Committee: Finance

Date and Time: June 18, 2025

Location: J.E. Hill Administrative Center; Board Room A

In attendance:
Tamara Mitchell, Chair; Dr. Susan Harkin, Facilitator; Brad Jones; Jason Orloff; Johanna Peterson; Kelly Farley; Kevin Jackson; Shane Cary; Shawn Connolly; Sonja Moulton; Svetlana Gayares; Thomas Weber

Meeting overview

6:02 p.m. - 6:05 p.m. - The Finance Subcommittee met in Board Room A. The meeting started with a breakdown of the agenda by Tamara Mitchell and Dr. Susan Harkin. Ms. Mitchell requested two representatives for the subcommittee and was able to fill both positions. A spokesperson for the committee was chosen as well.

6:05 p.m. - 6:12 p.m. - Ms. Mitchell and Dr. Harkin started the powerpoint presentation for the meeting and provided the committee's purpose and commitment. Dr. Harkin went on to inform everyone that an activity will take place and asked members to think about ways to address the structural deficit and facility improvement needs. Dr. Harkin stressed the committee to find ways to cut $12.5M from the operating budget.

6:12 p.m. - 6:50 p.m. - Ms. Mitchell passed out the activity sheet to all the committee members to start the first activity. All members were allowed 10 mins to complete the activity sheet. Then Dr. Harkin asked each member to share their ideas. Each member shared revenue enhancements and expenditure reductions. Some ideas were:

- Cutting early education transportation
- Cutting educational items, like student workbooks
- Cutting extracurricular/after school programs
- Support services - crossing guards and administrative support
- Closing schools/making more schools K-8
- Bringing Rice in-house
- Work to get the trust of the community to get more students in the district and ask for more financial support from the community

6:50 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Dr. Harkin reviewed areas of further exploration for reductions, which includes looking in the following areas to reduce spending:

- Data Processing/Software Costs
- Annual Outsourced Staffing Costs
- Special Education Services
- Community Services
- Transportation
- Other Purchased Service

Members were asked to see if anything is missing from the above list and were asked to write their ideas on the back of their activity sheets.

7:10 p.m. - 7:32 p.m. - Dr. Beardsley began presenting her powerpoint regarding school closures for 2026/27 school year and the impact to the community.

7:38 p.m. - 7:57 p.m. - The full steering committee convened for subcommittee share out. Dr. Harkin mentioned the June 23rd board meeting, and confirmed that each subcommittee would have 2 members in attendance to present.

7:57 p.m. - Meeting adjourned.