



Financial Oversight Committee

Meeting Agenda and Minutes

June 18, 2025

Attendance: Quorum of 11 members present

1. **Adoption of Agenda** – Moved by Paul Lavendar, seconded by Trish Hileman (motion passed 11-0)

Recommended Action: It is recommended that the committee adopt the agenda.

2. **New Business**

3. **Presentations**

- A. Deferred Maintenance Work

Contact: Addi Lowell, Wichita Public Schools, Chief Financial Officer

Summary: The committee will receive instructions for next steps on redefining “Deferred Maintenance.” An email form will be sent out the members along with a deadline.

Recommended Action: This item is for the committee’s information, and will require action from the committee outside of the meeting. No action taken.

- B. Finance

Contact: Addi Lowell, Wichita Public Schools, Chief Financial Officer

Summary: The committee will hear a summary of information presented to date.

Summary of Facilities data highlights facility investments, including an \$82M ESSER investment that saved \$371M over 10 years and improved FCI scores. Repairs at East High (\$38M) and North High (\$20M) were major expenses. The district budget relies 99% on taxes, with 75% going to salaries. Capital outlay generates \$50.2M, with 30% supporting education. Funding options include grants, private development, and school closures. Proposed bond plans range from \$390M-\$480M with 15–20-year payoffs. General (Nov 2025) and Special (March 2026) Election options are considered, but the mill rate will drop in 2026, creating a tax increase. 35% oppose the bond, and efforts focus on building trust before a Board of Education review on July 7.

Recommended Action: This item is for the committee’s discussion and will require action from the committee after Report Out. No action taken.



4. Report Out

A. Update from Committee Members on Bond Feedback

Committee members shared that the community is frustrated with past communication and transparency issues, particularly regarding the 2008 bond and the February 2025 proposal. There's a strong call for clear accountability, detailed bond plans, and better explanations of mill rates. The community prefers placing the bond on the general election ballot to avoid additional costs and confusion, and many feel the district could also legislatively advocate for other funding mechanisms. Concerns were also raised about linking student outcomes to bond funding. Overall, the community wants to see genuine prioritization of students and clearer messaging before moving forward.

Recommended Action #1: It is recommended that the committee advise the district to transfer one-time year-end budget savings to capital outlay.

Lindsey Poe Rousseau moved, Sarah Amador seconded (motion passed 12-0)

Recommended Action #2: It is recommended that the committee make a recommendation for a bond resolution to go before the Wichita Public Schools Board of Education on the July 7, 2025 meeting.

The Financial Oversight Committee does not recommend the board of education approve a bond resolution for a bond election to be held in the 2025-26 school year, and requested three additional meetings to be scheduled in 2025 for further discussion and evaluation.

Sarah Amador moved, Trish Hileman seconded (motion passed 10-2)

5. Reports/Requests

A. 2026 Financial Oversight Committee

6. Adjournment

Recommended Action: It is recommended that the committee adjourn the meeting.

Lindsey Poe Rousseau moved, Noah Morford seconded (Motion Passed 12-0)