

MINUTES
LASALLE-PERU TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #120
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025, 4:15 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Matt Merboth, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mr. Matt Merboth, Committee Chair, Mrs. Sally Taliani, and Mrs. Carol Alcorn

ABSENT:

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Steven Wroblewski, Superintendent, Mrs. Ingrid Cushing, Principal, Mr. John Vezzetti, Bernardi Securities, and Mr. Greg Sarver, Board President

REVIEW/APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 12, 2025, COMMITTEE MEETINGS

MOTION by Mrs. Alcorn, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to accept to recommend the Board of Education approve the meeting minutes from August 12, 2025, as presented. Voting Aye: Mrs. Alcorn, Mrs. Taliani, and Mr. Merboth. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried.**

SERIES 2025/2026 DEBT CERTIFICATES-GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

Mr. John Vezzetti presented a \$4M funding proposal in support of the Agriculture Building and depending on the results of the capital campaign, the remodel of the weight room. Mr. Vezzetti explained that the District's working cash fund availability is currently at \$3M. In order to protect that reserve amount, Mr. Vezzetti recommends the District issue debt certificates and then funding bonds in order to secure \$4M to finance the construction of the Ag Building. Dr. Wroblewski shared that the District can adjust our IMRF/Social Security levy amount in order to absorb the bond sale without raising property taxes. Mr. Vezzetti described the process for issuing debt certificates and then funding bonds. Mr. Merboth affirmed his support of this funding model.

ACCEPT TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVE THE SERIES 2025/2026 DEBT CERTIFICATES-GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FUNDING PLAN AS PRESENTED

MOTION by Mrs. Taliani, seconded by Mrs. Alcorn, to approve the Series 2025/2026 funding plan, as presented. Voting Aye: Mrs. Taliani, Mrs. Alcorn, and Mr. Merboth. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried.**

AG BUILDING UPDATE

Dr. Wroblewski shared the most up-to-date architectural design of the Ag Building and the projected budget. The plans were reviewed and discussed in detail, along with the projected budget. Dr. Wroblewski discussed the capital campaign that will commence pending the Board's approval to let bids at the September 24th regular meeting. The projected cost for the building, including furniture, fixtures, equipment, fees, and contingency, is \$7M. Dr. Wroblewski shared that bids will be released in early October and that a special board meeting needs to be scheduled on November 10 to award the contract in order for there to be enough time to be at substantial completion in May.

ACCEPT TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION LET BIDS FOR THE AGRICULTURE BUILDING AS PRESENTED

MOTION by Mrs. Taliani, seconded by Mrs. Alcorn, to approve letting bids for the Agriculture Building, as presented. Voting Aye: Mrs. Taliani, Mrs. Alcorn, and Mr. Merboth. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried.**

FY 2026 TENTATIVE BUDGET FINAL REVIEW

Dr. Wroblewski presented the final FY 2026 tentative budget. He shared the budget overview and provided a copy of the budget in the state form. He shared that we are presenting a balanced budget, but also offered caution moving forward on the slight deficit in the Education Fund. Even though there is a projected surplus among all operating funds, the Education Fund has a \$344,037 projected deficit. The Tort Fund will continue being a necessity to sustain an overall positive operating fund balance.

ACCEPT TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVE THE FINAL FY 2026 TENTATIVE BUDGET AS PRESENTED

MOTION by Mrs. Alcorn, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to approve the Final FY 2026 Tentative Budget, as presented. Voting Aye: Mrs. Alcorn, Mrs. Taliani, and Mr. Merboth. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried.**

SCHOOL MAINTENANCE GRANT APPLICATION – FALL 2025

Dr. Wroblewski shared that ISBE announced another round of \$50,000 matching grant applications this fall. He explained that the priority needs to be on replacing the lights in Howard Fellows Stadium. The lights date back to the mid-1990s renovation and have outlived their expected lifespan. Based upon preliminary estimates, we can expect the replacement costs to be between \$200,000 and \$400,000 – which is an allowable HLS expenditure. There are two motions with this report – 1) authorize a new Main Building HLS amendment, and 2) authorize the superintendent to submit the school maintenance grant supporting the stadium light replacement project. We need an approved HLS amendment in order to link to the school maintenance grant.

ACCEPT TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVE SUBMITTING HLS MAIN BUILDING AMENDMENT #90 – STADIUM LIGHT REPLACEMENT PROJECT AS PRESENTED

MOTION by Mrs. Taliani, seconded by Mrs. Alcorn, to approve the HLS Main Building Amendment #90, as presented. Voting Aye: Mrs. Taliani, Mrs. Alcorn, and Mr. Merboth. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried.**

ACCEPT TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO SUBMIT THE FY 2026 SCHOOL MAINTENANCE GRANT APPLICATION AS PRESENTED

MOTION by Mrs. Alcorn, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to approve the FY 2026 School Maintenance Grant application, as presented. Voting Aye: Mrs. Alcorn, Mrs. Taliani, and Mr. Merboth. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried.**

TRACK PROJECT CHANGE ORDER #1

Dr. Wroblewski shared photos of the change order work for the track – which would add green to the exchange zones, thus enhancing our branding. The projected cost is approximately \$16,000. Track color samples were shared with the committee.

ACCEPT TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVE TRACK PROJECT CHANGE ORDER #1 AS PRESENTED

MOTION by Mrs. Alcorn, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to approve the track project change order #1, as presented. Voting Aye: Mrs. Alcorn, Mrs. Taliani, and Mr. Merboth. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried.**

UPDATE ON SUMMER 2025 FACILITY PROJECTS:

Dr. Wroblewski shared the Series 2025 HLS Bond Tracker: Allocations vs. Spend for summer projects, outlining fund usage in alignment with the HLS Bonds, including a breakdown by vendor and project. A separate graph showed the breakdown for the Dolan Health Occupations Renovation.

Dr. Wrobleski updated the committee on the Sip-N-Savor project, noting our recent response to their FOIA request. We are awaiting receipt of an actual bill from AK Plumbing, which to date, we have not received.

OSF RANDOM DRUG TESTING COST PROPOSAL

Dr. Wrobleski shared a cost proposal from OSF on the per student cost to administrator a drug test. One new change is the addition of using saliva samples, which requires changing Board policy. Mrs. Alcorn reported that the committee reviewed this at their last meeting and recommends the language change. Dr. Wrobleski explained that no action is required since the Board has previously authorized the superintendent to implement the program. The district will resume testing at the start of the winter sports season and will include all students participating in extracurriculars and those parking in the district lots.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TITLE I FUNDING REDUCTION UPDATE

Dr. Wrobleski updated the committee on the recent federal government announcement that Title I funding is expected to be cut up to 30%. This will not go into effect this year but next. Dr. Wrobleski shared that federal funding makes up approximately 10% of our overall budget; a 30% cut would result in approximately \$82,500 being eliminated from the budget, which is .2% of the total district budget.

OTHER

Dr. Wrobleski shared that the Board will be reviewing at the Board meeting the proposed Peru Midwest Industrial Nexus Tax Increment Financing District with the city of Peru.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Alcorn, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to adjourn. Voting Aye: Mrs. Alcorn, Mrs. Taliani and Mr. Merboth. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried. Time 5:40 p.m.**



Mr. Matt Merboth
Committee Chair



Dr. Steven Wrobleski
Interim Secretary