

**MINUTES
LASALLE-PERU TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #120
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026, 4:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Matt Merboth, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:30p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mr. Matt Merboth, Committee Chair, Mrs. Sally Taliani (via phone), and Mrs. Carol Alcorn

ABSENT:

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. Ingrid Cushing, Assistant Superintendent/Interim Superintendent, Mrs. Lori Whalen, Business Manager, and Mrs. Jennifer Riva, Board Secretary

REVIEW/APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 18, 2026, COMMITTEE MEETING

MOTION by Mrs. Alcorn, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to accept to recommend the Board of Education approve the meeting minutes from February 18, 2026, as presented. Voting Aye: Mrs. Alcorn, Mrs. Taliani and Mr. Merboth. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried.**

MONTHLY FINANCIALS

Mrs. Whalen presented the financials for the month ending February 28, 2026, noting that the fiscal year is 66.7% complete. Revenue stands at 75.9% and expenditures at 58.7%. She reported the Operations & Maintenance fund will remain obscure until the budget is amended and highlighted the additional fund entries for accurate financial tracking. She also reviewed the Cash and Investments as of February 28, 2026, Cash Flow Statement, ACH Transactions and Investment Accounts all which reflect current business.

FY2025 AUDIT UPDATE

Mrs. Cushing and Mrs. Whalen updated the committee that Newkirk and Associates will present the final audit to the Board in May or June and distributed the audit report. There were three findings:

1. Title I Grant – duplicate entry of \$24,000.00.
2. Eligibility Issue – incorrectly claimed a student as free or reduced.
3. Food Reimbursement (May 2025) – lunch served but not claimed.

The auditors also noted that the Treasurer's bonds did not meet the required coverage percentage, and Mrs. Cushing is currently working on a corrective action plans to address the findings. Mrs. Whalen emphasized the significance of the findings, noting that they were identified as deficiencies in internal controls and classified as material weaknesses. She also reported our Standard & Poor's rating remains at AA-.

SERIES 2025/2026 DEBT CERTIFICATES-GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS UPDATE

Mrs. Cushing reported that the bonds were successfully sold last week and all final steps completed.

SOLAR ON EARTH UPDATE

Mrs. Whalen explained to the committee that the Solar on Earth agreement, approved in March 2025, was expected to begin in October 2026. The district has received five bills for assigned solar meters, with two currently active but generating minimal credits; additional meters will become active once connected to solar farms, with credits expected to increase between now and October. She also clarified that while the agreement is a 10-year contract and considered non-binding, if the district chooses to cancel, it must continue making payments until another party takes over the agreement.

AG BUILDING DONATIONS

Mrs. Cushing updated the committee that \$23,050 has been received so far through donations and grants, with additional contributions expected to bring the total to \$38,050. There are several other donations that have been pledged. She also shared that Mr. Baker and Mr. Hintzsche will continue seeking more donations over spring break, while Mrs. Braboy looks into additional grant opportunities to help increase funding.

BID RECOMMENDATION UPDATE

Mrs. Cushing presented the bid tabulation for the Main Building Sellett Gymnasium Door/Frames/Hardware Replacement project, with Vissering Construction submitting the lowest bid of \$83,379.00. This item will be listed as an action item on the agenda and has received approval from the Building and Grounds Committee.

2026-2027 SCHOOL FEE RECOMMENDATION

Mrs. Cushing reported that there were minimal changes to the 2026-2027 school fees. Her recommendations included a \$5 increase to the Yearbook fee (at registration), as well as a \$3 increase each for Foods & Nutrition 1 and Foods & Nutrition 2 fees to account for inflation.

ACCEPT TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVE THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL FEE RECOMMENDATION

MOTION by Mrs. Alcorn, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to accept to recommend the Board of Education to approve the 2026-2027 school fee recommendation, as presented. Voting Aye: Mrs. Alcorn, Mrs. Taliani, and Mr. Merboth. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried.**

REQUEST TO LET BIDS: Bread, Milk, and Pizza

Mrs. Cushing requested authorization to let bids for the bread, milk, and pizza contracts for the 2026-2027 school year.

ACCEPT TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVE LETTING BIDS FOR BREAD, MILK AND PIZZA

MOTION by Mrs. Taliani, seconded by Mrs. Alcorn, to accept to recommend the Board of Education approve letting bids for bread, milk, and pizza as presented. Voting Aye: Mrs. Alcorn, Mrs. Taliani, and Mr. Merboth. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried.**

FORENSIC AUDIT

Mrs. Cushing and Mrs. Whalen presented the proposal from CliftonLarsonAllen LLC and recommended hiring the firm for \$21,000 to conduct a detailed forensic audit. The review would be completed in phases and focus on high-risk areas, key activities, and the time period when concerns were identified, from May 2024 through November 2025.

ACCEPT TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVE TO HIRE CLA (CLIFTONLARSONALLEN LLC) TO CONDUCT A FORENSIC AUDIT FOR \$21,000.00

MOTION by Mrs. Taliani, seconded by Mrs. Alcorn, to accept to recommend the Board of Education approve hiring CLA (CliftonLarsonAllen LLP) to conduct a Forensic Audit for \$21,000.00, as presented. Voting Aye: Mrs. Taliani, Mrs. Alcorn and Mr. Merboth. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried.**

OTHER

Mrs. Cushing recommended creating a new administrative position called Head Dean to take over the responsibilities of the Associate Principal for School Safety. The role would include all duties of

the Dean as outlined in the handbook, along with the Dean's regular salary plus an extra stipend for work related to registration week.

ACCEPT TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVE TO CREATE THE ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION OF HEAD DEAN

MOTION by Mrs. Alcorn, seconded by Mrs. Taliani, to accept to recommend the Board of Education approve creating the administrative position of Head Dean, as presented. Voting Aye: Mrs. Alcorn, Mrs. Taliani and Mr. Merboth. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Alcorn, seconded by Mr. Merboth, to adjourn. Voting Aye: Mrs. Alcorn and Mr. Merboth. Voting Nay: None. **The motion carried. Time 5:10p.m.**

Mr. Matt Merboth
Committee Chair

Mrs. Jennifer Riva
Board Secretary