MEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Work Session Minutes
Monday, April 13, 2026

The Board of Directors held a Work Session on Monday, April 13, 2026. The meeting began at 6:00pm and was held at District Office. Directors Gray, Cannon, Killman, Nolan and Woodworth were present. Also attending were Superintendent Travis Hanson and Learning & Teaching Assistant Superintendent Jay Jordan.

I. Executive Session

At 6:00pm President Gray called the meeting to order and then immediately called for an Executive Session of approximately 40 minutes for the purpose of discussion with legal counsel regarding litigation and pending litigation.

At 6:45pm President Gray reopened the public meeting.

II. WIAA Enrollment for 2026-2027 (Policy 2151) & Secondary Fees

Director of Schools, Jeff Naslund, presented the WIAA School Board Resolution Form for the 2026-2027 school year. Upon approval and signature, the Board indicates they approve the district's WIAA membership for 2026-2027 for all 5 secondary schools and that WIAA rules and regulations will be followed. The Board would like this brought to the May Regular Board Meeting for action and plan to attach a letter to the Resolution Form stating their concerns for WIAA's policy regarding transgender participation in female athletics. The Board seeks to protect fair competition and preserve opportunities for female athletes. The due date for submission of the Resolution Form is June 12, 2026.

Additionally, Dr. Naslund requested the Board consider increasing the middle school ASB fee. The Middle School Principals are in favor of an increase and Dr. Naslund noted that the current ASB fee of $15.00 has been in place for at least the last 20 years. An increase of $5.00 or $10.00 will help support ASB and help offset the free/reduced rate (the ASB fee is waived for free/reduced students). Comparisons with other districts' fees show an increase to $25.00 would be reasonable. It was noted that currently the middle school parent organizations do an annual fundraiser that raises significant funds to support ASB. The Middle School Principals would like to work to bridge the gap for ASB in order to rely less on the parent organization fundraisers. There was also discussion around the current middle school participation fee of $35.00, which helps cover transportation and officiating costs, but no increase for that is requested.

Discussion ensued regarding what the high school fees are and if the participation fee that student athletes pay should be assessed for performing arts students. Dr. Naslund stated that current high school fees are fairly equal with surrounding areas. Chief Financial Officer Heather Ellingson, Learning & Teaching Assistant Superintendent Jay Jordan, and Dr. Naslund are studying the topic of fees for performing art students as well as any potential high school fee increases and will bring to the board at a later date. Fee approval for the 2026-2027 school year needs to be in place by August.

III. Mt Spokane HS Schedule Variance for 2026-2027

Currently Mt Spokane HS has a different bell schedule on Thursdays for CAT time which was accomplished through a MOU. This schedule variance allows for a 35-minute timeslot on Thursdays for staff to connect with students who need extra help. Because this timeslot is during the school day, all students can opt in for help regardless of their after-school commitments. CAT time has been very successful. The Mt Spokane HS staff voted overwhelmingly to continue the variance for the 2026-2027 school year and Dr. Jordan recommended the board take action to pass this at the April Regular Board meeting.

IV. Policy 2413 (Equivalency Credit for Career and Technical Education Courses) Revision Discussion

Director of CTE & School Support, Moleena Harris, presented proposed revisions to Policy 2413 which would allow students ages 16 and older to earn up to two elective high school credits through paid work experience (the current policy allows for equivalency credit for career and technical courses). The proposed policy language comes straight from the WSSDA model policy which outlines several requirements for earning credit. Questions arose including who would manage this at the school level, can students receive credit for work experience during the summer, can students receive credit for work experience during the school day (i.e. Running Start students) etc. The Board will review the draft policy and requested a draft procedure to review ahead of the upcoming first reading of this revision at the April Regular Board Meeting with the plan to provide any feedback they have.

V. 2026-2027 Budget Discussion / Levy Rate Discussion

Ms. Ellingson shared a snapshot of next year's budget in a slide presentation noting that enrollment is somewhat stable and no major changes are expected. Ms. Ellingson did report that TK funding is being reduced and the number of seats in Mead's TK program will be reduced to 60 due to a funding cut. Director Gray inquired about the current status of the dual language program and Dr. Jordan addressed the fact that there is a need for teachers in this program. Budget adoption for next year is slated for August.

The remainder of Ms. Ellingson's presentation centered around three EP&O levy renewal options. Those options include (1) renewing at the current levy rate of $2.50, providing continuity of programs and services without increasing the tax burden on property owners, (2) reduced levy renewal renewing at a rate lower than the current authorization, reducing the tax impact on homeowners while accepting a corresponding reduction in available district funding which would necessitate changes to current programming and staffing, and (3) renew at the existing rate and add a capital levy or a bond, which increases funding for school construction, modernization, security upgrades and technology. Ms. Ellingson reviewed how these EP&O levies supplement state funding, are time-limited, must be periodically renewed by a community vote, how the levy funds are used, the key legal parameters surrounding the amount the district can request, and timing for when the levy goes on a ballot. A copy of the "Local Levy Renewal Options" slide presentation shared with the board is attached.

The Board discussed the various options and will need to pass a formal resolution in the fall. If it's decided to run a levy in February, the deadline to submit the resolution to the County is 12/11/26. There was discussion regarding messaging and the timing of the messaging.

Superintendent Hanson stated he will have an update from the Building/Bonds Committee at the next work session which may be relevant to this upcoming levy decision.

VI. Facilities Projects Update

Superintendent Hanson gave a report regarding which facilities projects are currently being undertaken from the list provided to the Board at the Work Session on February 9, 2026 (see attached). Additionally, Maintenance is proceeding with other projects including replacing the roof at PLC, replacing the roof and removing the HVAC system at the old M.E.A.D. building, replacing the theater curtains at both high schools, and will replace the Mountainside drain field this summer along with repairing a fence at Shiloh Hills.

Director Nolan suggested perhaps some sort of blog or communication could come from Maintenance/Facilities to show the needs in the district. He stated this could be helpful in the future if a capital levy is sought.

VII. Update Policy 5410 (Holidays)

Superintendent Hanson presented the addition of June 19th to current Policy 5410. June 19 is Juneteenth National Independence Day, a federal holiday in the United States celebrating the end of slavery which was signed into law in 2021. The first reading of the updated Policy will occur at the April Regular Board meeting with the expectation to take action.

VIII. Potential Board Resolutions

President Gray proposed adopting a Board Resolution in support of the 2026 WIAA Proposed Amendment No. 21, put forth by Lynden School District as well two Washington State Initiatives, IL 26-638 and IL 26-001. Amendment No. 21 has been submitted to WIAA for amending its handbook policy called 18.16.0 Gender Identity Participation to maintain fair competition and participation where the Girls' Category is limited to biological female students only and to replace the Boys' Category with an Open Division that allows for participation by all students. IL 26-638 titled "Protecting Fairness in Girls' Sports" seeks to protect fair competition and preserve opportunities for female athletes. IL 26-001 titled "Strengthening Communication Between Parents and Schools" seeks to enhance transparency and parental involvement by ensuring that parents have timely access to important educational records and decision making regarding their children.

IX. WSSDA Position – To retire

Director Nolan proposed the Board consider submitting a WSSDA legislative position for retirement. The position is titled "Attract, Recruit, and Retain Diverse School Board Directors." This position was adopted by WSSDA in 2021. Director Nolan identifies this position to be a state agency attempting to influence who runs and finds it to be inappropriate. There was some discussion about reviewing more of WSSDA's positions and making recommendations in the future. Board agreed to bring this for action at the next Regular Board meeting in April.

X. Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Hanson handed out information related to legislative updates and changes that will affect the upcoming school year to the Board for their reading.

Other topics included a $150,000.00 anonymous donation designated for Farwell's playground which will be on the Consent Agenda at the next Regular Board meeting in April, a brief update that Public Information Officer Todd Zeidler met with Chas at Shiloh Hills regarding significant upcoming changes to their services, and ended with a report that we will be transitioning board meeting agendas/documents to a digital platform this summer. More information to come at an upcoming work session. It was noted by Director Nolan that the Wi-Fi will need to be improved at the Union Event Center in order to accommodate this change.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33pm.

President **Secretary**

2026-27 Budget Overview

Economic Landscape: Challenges & Considerations

1

Enrollment

While somewhat stable, enrollment is declining.
- Kindergarten Enrollment
- High school mid year

2

LEA Funding

The 2026 & 2027 LEA included $150/student enhancements.
- Loss of $300/student in funding starting in 2027-28

3

Funding for Capital Projects/Facilities

Bond funds will be exhausted with current projects.
- No additional bond authorization.
- Facilities continue to need repair.

4

Inflation

Inflation (IPD) is outpacing assessed valuation
- Larger portion of levy funding will be required to maintain contractual obligations
- Cost of goods/services exceeding funding increases

2026-27 Budget Snapshot

- 2025-26 ending fund balance is predicted to be slightly less than budgeted due to increased facilities needs
- Targeting a budget that shows using $1,000,000 from fund balance
- Reduction of Transitional Kindergarten to align with funding reductions
- No other significant changes in programs offered
- Align staffing with enrollment
  - Biggest challenge is at High School
- Use one time funding (increased LEA) to target Capital Projects
- Continue to support curriculum adoption, safety and security and performing arts



Purpose of Today's Discussion

1

Review the Role of the Local Levy

Understand how local levy funds supplement state funding and why this revenue stream is critical to district operations.

2

Understand Current Levy Expiration

Identify when the existing levy authority expires and what that means for budget planning and voter timelines.

3

Compare Renewal Options & Impacts

Evaluate three distinct levy renewal scenarios and assess each option's financial and programmatic consequences.

4

Provide Direction on Next Steps

Offer board direction to administration so that staff can proceed with the appropriate resolution, ballot preparation, and community outreach plan.

What Is an EP&O Levy?

Sometimes referred to as an "Enrichment Levy" is a voter-approved, locally generated funding source that supplements what the state provides. Unlike state allocations, levies are time-limited and must be periodically renewed by community vote.

Voter-Approved

Requires a majority vote from community members to authorize.

Supplements State Funding

Fills the gap between what the state provides and actual district costs.

Time-Limited

Expires at the end of the authorized term and must be renewed to continue.



Current Levy Snapshot

3 Years

2025, 2026, 2027

$2.50

Targeted Rate

Per $1,000 assessed value

$29.3 - $31.7 Million

Voter Authorized Amount

$28.8 - $30.5 Million

Estimated Collections

Rollback

13.2%

Portion of general fund revenues in 2024-25

How Current Levy Funds Are Used

Levy dollars flow directly into the programs and services that students and families rely on every school day. Below is a high-level summary of where these funds are directed.

Classroom & Instructional Support

Supplemental staffing and resources that enhance core academic instruction.

Extra Curricular Activities

Athletics, performing arts and clubs.

Safety & Security

Campus security systems and protocols that keep students and staff safe.

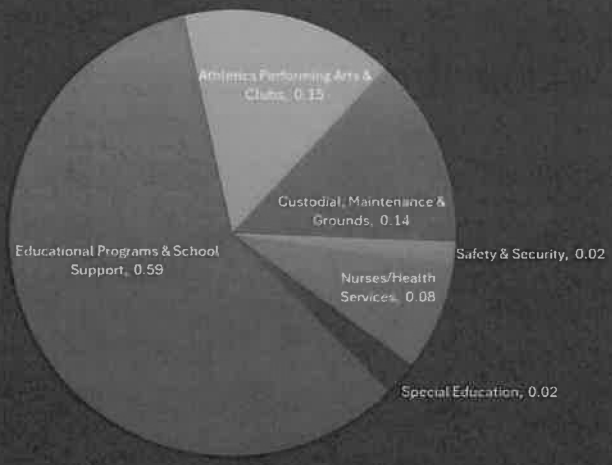
Technology & Learning Tools

Devices, software, and infrastructure that support modern learning environments.

Operations Not State-Funded

Maintenance, transportation, and other essential functions underfunded by state formulas.

How Current Levy Funds Are Used



Based on 2024-25

Legal & Timing Considerations - EP&O

Key Legal Parameters

- Levy authority governed by Washington State law (RCW 84.52)
- Maximum levy limits based on enrollment and assessed valuation
- Simple majority voter approval required
- Limited to a period of 4 years (Mead has historically run a 3 year levy)
- May only be submitted twice during a 12-month period

Ballot & Timeline Factors

- Ballots may be scheduled in February, April, August, or November
- Resolution must be submitted to county auditor in advance
- Levy collection cannot begin until existing levy expires
- Early planning allows maximum community outreach time

Financial Context & Assumptions



Enrollment Trends

Enrollment is reasonably stable with a slight downward trend. Kindergarten classes continue to be small, contributing to long term enrollment decline.



Inflationary Pressures

Rising costs for staffing, benefits, utilities, and supplies continue to outpace historical budget growth.



No New State Revenue Assumed

Planning does not assume any increase in state per-pupil funding or new categorical grants.



Conservative Tax Base Growth

Assessed value growth projections are set to ensure we are able to collect the targeted tax rate, which may mean we have rollbacks annually.

OPTION 1

Renew at Current Levy Rate

This option maintains the existing levy rate, providing continuity of programs and services without increasing the tax burden on property owners.

Overview

Renews the levy at the same rate currently authorized by voters. No structural change to the levy amount.

Impact & Tradeoffs

- Preserves existing programs and staffing levels
- Minimal change in cost to taxpayers
- Familiar to voters — easier community approval
- Limited flexibility to absorb rising operational costs
- May require budget adjustments over time as costs increase

OPTION 2

Reduced Levy Renewal

This option renews the levy at a rate lower than the current authorization, reducing the tax impact on homeowners while accepting a corresponding reduction in available district funding.

Overview

Renews the levy at a rate below the current level. Results in lower annual revenue for the district

Impact & Tradeoffs

- Lower annual cost to property owners
- Reduced funding available for programs and staffing
- Program reductions or staffing adjustments likely required
- May appeal to voters concerned about affordability
- Risk of service-level cuts affecting student outcomes

OPTION 3

Renew at existing rate and add a capital levy or bond

This option renews the levy at the current rate and increases funding for school construction, modernization, security upgrades and technology — to address inflationary pressures and protect or enhance student services over the levy term.

Overview

Increases taxes related to a capital levy or bond

Impact & Tradeoffs

- Addresses inflation and rising operational costs
- Protects or enhances current student services
- Provides greater financial stability over the levy term
- Higher cost to taxpayers — requires clear justification
- Strong community communication strategy essential for approval

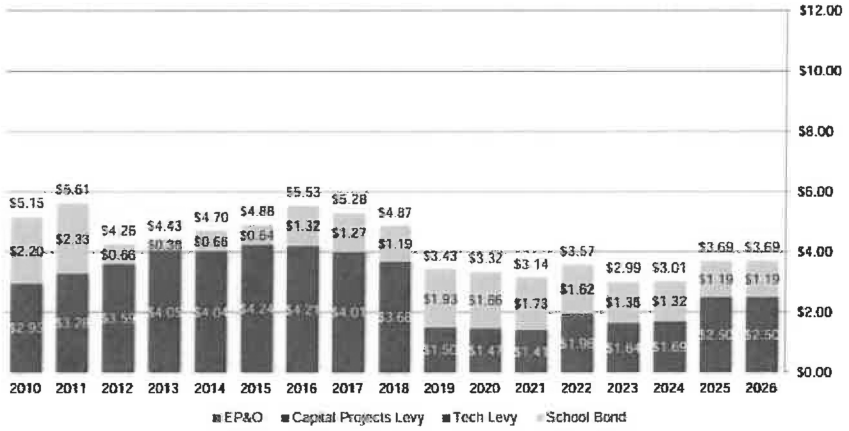
Side-by-Side Comparison

	Option 1: Current Rate	Option 2: Reduced Rate	Option 3: Capital Levy
Levy Rate ($/1,000 AV)	$2.50	$2.25	$0.10 Capital levy
Est. Annual Revenue	$31.4/$32.5/ $33.6 Million	$28.3/$29.25/$30.3 Million	$1.26/$1.30/$1.35Million
Cost to Avg. Homeowner ($500,000 AV)	$1,250/year	$1,125/year	$50/ Year
Program Impact	Maintained	Reductions Likely	Protected / Enhanced
Voter Risk Level	Low–Moderate	Low	Moderate–High

Additional data and trends

Property Values and School Taxes

Mead School District
Tax Rates/$1,000

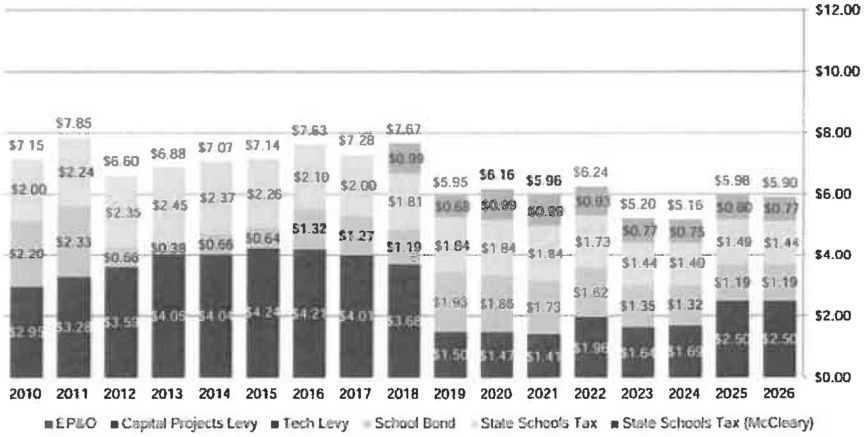


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Source: State of Washington, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, County Assessor Annual Report

Property Values and School Taxes

Mead School District
Tax Rates/$1,000 (w/ State Schools Tax)

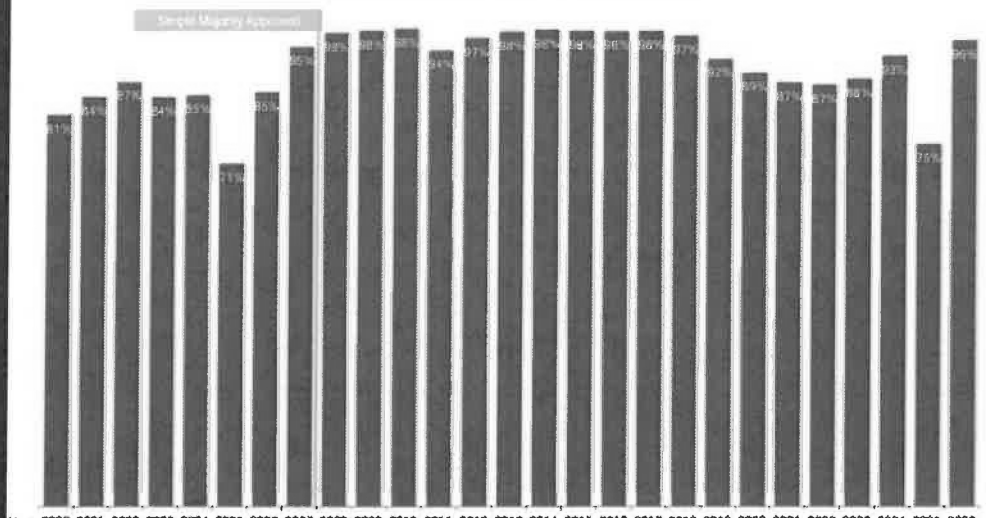


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Source: State of Washington, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, County Assessor Annual Report

Levy and Bond Overview

Washington State EP&O Levy Passage Percentage

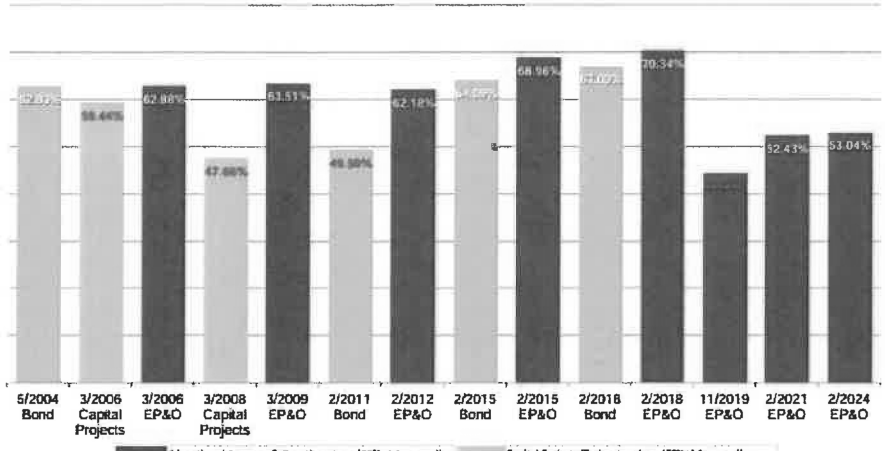


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Source, Secretary of State - Washington, County Elections, through February 2026

Levy and Bond Overview

Mead School District
Election Passage Rate History



Source: OSPI 1463-GF, 1483-BI

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County Tax Rate Comparison

Spokane County School Districts
2026 Tax Rates

District	Assessed Value[1]	EP&O ($)	Bonds ($)	Capital ($)	Transp. ($)	Total ($)
[redacted]	$ 18,414,802,292	2.4956	1.0177	0.4032	-	3.9165
	$ 8,265,446,488	2.0779	1.7701	0.9462	-	4.7942
	$ 1,840,887,717	1.5337	0.3738	-	-	1.9075
	$ 6,658,681,259	1.9780	-	0.7391	-	2.7171
	$ 1,292,519,955	1.5620	1.4658	1.2142	-	4.2421
	$ 267,910,449	1.0134	-	-	-	1.0134
	$ 1,206,777,953	1.5395	0.8492	1.4499	-	3.8386
Mead School District No. 354	$ 11,779,474,200	2.5000	1.2201	-	-	3.7201
[redacted]	$ 1,316,918,315	1.6359	1.2381	0.4721	-	3.3462
	$ 33,126,920	1.2945	-	-	-	1.2945
	$ 739,957,154	2.2686	0.3820	-	-	2.6506
	$ 194,249,989	1.1636	1.9817	-	-	3.1453
	$ 613,757,532	2.0968	0.6298	-	-	2.7266
	$ 2,256,759,898	1.5256	-	-	-	1.5256
	$ 12,124,394	2.1681	-	-	-	2.1681
	$ 37,047,085,782	2.5000	1.3666	-	-	3.8666
	$ 2,530,589	1.4702	-	-	-	1.4702
	$ 3,149,647	1.9542	-	-	-	1.9542
	$ 3,983,166,438	2.5000	-	0.9881	-	3.4881

6 School Districts with rates higher than ours.

12 School Districts with rates lower than ours.

(1) Spokane County values only, does not include TAV

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Source: State of Washington, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, County Assessor Annual Report

Projected tax rate

	EP&O	Bond	Capital	Total
Mead (projected 2030)	$2.500	$1.133	-	$3.633
Mead (projected 2029)	$2.500	$1.149	-	$3.649
Mead (projected 2028)	$2.500	$1.166	-	$3.666
Mead (projected 2027)	$2.500	$1.181	-	$3.681
Mead	$2.500	$1.220	-	$3.720

Recommendation & Board Direction

Administration Recommendation

Recommend maintaining existing levy rate of $2.50/$1,000.

Key Decision Factors

- Alignment with district strategic priorities
- Financial sustainability over the levy term
- Voter appetite and community affordability
- Risk of program or service disruption

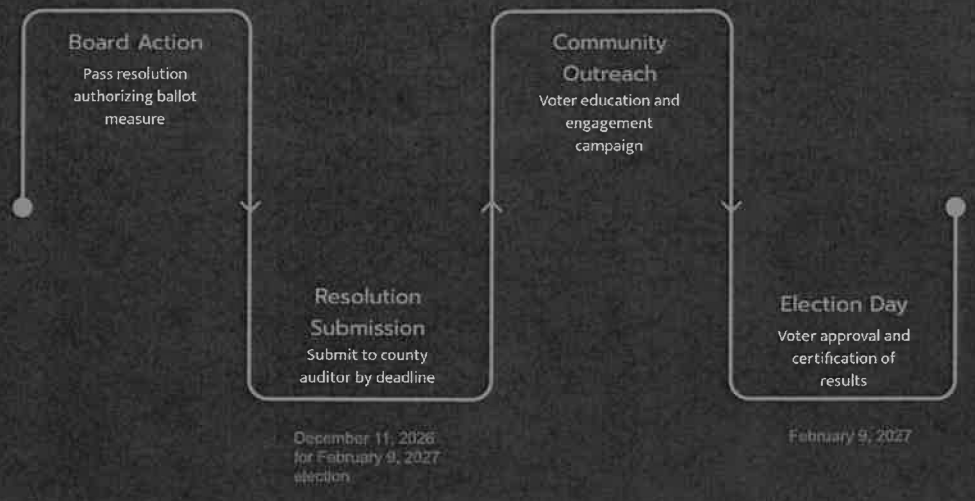
Board Direction Needed

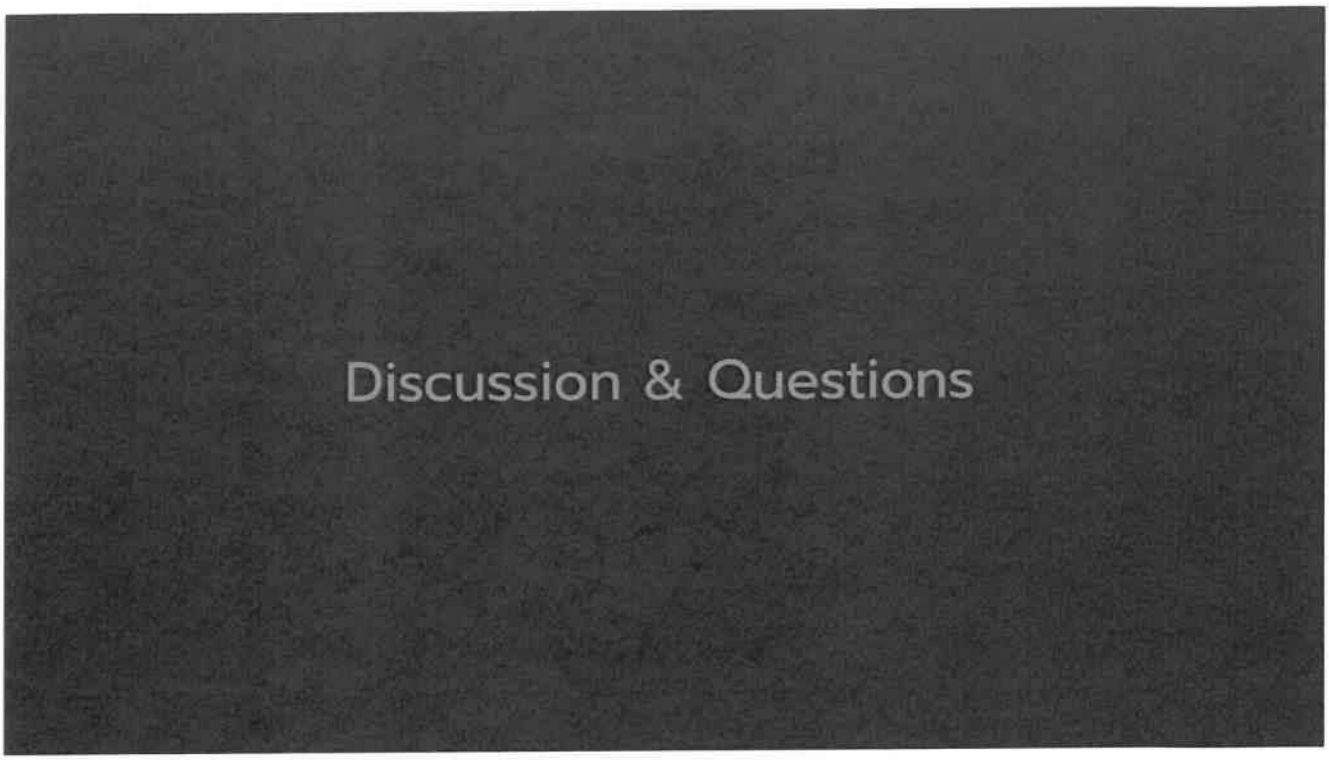
No formal decision is needed at this time. Formal action will be taken prior to the resolution filing deadline.

Direction is needed so we can start preparing materials for the levy.

Proposed Timeline & Next Steps

The following sequence outlines the key milestones from board authorization through voter approval. Meeting these deadlines ensures the levy is on the ballot and collections begin without a funding gap.




Discussion & Questions

Facilities and Operations
FUTURE PROJECTS

The management of facilities through small, medium and large-scale projects is an important part of the the maintenance, financial viability and responsibility of the Mead School District. Facilities and Operations personnel continually assess and monitor the the physical needs of district buildings to ensure safety, security and functionality.

Costs listed below are estimates based on current market research or actual quotes.

TOP 10 PRIORITY PROJECTS

Priority Projects have been identified has having the most urgent need and are the top priority if funding is available. Some of the items listed here have the possibility of being covered by state or federal grant dollars. If covered by a grant, items from the Alternative Projects list could then be more possible.

- Mead HS - HVAC Repair
  - $300,000
- Mead HS - Chiller Replacement
  - $450,000-$600,000*
- Mead HS - Auditorium Improvements
  - $150,000-$200,000
- Mt. Spokane HS - Auditorium Improvements
  - $150,000-$200,000
- Mt. Spokane HS - Chiller Replacement
  - $450,000-$600,000*
- Mountainside MS - Flooring Replacement
  - $350,000-$400,000
- Prairie View - Flooring Upgrades
  - $280,000-$300,000
- Evergreen - Roof Repair/Replacement
  - $650,000-$700,000
- Farwell - Chiller Replacement
  - $200,000-$350,000
- Colbert - Chiller Replacement
  - $200,000-$225,000

*Cost listed is the total, but could be a multi-phase project

ALTERNATIVE PROJECTS

Alternative Projects are a list of needs that could become reality should a grant be able to cover the costs of either these projects or of those listed as Priority Projects. Should the cost of a Priority Project become covered by a grant, then one or some combination of Alternative Projects could be viable financially.

- MHS - Fire Alarm System Replacement
  - $400,000-$425,000
- Meadow Ridge - Door Replacement
  - $60,000-$70,000
- Evergreen - Vinyl Wall Covering
  - $90,000-$100,000
- Colbert - Vinyl Wall Covering
  - $90,000-$100,000
- Farwell - Vinyl Wall Covering
  - $90,000-$100,000
- District Office - Flooring Upgrades
  - $60,000-$85,000
- Brentwood - Vinyl Wall Covering
  - $90,000-$100,000

MEDIUM-SCALE PROJECTS

Medium-scale projects fall outside of year-to-year budget planning and are large enough in scale that multi-year planning would be necessary. These projects have no current funding source and are anticipatory with a need that spans the next 10-15 years.

- Mead HS - Tennis Court Rebuild
- Mt. Spokane HS - Tennis Court Rebuild
- Mt. Spokane HS - Campus Re-Keying
- Union Stadium - Artificial Turf Replacement
  - $1,000,000+
- Mt. Spokane HS - Field House Floor Replacement
- Mt. Spokane HS - Track Resurfacing
  - $250,000-$300,000
- Mead HS - Field House Floor Replacement
- Mead HS - Baseball Field Modernization

Updated Jan. 2026