

Brandywine School District
District Finance Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of February 4, 2026

Members Present: Chris Milionis, Chuck Landry, Matt Auerbach, Jeff Viar, Victor Ferzetti

Members Absent: Carolyn Heckenstaller, Ron Kimbrough, John Skrobot III,

Other District Representatives Present: Daniel McCoy – Chief Financial Officer, Dr. Lisa Lawson – Superintendent

Members of the Public: Will Pollins

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Milionis at 5:01 P.M.

I. Approval of Minutes – January 7, 2026 Meeting

The minutes for the January 7, 2026 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve was raised by Mr. Landry and seconded by Mr. Auerbach. The minutes were unanimously approved as drafted.

II. January 31, 2026 Monthly Financial Report

Mr. McCoy presented the highlights of the January 31, 2026 Monthly Financial Report:
Revenue

- Local funds – Though some appeals are still in process, tax receipts are now being collected at a good pace.
- Tuition – BSD has not yet collected tuition from other districts whose students attend our special programs, and BSD has also not yet paid. The processing of sending and receiving bills should take place in February.
- Match Taxes – Now that MCI is maxed out, reading match revenue (used to pay reading specialists) will continue to increase as more match tax receipts are collected.
- Title I funds – These are above what was budgeted because more TSI funds were granted.
- Perkins funds – An extra grant for pathways was received after the budget was finalized.

Expenditures

- Student Support Services – Under watch due to recent years' increased expenses to provide alternative programs for post-Covid behavior support. WLC will cover the cost of Harlan's interventionist which should decrease the risk of going over budget.
- Operations and Utilities – expenses notably lower than last year at this time. Could be due to timing, but Delmarva is trending lower than last year.
- Total expenses are on par with last year.
- School buildings that were close to going over FY2025 budget are on a more conservative track for FY2026.
- WLC - More prior year funds are now encumbered as the District makes a concerted effort to spend down WLC funds.

Cash Flow Analysis

- BSD received more division 2 and division 3 funds for payroll, these funds are normally exhausted before year-end.
- March will show the collection of county January adds (assessment additions from July – Dec) = 3.7 million.
- The 2nd portion of the senior tax credit will come from the State in May.
- BSD used 14.9 mil of the State funds made available while tax receipts were delayed. Repayment will be made near the deadline for cash management purposes.

Mr. Milonis prompted a discussion about the timeline for the next referendum and Mr. McCoy reminded the Committee that the last one was meant to sustain the District for three years, which it will, but not much longer. The Committee asked for future budget projections in a scenario with no referendum gains and Mr. McCoy shared what he had prepared: the potential FY2027, '28, and '29 budgets later in the meeting.

A motion to approve the January 31, 2026 Monthly Financial Report was raised by Mr. Viar and seconded by Mr. Landry. The vote was unanimous.

III. District Finance Committee Term Limits

Mr. Landry opened the DFC Term Limits discussion by explaining its purpose:

- To have a document that shows how the guidelines of the charter are applied
- To keep as a working document updated with membership changes and succession plans
- To use as a reference when presenting membership updates and needs to the Board

The Committee agreed that Mr. McCoy will make the minimal revisions suggested, then work with the Committee to finalize the document and share it with the Board.

IV. Tax-related Legislation Updates

Mr. McCoy announced that House Bill 243 to keep the split rates in effect until the next reassessment is out for vote. Additionally, Senate Bill 228 will allow New Castle County to audit assessment mistakes and have built-in time for adjustments. This would lead to tax receipt collection delays, creating the same cash flow issues experienced this year. It would also allow NCC to subpoena income records which are used to determine commercial assessments. This led the Committee to discuss properties that were changing hands and how they might affect tax revenue for the BSD (i.e. the commercial properties recently purchased by Wilmington University).

V. Follow-up Items for Future Meetings

Before highlighting the follow-up items for the next meeting, updates were provided regarding January's follow-ups:

- WLC Dashboard update – The Committee reviewed the WLC document. Mr. McCoy noted BSD is working with the WLC CFO to spend down 2024 and 2025 money in accordance with its designated use. Mr. Milonis asked if additional BSD schools might benefit if Harlan is unable to spend funds that may expire, but WLC is not open to any updates on the intended use for support at Harlan.

- Online financial training for new members – in progress; not necessary to revisit in future meetings
- Final budget presentation review – Figures were added as requested; the Board did not have questions or comments regarding the looking ahead slide. All neighboring districts are facing the same difficulties going forward.
- Neighboring districts Tuition Tax Rate – will be revisited when preparing for next tax season. A referendum vote is not needed to increase tuition rates which will be necessary next year. However, decreasing the debt services amount will absorb the expense for taxpayers.
- Early fiscal year payroll coverage – covered between state allotment and the July and Aug tax receipts.

Follow up items for March meeting:

- Terms of service for DFC members – finalize document
- WLC Dashboard update – explore the possibility of professional development hosted by Harlan that is open to all District members.
- Financial Projections:
 - Mr. Milionis suggested the DFC prepare a proposal for the Board, which might include a recommendation to form a team to research the need for a referendum or steps that can be taken to delay the need.
 - Mr. Ferzetti stated the DFC's purpose: to "identify" the issue, "evaluate" the data, and "recommend" necessary actions to the Board.
 - Mr. Auerbach stressed the importance of considering the Redding Consortium decision when preparing an argument for action.

VI. Public Comment – no comment

A motion to adjourn was introduced by Mr. Landry and seconded by Mr. Ferzetti

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 P.M.

This meeting was held in the Brandywine School District Administrative Office Board of Education conference room and via zoom.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Andrea Sisson, Business Office Associate Specialist

The next DFC Meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2026 at 5:00pm.