



Finance & Operations Committee

January 8, 2026

MINUTES

Meeting called to order: Kehoe 5:02 p.m. **Board members:** Kehoe, Christianson, Picard

District staff: Minnick, Malbon, Lents, Jory **Citizen Representatives:** Roderique, DeMers, Johnson

SVU Student Representatives: Krushna Modi **Visitor(s):** n/a

Presenters: B. Gesaman, N. Tindall, J. Ross/McCarthy & Smith; A. Read/TMP

Public Comments – None.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – December 18, 2025 – Approved.

Award Contracts for BP #EL-5a Farrand Elementary Playground Installation-

Brian Gesaman from McCarthy & Smith presented an overview of the Farrand Elementary playground installation. The project reflects the district's standard elementary playground equipment but includes a higher concentration of preschool and special education equipment. The scope is driven by the new building addition and requires relocation and consolidation of play areas to improve safety, visibility, and supervision, as well as replacement of a displaced ball field.

Mr. Gesaman explained the project is being completed in two phases: installation and labor, and a separate future purchase item for playground equipment, which is bought through a cooperative agreement. Committee members discussed layout considerations, budget variance drivers, and the importance of reviewing installation and equipment together. The Committee directed that the item return when the playground equipment purchase is ready, anticipated in February.

Award Contracts for BP #EL-4 Gallimore and Hoben Elementary-

Mr. Gesaman with Anna Read, from TMP Architecture reviewed Bid Package #EL-4, which includes an addition and renovation at Gallimore Elementary and interior renovations at Hoben Elementary.

At Gallimore, the project includes a new multi-purpose gym with stage/music space, a dedicated cafeteria and serving line, restroom updates, corridor wall replacements, HVAC upgrades, and limited parking lot work. The addition includes a secure entrance that allows after-hours use while maintaining school security. Lighting upgrades will be completed where ceilings are impacted, and the new addition will include restrooms built to current ADA standards.

At Hoben, the scope focuses on interior renovations, including media center upgrades, a new hallway to improve playground access and security, reconfigured interior spaces, new classroom flooring, and improvements to the main office and secure entry. The plan improves building circulation, safety, and functionality.

Mr. Tindall shared that both projects are scheduled to begin in June 2026, with renovations completed before the start of school. The Gallimore addition is anticipated to be completed in spring 2027.

Award Contracts for BP #HS-7 Salem Addition and BP #PCEP-4 Baseball/Soccer Concessions-

The Bond Team shared information on Bid Packages #HS-7 and #PCEP-4, which have been presented as a combined bid to improve bidding interest and efficiency.

At Salem High School, the project includes a multipurpose room addition, a new ADA-accessible athletic entrance with restrooms, and major accessibility improvements including a ramp and elevator. Additional work includes weight room renovation and expansion, existing choir room improvements, and a reconfiguration of the student parking and drop-off area to improve safety and traffic flow.

Committee discussion focused on parking circulation, construction phasing, and accessibility. The expanded ADA scope replaces a wheelchair lift with a more functional ramp and elevator solution, addressing multiple long-standing accessibility issues. Parking lot reconstruction will occur last, anticipated in summer 2027, to maintain access during construction. It was noted that coordination with athletics and clear communication with families and visitors will be critical throughout construction.

The PCEP-4 project includes a new centralized concessions building with restrooms and team space serving football, baseball, and soccer, along with renovations to existing concession and team room buildings. The design improves accessibility, separates team and visitor circulation, and replaces reliance on portable restrooms. The new building is not directly adjacent to the baseball and soccer fields, but it is a significant upgrade from the portable restrooms currently serving these areas.

Purchase of Water Bottle Filling Stations to comply with Filter First Legislation-

Mr. Lents reviewed the Filter First legislation requirements, and based on successful pilot installations, recommended purchasing the remainder of the Filter First-compliant units through the MiDEAL cooperative contract, funded entirely through the Filter First funds. Due to the mix of unit types, the purchase will provide approximately 138 bottle-filling stations districtwide.

Committee members discussed compliance requirements, installation logistics, and ongoing operational costs. Staff confirmed the district must meet the one-per-100-students requirement by September 2026. Installation will primarily be one-for-one replacements using existing plumbing, with eligible labor costs reimbursed through the grant. While initial purchases and installation are grant-funded, future filter replacements and testing will be ongoing operational costs.

2020 Bond – Sale of Series III Bonds

Ms. Minnick reviewed the third and final bond sale under the 2020 Bond Program. She explained that the bonds are issued in phases so borrowing can better match the timing of projects and required spending.

The committee discussed how project budgets are reviewed and updated as work moves forward. Adjustments to project scope and alternates are used to respond to inflation and changing needs. Ms. Minnick noted that the bond program is managed as a whole, with some projects coming in under budget and others over, while staying within the total approved bond amount and legal requirements.

The third bond series includes the remaining funds needed for projects, along with a possible 2015 Bond refunding component that would only move forward if market conditions provide sufficient savings. The bonds will be sold through a competitive process, with funds placed into the appropriate capital project and debt service accounts. The bonds are planned for a 20-year term with an interest rate not to exceed 5.25%. Next steps following Board approval include a credit rating review, posting the notice of sale, and closing the transaction before June 30.

Adjourn: 7:42 p.m.