



Finance & Operations Committee

March 5, 2026

MINUTES

Meeting called to order: Kehoe 5:01 p.m. **Board members:** Kehoe, Picard, Christenson

District staff: Minnick, Malbon, Salzer, Steinman, Jory **Citizen Representatives:** Roderique, Johnson,

DeMers **SVU Student Rep(s):** n/a **Guest Presenters:** N. Watson, PFM / J. Crowley, Miller

Canfield; B. Gesaman, J. Ross/ McCarthy & Smith ; N. Miller, A. Read, TMP

Public Comments – None

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – February 19, 2026 – Approved.

Sinking Fund Discussion – Nate Watson from PFM Financial Advisors and Jim Crowley from Miller Canfield provided an informational overview of school building and site sinking funds. They explained that a sinking fund requires voter approval and can be levied for up to 3 mills for a period of up to 10 years, typically supporting repairs and capital improvements on a pay-as-you-go basis. The presenters reviewed allowable uses of sinking fund dollars, noting recent legislative changes that expanded eligible uses to include items such as security improvements, technology, and certain vehicles, and clarified how sinking funds differ from bond funding.

The discussion also touched on timing considerations for future elections, including the district's plan to refund the 2015 bond in May and the fact that the current bond authorization runs through June 30, 2029, meaning a bond renewal would need to be approved by the voters no later than the May 2029 election. Member Kehoe noted that the district has historically structured bond proposals to maintain a steady tax rate of 4 mills for the community.

The committee also discussed other potential types of levies, including a recreation millage, and reviewed information Mr. Watson has gathered on millage types and rates of other districts. It was noted that while sinking funds can be levied up to 3 mills for 10 years, many districts opt for about 1 mill, with some choosing around 0.95 mills. Members discussed the importance of conducting an educational campaign and community survey before pursuing a ballot proposal, since a sinking fund would represent a new tax.

The general consensus of the committee was to move forward with conducting an EPIC-MRI survey to gauge voter sentiment exploring a sinking fund campaign, and Mr. Crowley will send information about a recreational millage, as requested by the Committee.

Purchase of Classroom Furniture for Hoben, Gallimore, and Discovery – Anna Read and Natalie Miller from TMP Architecture reviewed the recommended furniture packages for Gallimore Elementary, Hoben Elementary, and Discovery Middle School as part of the district's 2020 Bond Program. The furniture selections were based on standards established during the previous elementary and middle school furniture projects and included input from building principals, staff, and students.

Natalie Miller shared the proposed classroom and learning space layouts along with the recommended furniture selections, which include classroom and media center furnishings as well as music storage furniture requested by the elementary principals.

The total recommended cost for the EL-4 furniture package is \$1,014,137.56, and the MS-3 furniture package is \$812,837.22, both coming in under the established bond budgets. It was also noted that an additional furniture package for Discovery Middle School will be brought forward at a later date in consideration of the computer lab space.

A question was raised about what will happen to the existing furniture; depending on its condition, it may be donated to another district, kept in reserve, or disposed of if necessary.

Award Contracts for Bid Package #P-CEP-6 Plymouth HS Paving – Mr. Gesaman reviewed Bid Package P-CEP-6 for paving improvements at Plymouth High School as part of the district's 2020 Bond Program. The project includes removing and replacing existing asphalt in select areas of the campus and replacing portions of sidewalk, with construction planned for summer 2026.

Sealed bids were received and publicly opened, and the project team reviewed the proposals and conducted a post-bid interview with the apparent low bidder. Based on that review, the team recommended awarding the contract to Nagle Paving Company in the amount of \$919,675, which is below the project construction budget.

It was also noted during the discussion that additional sidewalk work near the building will be included as part of the overall improvements.

WAN Intergovernmental Fiber Agreement with Northville P.S. – Mr. Salzer and Dr. Steinman presented a proposed intergovernmental fiber WAN agreement between Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and Northville Public Schools that would interconnect portions of the districts' fiber networks.

The agreement is intended to improve network reliability and strengthen redundancy at the Educational Support Center. The arrangement allows both districts maintain ownership and operational control of their own infrastructure, and no routine payments would be exchanged between the districts under the strand-sharing agreement.

The districts first began discussing the concept about two years ago. The connection would allow P-CCS to establish a pathway to Oakland Schools and the Educational Support Center (Pilot Drive), while enabling Northville to connect with Wayne RESA through use of the P-CCS fiber.

It was noted that this approach would save the district money compared with continuing to lease fiber, which has been used in recent years to connect the Pilot Drive building.

Purchase of 33 Dell Desktop Computers for CTE Computer Lab – Mr. Salzer reviewed the purchase of 33 Dell desktop computers for use in a Career and Technical Education (CTE) computer lab. The new units will replace existing equipment and support instructional needs in the CTE program.

The purchase amount falls below the Board of Education bid threshold, so the item will not be brought forward to the full Board; however, it was shared with the committee for transparency. The discussion also noted that approving the purchase at this time provides the Technology Department with greater flexibility in determining the timing of the order.

Purchase of 900 HP ProBook Laptops – The committee reviewed a recommendation from the Technology Department to purchase 900 HP ProBook laptops as part of the district's ongoing technology refresh cycle. Mr. Salzer explained that the devices will replace existing equipment and help ensure students and staff continue to have reliable technology to support instruction.

The committee discussed the need to move the item forward quickly due to anticipated price increases, and the recommendation was made to expedite the purchase and present it to the full Board of Education on March 10, 2026, for a first and final reading. Member Kehoe agreed that moving forward quickly would be beneficial, noting that prices are expected to more than double beginning April 1.

Adjourned: 7:01 p.m.