead within the School District shall reflect an additional farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of (a) the County-established assessed value of the farmstead, or (b) paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$6,261. For purposes of this Resolution, “approved homestead” and “approved farmstead” shall mean homesteads and farmsteads listed in the report referred to in paragraph 2 above and received by the School District from the County Assessment Office on or before May 1 pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.341(g)(3), based on homestead/farmstead applications filed with the County Assessment Office on or before March 1. This paragraph 5 will apply to tax notices issued based on the initial tax duplicate used in issuing initial real estate tax notices for the school year, which will be issued August 1, and will not apply to interim real estate tax bills.