MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Homewood-Flossmoor High School, 999 Kedzie Ave., Flossmoor
February 3, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:46 a.m.

In attendance for all or part of the meeting were:

Members	Participants
Dr. Jennifer Norrell, Superintendent	Dr. Jennifer Norrell, Superintendent
Dr. Ariana Leonard, Board Member	Dr. Lawrence Cook, CSBO
Mr. Gerald Pauling, Board President (Absent)	
Mr. Chris Riedel, Board Finance Chair	

A representative from the HF Chronicle and community member Ms. Barbara Karstrom was present. Mr. Ryan Kelley, DLA Architects and Mr. Steve Richardson were also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes. The December 2, 2025 Finance Committee meeting minutes stand approved as presented.

Monthly Financials
Dr. Cook presented a Financial Snapshot through December 31, 2025 and reported the following:
All Funds:

- Fund balance: $45.9 million
- Total revenues received: $30.6 million
- Total expenditures for the first six months: $43.5 million
- Average monthly expenditures: $7.25 million
- Reserves: 6.3 months

Operating Funds

- Fund balance: $43.5 million
- Total revenues received: $29.2 million
- Total expenditures for the first six months: $36 million
- Average monthly expenditures: $6.0 million
- Reserves: 7.3 months

Percentage of Budgeted Revenues Received

- Property tax collections are at 32%, reflecting a 15% decrease from the prior fiscal year, representing approximately $6.6 million in revenue. Dr. Cook noted there is still a delay in property taxes last year at this time collections were at 47%.
- Other local revenues increased by 17%, driven primarily by recognized investment earnings totaling approximately $600,000.
- Other State Revenue is down 26%, due to the $2 million NetZero grant received at the beginning of FY2025.

Percentage of Budgeted Expenditures Spent

- Potential savings are anticipated in salaries and benefits.
- Favorable spending trends were noted in purchased services, supplies, capitalized purchases/services, other objects, and equipment. Dr. Cook noted that “Other Objects” expenditures consist primarily of general obligation bond payments. He reported that spending for purchased services and supplies is trending favorably and is consistent with expenditure patterns observed over the past two years.

- He further stated that a possible overage in private tuition is projected, estimated between 6% and 8%, unless there are significant changes. A clearer projection will be available in April.

Donations
Dr. Cook informed the committee that this may be the final vehicle donation of the year due to limited remaining storage space for donated vehicles. A resolution regarding this donation will be presented for approval at the February 17, 2026 Board meeting.

Comments – Ms. Barbara Karstrom, Flossmoor resident and HF Class of '83 addressed the committee with several questions following her review of the previous meeting's minutes. She acknowledged that Mr. Schmidt provided a thorough and well-prepared residency report and requested additional information in the following areas:

- Student Transfer Activity During Break - Ms. Karstrom inquired about the number of students who attempted to transfer into the district at the end of 1st semester.
- Expenditures and Tuition Increase - Ms. Karstrom referenced the reported 27% increase in tuition expenditures reported at the December meeting, attributed to increased enrollment. She requested clarification regarding whether the additional students are coming from District 153 or District 161; and whether the cost increases are related to special education placements; and whether the district is outsourcing services that could potentially be provided in-house.
- Kaplan Standardized Test Preparation Investment - Ms. Karstrom referred to previous discussion on the district's investment in Kaplan test-preparation resources. She asked whether district faculty are being used to staff these preparation sessions. Dr. Cook responded that district faculty members are not being pulled from their instructional assignments to staff the Kaplan program. The test-prep sessions occur during a designated instructional period within the school day, and district staff will be present in the classroom during that time without impacting their regular teaching responsibilities.

Old Business

Bid results

- Tennis Court Replacement Project - Mr. Kelley provided an update on the tennis court replacement project. He reported that seven bids were received on January 27, 2026. Maneval Paving was identified as the apparent lowest qualified and responsible bidder, with a base bid of $877,788. Mr. Kelley noted that the bid came in below the estimated project cost range of $1.125 million and $1.225 million for the scope of work, resulting in an approximate savings of $250,000 due to the integrity of the existing stone and drainage that was identified as part of the coring process prior to the bid.

- L- and T-Building Roofing Project - Mr. Kelley also reported on the L- and T-Building roofing project. Seven bids were received on January 20, 2026, with G.E. Riddiford Roofing identified as the apparent lowest qualified and responsible bidder, submitting a base bid of $802,250 for EDPM roofing membrane. This bid is higher than the initial estimate due to complex logistics involving multiple small roofs. For comparison, a TPO roofing membrane bid was $789,500, representing a potential savings of $12,500. Both roofing membrane options include a 20-year warranty. Initial project estimates ranged from $649,000 to $690,000, with the increase attributable to labor costs, not materials. Mr. Kelley explained the estimation process, which is based on prior project data and cost per square foot calculations, adjusted for unique roof conditions. The roof replacements are a priority per the 10-year roofing plan. The total cost for both summer

roofing projects is within budget, with a 5% contingency built in for unforeseen costs. Mr. Kelley anticipates that approximately $55,000 will be returned to the District if unused. Dr. Leonard asked whether the District had communicated with the H-F Park District regarding the tennis court replacement project. Dr. Norrell confirmed that she has spoken with the Park District and discussions included whether the Park District's contribution of 40% of total cost could be spread out over multiple years. Dr. Norrell noted that significant improvements are also needed at the Ice Arena, and the Board may need to determine whether it wishes to assist with those repairs. Mr. Riedel stated that the committee is willing to discuss potential proposals for Ice Arena improvements, and Dr. Leonard expressed her agreement. Mr. Riedel requested information on the ice arena facility usage, which will be brought back to the committee for review. Both the roofing and tennis court items will be presented for approval at the February 17th Board meeting.

New Business:

Illinois School Insurance Cooperative (ISIC)

Dr. Cook provided an informational update regarding the District's prior participation in the Illinois School Insurance Cooperative (ISIC). He explained that before joining CLIC (Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative), the District had been a member of ISIC, an 11-member insurance pool in contrast to CLIC's membership of more than 200 districts. The District withdrew from ISIC and joined CLIC in December 2019. ISIC subsequently ceased operations on December 31, 2022 and entered runoff status, remaining responsible for all claims incurred during its coverage period. ISIC formally closed its books on December 31, 2024, reporting a $1.375 million surplus, of which the District's share was $117,000, received at the end of January. Dr. Cook noted that the surplus was returned with the understanding that former members may be required to repay a portion of the funds should additional valid claims arise. A new claim has since been filed against a former ISIC member for an incident occurring between 2014 and 2018. Based on current information, the District's maximum potential exposure related to this claim is approximately $34,000. To date, the District has received an invoice in the amount of $8,500. Mr. Riedel inquired whether there is any expectation for how long the District may be required to make payments. Dr. Cook responded that the duration is unknown at this time. He further stated that the District has set aside the returned surplus in the Education Fund and is hopeful that no additional claims will be presented.

Request for Proposals

- Copiers – Dr. Cook provided an informational update regarding the copier contract process. He explained that the District is proceeding with a bid for copiers, with some leases expiring in April and additional units expiring in September. The bid opened on January 26. Dr. Cook noted the following timeline and procedures: Proposals are due February 26, and the District will utilize an evaluation team to review submissions. Selection will not be based solely on the lowest responsible bidder but on overall evaluation criteria. A vendor recommendation will be presented at the March 17 Board meeting. The new contract will begin April 1 and will be a five-year agreement.
  Mr. Richardson clarified that the fall cycle covers departmental copiers up for renewal, while the spring cycle pertains to the District workroom copiers.

- Athletic Trainer – Dr. Cook provided an update regarding the District's athletic trainer services contract. He noted that the District currently contracts with Athletico under a two-year agreement. Dr. Cook reported the following timeline for the upcoming bid process: The bid opens on March 10. Proposals are due April 28. A vendor

recommendation will be presented at the May 19 Board meeting. The new contract will begin on August 1.

Contract Renewal – Transportation

Dr. Cook provided an overview of the District's current transportation services contract. He noted that the contract is in effect for two school years, 2024–25 and 2025–26, concluding at the end of the current school year. The contract includes an option for renewal for up to three additional school years. Dr. Cook reported that South Cook Transportation Services was recently sold to First Student. He stated that a call is scheduled with a company representative to review the services currently provided to the District and to discuss projected cost increases moving forward. Dr. Cook noted that under the terms of the contract, the annual cost increase shall be the lesser of the published Consumer Price Index (CPI) or five percent (5%), if mutually agreed upon. Mr. Riedel recalled that when transportation services were rebid a few years ago, Kickert emerged as the lowest bidder. He asked what the current market increases look like and requested clarification on the term "mutually agreed upon." Dr. Cook clarified that both parties would need to agree to either the 5% increase or the CPI, whichever is applicable.

Executive Session

The committee entered into Executive Session at 8:24 a.m., pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c) of the Open Meetings Act to consider security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property. Mr. Riedel stated no action will be taken upon return to open session.

Return to Open Session 8:51 a.m.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 8:51 a.m.