

MINUTES
LASALLE-PERU TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #120
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026, 4:15 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Matt Merboth, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:18 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mr. Matt Merboth, Committee Chair, Mrs. Sally Taliani (via phone), and Mrs. Carol Alcorn

ABSENT:

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. Ingrid Cushing, Assistant Superintendent/Interim Superintendent, Mrs. Lori Whalen, Business Manager, and Mrs. Jennifer Riva, Board Secretary

REVIEW/APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 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 November 12, 2025, as presented. Voting Aye: Mrs. Alcorn, Mrs. Taliani and Mr. Merboth. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried.**

MONTHLY FINANCIALS

Mrs. Whalen presented the financials for November, noting that we are 41.7% through the fiscal year. She is preparing the December financials and expects to have them completed prior to the upcoming board meeting. Cash and Investment balances, as well as Hometown Investment Account balances, are nothing out of the ordinary. She reviewed the Bank Reconciliation Summary for October and November, along with a Summary of Fund Balances as of November 30, 2025, with the committee. Additionally, Mrs. Whalen is updating the bookkeeping to ensure accuracy and emphasized that careful oversight of cash flow and funding allocations will be essential as project priorities are established.

LEVY UPATE

Mrs. Cushing shared the levy was filed in Lasalle and Bureau counties, but we have yet to receive the Certificate of Levy from ISBE.

SERIES 2025/2026 DEBT CERTIFICATES-GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS UPDATE

Mrs. Cushing informed the committee that a BINA hearing is scheduled for the January meeting. The POS is expected next week. Another S&P rating call will take place, date TBD. She added that Mr. Vezzetti indicated potential concerns with the superintendent and business manager transitions affecting the S&P rating. Debt service funds were deposited on December 16, 2025.

TRANSFER FUND UPDATE

Mrs. Cushing updated the committee that a legal notice had been posted in the newspaper and a hearing added to the January board meeting regarding the transfer of funds from the Education and Transportation funds.

MINI BUS EMERGENCY REPAIR

Mrs. Cushing updated the committee and shared a repair estimate from Hawk Auto of Peru totaling \$12,144.37 for a transmission replacement to Activity Bus #4.

2026-2027 BUDGET PREPARATION

Mrs. Cushing recommended the committee approval to authorize the assistant superintendent to begin work on the FY2026-2027 district budget.

ACCEPT TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVE TO AUTHORIZE THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT TO PREPARE THE 2026-2027 BUDGET

MOTION by Mrs. Alcorn, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to accept to recommend the Board of Education approve authorizing the assistant superintendent to as presented. Voting Aye: Mrs. Alcorn, Mrs. Taliani and Mr. Merboth. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried.**

OTHER

Mrs. Cushing recommended the approval of the following Ag Building change orders:

Vissering Construction:

- CO#2: Revise wood door veneers - \$2,240.00
- CO#3: Addition of lights to display case - \$4,414.00
- CO#4: Installation of revised pre-rinse faucet - \$1,129.00

ACCEPT TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVE THE AG BUILDING CHANGE ORDERS AS PRESENTED

MOTION by Mrs. Taliani, seconded by Mrs. Alcorn, to accept to recommend the Board of Education approve the Ag Building Change Orders, as presented. Voting Aye: Mrs. Taliani, Mrs. Alcorn, and Mr. Merboth. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried.**

Dolan and Auto Shop Fire Alarm Replacement project

Mrs. Cushing presented the bid tab for the Dolan and Auto Shop Fire Alarm Replacement project and recommended awarding the contract to JB Contracting, the lowest bidder, with a total bid of \$311,870.00. The bid breakdown is as follows:

- Base Bid – Dolan Building Fire Alarm Replacement: \$224,685.00
- Alternate Bid #1 – Auto Shop Fire Alarm Replacement: \$87,185.00

She also informed the committee that Mr. Kmetz reported a difference of \$88,000 in the approved amendments for the Fire Alarm Replacement Project. He will be submitting an ISBE Health Life Safety Survey to reflect the project's bid, which will be included on the January agenda.

ACCEPT TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVE AWARDING JB CONTRACTING THE DOLAN AND AUTO SHOP FIRE ALARM REPLACEMENT PROJECT AS PRESENTED

MOTION by Mrs. Alcorn, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to accept to recommend the Board of Education approve awarding JB Contracting the Fire Alarm Replacement project for \$311,870.00 presented. Voting Aye: Mrs. Alcorn, Mrs. Taliani, and Mr. Merboth. Voting Nay: None. The motion carried.

Summer 2026 Projects Update

Mrs. Cushing presented a breakdown of the Summer 2026 construction projects that was shared with the Building and Grounds committee. The breakdown included funding sources and approved/estimated costs and requested discussion on prioritizing projects to maximize cost savings. The committee reviewed each line item and also agreed it was fiscally responsible to place some projects on hold, addressing only those that are immediate health, life, and safety (HLS) concerns. The committee also recommended moving forward to let bids for the following HLS projects:

- Replacement of the Sellett Gym west (stair) and Commons doors, frames, and hardware
- Replacement of the East Building pool surface and reconstruction of the main drain

ACCEPT TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVE TO LET BIDS FOR THE HLS PROJECTS AS PRESENTED

MOTION by Mrs. Taliani, seconded by Mrs. Alcorn, to accept to recommend the Board of Education approve let bids for the HLS projects, as presented. Voting Aye: Mrs. Taliani, Mrs. Alcorn, and Mr. Merboth. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried.**

Dungeons and Dragons Club Activity Account

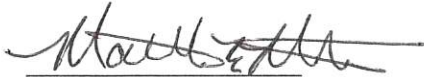
Mrs. Cushing recommended establishing an activity account for the Dungeons and Dragons Club.

ACCEPT TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVE TO ESTABLISH A
DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS CLUB ACTIVITY ACCOUNT

MOTION by Mrs. Alcorn, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to accept to recommend the Board of Education approve to establish a Dungeons and Dragons Club Activity Account. Voting Aye: Mrs. Alcorn, Mrs. Taliani, and Mr. Merboth. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Alcorn, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to adjourn. Voting Aye: Mrs. Alcorn, Taliani, and Mr. Merboth. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried. Time 5:13p.m.**



Mr. Matt Merboth
Committee Chair



Mrs. Jennifer Riva
Board Secretary