



FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

8:00 a.m.

Committee Members: Michele Mencer, Chair

Rich Pieros (abs), David Rizza, Justina Ryan, Ellen DePinto (alt)

Administrative Staff: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent

Jason Bohm, SBA/Board Secretary

1. 2026-2027 Budget: The Committee reviewed the 3 month timeline of key milestones for the budget process which is planned to conclude in March. The initial proposal takes into consideration staffing, educational and operational needs across the district. The Committee reviewed the healthcare and enrollment adjustments that enable taxes to be raised above the 2% cap. Two key unknowns for the budget are the number of retirements expected as well as state aid, both of which may provide a cost offset to the budget. More information on these two inputs will be available in the March timeframe just prior to finalizing the budget. An overview of projected class sizes, staffing needs and the importance of balancing educational needs with fiscal responsibility were a key focus of the discussion. The Committee also reviewed the contribution of the district tax liability to the overall tax burden.

An update on summer 2026 capital projects was provided including the TBS Preschool bathroom project and the referendum. Capital reserves of \$600K are lower than ideal and the Board discussed the importance of closely monitoring spend initiatives.

2. Architect fees: The Committee discussed the proposed architect fees and was pleased with the Business Administrator's update on the lower negotiated fee. To initiate referendum projects in July of this year, which is preferred to minimize disruption to education while students are in school, upfront funding is needed to support pre-work. Given the low capital reserves, the district cannot fund the pre-work directly, therefore the architect will develop a solution to begin work without delay.

3. Solar Proposal and Backup Option: This project remains open, however, the July deadline is at risk if further delays are encountered. The Committee agreed the project is important to pursue in order to achieve future savings for utility bills and asked the Business Administrator to continue to work with EZnergy to advance this project.

4. Bus Route Efficiencies: The Committee discussed that midyear transportation changes are discouraged due to disruption to families. Transportation will be a topic at a future meeting due to time constraints in today's Committee meeting which prioritized the budget discussion.

6. Bills List - The bill list was available for Committee members to review.

7. The next meeting is planned for Thursday, March 5th.

