

**Brandywine School District**  
**District Finance Committee**

Minutes of the Meeting of November 12, 2025

Members Present: Chris Milionis, Chuck Landry, Matt Auerbach, John Skrobot III

Members Absent: Ron Kimbrough, Victor Ferzetti

Other District Representatives Present: Daniel McCoy – Chief Financial Officer, Dr. Lisa Lawson – Superintendent

Members of the Public: Will Pollins

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Milionis at 5:00 P.M.

I. Approval of Minutes – October 8, 2025 Meeting

Before approving the minutes, Mr. Milionis suggested that the agenda be divided into sections moving forward: follow up items, new business, and action items.

The minutes for the October 8, 2025 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Auerbach recommended adding a note next to Mr. Pollins's comment stating he was a member of the public, and the Committee agreed. A motion to approve the minutes was raised by Mr. Auerbach and seconded by Mr. Landry. The minutes were unanimously approved with the change.

II. October 31, 2025 Monthly Financial Report

Mr. McCoy presented the October 31, 2025 Monthly Financial Report and combined the tax bill update and final budget discussions for 2026.

Key Points Regarding Revenue:

- Tax Receipts collections – With the current amount collected in tax receipts being much lower than last November, and the County's expected decision to push the payment deadline to the end of December, interest earning will be less than originally budgeted. In response, the interest income in the final budget will be decreased from 1.9 to 1.4 million.
- Charters and Tuition Tax – The amount to Charters increased from 6.1 to 7.091 million. Dr. Lawson noted the Charters lobbied last year to get more tuition tax money per student. Mr. McCoy confirmed the per-student rate that Charter receives is now 13% higher. In addition, BSD has a higher ratio of intense and complex students this year. The increased cost per student creates the need to use more tuition funds which could result in depletion. It may be necessary to discuss the option of raising the tuition tax rate in the future. This can be done without going to referendum.
- E-rate revenue will be taken down to zero, but since that is a reimbursement amount this will not affect total gains.
- Enhanced minor capital – This money has been disbursed, so facilities can recode some previous purchases which will bring their expenses down.
- Nutrition revenues are higher and will increase once the state reimbursement is received. In addition, the federal government may increase these reimbursement rates.

- The Wilmington Learning Collaborative (WLC) spending plan was discussed, showing what has been approved and what is under consideration. The 2024 and 2025 allocations are included on the Board reports and the 2026 allocation is not yet included. Regarding the formatting of the spending plan, Mr. Milionis suggested adding columns to specify what fiscal year budget is being used for each encumbered amount. Mr. Milionis also suggested we add a dashboard to the report so the community understands how BSD is getting the money for the Harlan projects, and understands what WLC is. Mr. McCoy will contact WLC to see if they have something created or can work to provide it.

#### Key Points Regarding Expenditures:

- Student support services – It looks as though more is obligated than last year, but that is because more of the total yearly need is already encumbered.
- Safety and security – The encumbrance for State police is now included, but less than last year due to the replacement of some lower schools' SROs with constables. Payroll will see an increase, but encumbrances will not.
- Special education tuition tax expenses continue to increase due to the increasing invoice amounts for related services.
- Mr. Skrobot asked which funds are used to pay for settlements. Dr. Lawson and Mr. McCoy responded: It would typically come from the basic special education funds, or the tuition tax fund if it was a settlement involving a student categorized as intense or complex.

#### Key Points Regarding Cash Flow Analysis:

- Mr. McCoy thinks the final budget should account for growth in the number of tax parcels, assuming the county will be able to provide the data.
- Due to the delay in tax receipts, the State will make money available to the school districts (essentially a no-interest loan) until payments begin coming in. The districts will be able to start using State appropriations to preserve the interest gains on local money.
- Mr. Skrobot asked if it was necessary to transfer the money designated for Charters now, given the delays in tax receipts. The Committee discussed the possibility of holding the Charter money until tax receipts are received. Mr. McCoy pointed out that the December payout to Charter would be coming from the State allocations so it wouldn't affect the district's interest earnings.
- Follow up from last meeting regarding the Board budget increase – The subscriptions and dues are causing the need for the increase, specifically the mandatory switch from Board Docs to Diligent.

Mr. Milionis invited a motion to approve the Monthly Financial Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Auerbach. The vote was unanimous.

### III. DFC Volunteer Selection

Mr. Milionis opened volunteer selection discussion and Mr. Auerbach and Mr. Landry announced they were recommending both candidates. Mr. McCoy will contact them to screen them and confirm they are still interested. Mr. Auerbach agreed to be the committee member present for the call.

Mr. Milionis opened a vote for the recommendation of candidates pending screening call. The motion was raised by Mr. Auerbach and seconded by Mr. Landry. Mr. Skrobot did not vote due to his status as a Board member.

#### IV. Tax Bill Updates

During the Monthly Financial report, Mr. McCoy announced the supreme court ruled in the favor of the county so the residential and non-residential rates can be split. New Castle County hopes to have the bills out by late November.

#### V. Redding Consortium Updates

Mr. McCoy began the discussion regarding the Redding Consortium by reporting the Consortium's objective: to achieve better educational outcomes for students residing in the city of Wilmington. The Consortium believes this will require redistricting New Castle County Schools. The Committee then discussed the three options being considered and the potential fiscal impact.

Options:

[Redding Consortium for Educational Equity - Redistricting Options for Review](#)

- **Metropolitan Wilmington School District** – consolidation of City of Wilmington (taken from Christina and Colonial), RCCSD and BSD
- **Northern New Castle County Consolidated School District** – consolidation of Christina, Colonial, Brandywine, and Red Clay districts
- **Brandywine and Red Clay School District** – Brandywine taking a portion of City of Wilmington students and Red Clay taking a portion of City of Wilmington students

Discussion points:

- There is a concern that social drivers that affect educational outcome have not been thoroughly addressed.
- The decision will be made by a party of 25
- There is concern that changes will create a period of chaos for districts and City residents.
- Current school buildings are at, or close to, capacity and costs associated with necessary upgrades should be considered.
- It will require an estimated 12 million to level up salaries if BSD and RCCSD join

Mr. Landry asked what actions might be taken educate the public about the vote and requested talking points from the Board. Bill O'Hanlon will be asked to advertise the upcoming workshops:

#### **Brandywine School District Board of Education Workshop (Hybrid)**

- **Date:** Monday, December 8, 2025
- **Time:** 7:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Mount Pleasant Elementary School (Multipurpose Room)
- **Address:** 500 Duncan Rd. Wilmington, DE 19809
- **School Board Website:** <https://www.brandywineschools.org/about-us/school-board>

**Redding Consortium-Full Body Meeting (December 16th):**

- **Date and Time:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025 | 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
- **In-Person Meeting Location:** Delaware Tech – Orlando George Jr. Campus, West Building (West Conference Center – Second Floor)
- **Address:** 300 N. Orange St. Wilmington, DE 19801
- **Zoom Link:** <https://udel.zoom.us/j/93354751917?jst=2>
- *Information on the Public Meeting Calendar can be viewed [here](#).*

VI. Fiscal Year 2026 Final Budget Discussions – These points were discussed during the Monthly financial report.

VII. Public Comment – There was no additional public comment.

A motion to adjourn was introduced by

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 P.M.

This meeting was held in the Brandywine School District Administrative Office Board of Education conference room and via zoom.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Andrea Sisson, Business Office Associate Specialist

The next DFC Meeting is scheduled for December 10<sup>th</sup> 2025 at 5:00pm.