



Finance & Operations Committee

February 19, 2026

MINUTES

Meeting called to order: Kehoe 5:02 p.m. **Board members:** Kehoe, Picard (Christenson absent)

District staff: Minnick, Malbon, Salzer, Lents, Vartanian-Gibbs, Jory **SVU Student Rep(s):** n/a

Citizen Representatives: Roderique, Johnson, DeMers **Others Present:** JJ. Lockwood, M. Rutkowski, S.

Gentilia, A. Spuller, K. Chancellor, E. Ditmar **Presenting:** N. Tindall, McCarthy & Smith / A. Read, TMP

Public Comments – Megan Rutkowski, a Farrand Elementary parent, shared that she would like more information about the Farrand playground project. She expressed concern that the project is being brought forward for approval before she has heard any details and worries that there may have been limited community engagement during the planning process.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2026– Approved.

Chromebook Purchase Recommendation– Mr. Salzer reported that the district's 6th-generation iPads currently used in Young 5s and Kindergarten have reached the end of their useful life. As part of the planned device rotation, those classrooms will receive the 9th-generation iPads now used in first grade, and first-grade devices will be replaced in 2026-27 through the 2020 Bond Program. The proposed devices were released last year and are expected to remain in service for approximately nine years, with a four-year warranty.

Following a pilot of Chromebooks in first-grade classrooms at two schools this year, teacher feedback was unanimously positive, with a clear preference for Chromebooks over iPads. Mr. Salzer also noted current market conditions suggest purchasing sooner rather than later. To support this transition, the district recommends purchasing 1,025 Dell 11 2-in-1 Chromebooks through REMC SAVE at a cost of \$477,240, funded by 2023 bond proceeds. Mr. Kehoe will bring this forward for first and final reading on Tuesday evening.

Award Contracts for Bid Package #EL-5A Farrand Playground Replacement - Nick Tindall of McCarthy & Smith and Anna Read of TMP Associates presented a slide overview and award recommendation for Bid Package EL-5A, the Farrand Elementary Playground Replacement Project. Installation bids were opened on December 5, 2025. Playground equipment pricing was secured through the OMNIA cooperative and aligns with equipment previously approved under the 2020 Bond. The project team reviewed bids and conducted post-bid interviews to confirm scope, schedule, staffing, and materials.

The presentation included renderings of the planned playground equipment, which reflects the standard equipment used at other elementary schools in the bond program. A survey will be provided to Farrand students and staff to select the interactive play components. The project also includes replacement of one of the two baseball fields, with the other being removed. Drainage improvements will be addressed, along with installation of a new walkway in an area that currently experiences flooding and root concerns. A new basketball hoop will be installed near the playground, and the existing hoop on the opposite side may be relocated if desired. Mr. Lents will work with the building to determine final basketball hoop locations.

Award Contracts for Bid Package #MS-3 Discovery MS Remodel – Mr. Tindall and Ms. Read presented a slide overview outlining the project scope and budget. Sealed bids were received and publicly opened on February 4, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., with representatives from Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, TMP Architecture, McCarthy & Smith, and interested bidders in attendance. The project team conducted post-bid interviews with the lowest qualified bidders to review scope, schedule, staffing, and materials, and in one instance recommended the second lowest bidder.

The presentation noted that the remodel includes limited scope, as the building is relatively newer. Planned work includes new mechanical equipment, replacement of parking lot and sidewalk areas, and application of a coating to extend the life of the existing flat roof rather than a full roof replacement. An alternate was identified for updates to the existing Life Skills/Life Management space, structured as a deductive alternate if the work is not completed. Alternate 3 addresses repairs to the tennis courts, which are used for physical education classes in the spring and fall.

Prepare for Community Budget Survey– The committee reviewed last year’s community Budget Survey in case of any suggested changes. The survey will open on February 20, 2026 and close on March 8th. The results will be brought back to the committee for the meeting of March 19th, and may be presented for discussion at the Board of Education meeting scheduled for March 24, 2026. Mr. Kehoe is fine with the process and the survey questions we have used in the past. He does share that he will be out of town for the F&O meeting on the 19th, but we can arrange to discuss this at a different time so he is prepared for the Board of Education meeting on March 24th.

Athletics & Activities Follow up Discussion – Dr. Vartanian-Gibbs returned to follow up on her December 4 presentation and respond to prior questions, sharing a detailed handout outlining district-funded and self-funded sports, participation numbers, pay-to-participate comparisons within the KLAA, booster contributions, and athletics and activities spending. She reviewed that the district currently allocates 1.36% (\$3.1 million) of the General Fund to athletics and activities—lower than comparable districts—and walked through cost breakdowns by sport, activity stipends, uniform and equipment budgets, and cut versus no-cut designations. Several parents were in attendance and actively engaged throughout the discussion, resulting in extensive back-and-forth dialogue with administration and the Facilities Director, regarding equity across schools, safety improvements, facility needs, staffing, and ways to reduce costs to families. The conversation was more informal and wide-ranging than a typical subcommittee presentation, reflecting strong community interest in the topic.

Financial Reports as of January 31, 2026 – Ms. Malbon presented the year-to-date financial summary as of January 31, comparing the General Fund Mid-Year Amended Budget to actual revenues and expenditures for fiscal years 2025-26 and 2024-25, with a one-year lookback provided due to the uneven timing of school district revenues and expenditures. Total revenues received are 47.7% of budget, slightly higher than the same time last year, with Inter-district revenue currently \$1.8 million lower due to the timing of the annual Wayne RESA special education reimbursement, which is expected later this year. Total operating expenditures are 53.7% of budgeted amounts, slightly below last year, with variances primarily related to prior-year one-time costs and earlier Non-voted Debt Service payments. The beginning fund balance was restated to reflect the audited balance as of June 30, 2025, consistent with the Mid-Year Budget Amendment adopted February 10, 2026, and the overall net change in fund balance remains in line with expectations based on the timing of certain revenues.

Adjourn: 8:27 p.m.