



## Eastern Lebanon County School District

180 ELCO Drive, Myerstown, PA 17067

April 13, 2026, DO Boardroom, 5:00 pm

Finance

Committee Minutes

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Finance Committee Chair: **Ray Ondrusek**

Finance Committee Members: **Howard Kramer, JP Santos, Megan Schaeffer;**  
Board President, **Rachel Moyer**

Others present: Jack Kahl, Bonnie Kantner, Joya Morrissey.

#### Call to Order and Welcome

- Mr. Ondrusek called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

#### Discussion Items

- **CSIU Contract**
  - Mrs. Mathias shared that there is a \$1,103 cost increase. The software is used for fund accounting, human resources, and payroll. The committee agreed to add this item to the board agenda.
- **Lebanon County CTC Budget**
  - Mrs. Mathias shared the CTC budget, which reflects a 7.42% increase over last year. The total cost is \$1,020,490, which will provide seats for students to attend the CTC. The committee moved this item forward for full board consideration.
- **Lancaster-Lebanon IU13 Budget**
  - The contract for IU services was presented. The budget includes a 2.28% increase, primarily due to media purchases. The committee moved this forward to the board agenda.
- **2026-2027 Budget Update**
  - Mrs. Mathias shared a presentation on the progress being made on the budget. In February, the draft budget projected a \$2.5 million deficit. Despite significant budget cuts and slight revenue increases, the current

draft budget projects a \$471,726 deficit, with a proposed 4.2% tax increase. Mrs. Mathias shared that the proposed final budget to be presented to the committee next month should be lower.

- Mr. Ondrusek expressed appreciation for the administrative team's work to reduce expenses in the budget.
- Mrs. Vicente shared that it has been a team effort and that reducing expenses is difficult due to rising costs.
- Mrs. Mathias shared that the department budgets are now \$300,000 lower than last year. Decreases were also made to the budget for salaries due to attrition. She also reminded the committee that 0.75% of the tax increase is due to the changes in the CTC costs for the renovation project.
- Mr. Ondrusek recommends that the board not proceed with the CTC renovation because he believes the district cannot afford it. Mrs. Vicente shared that the district has indicated that funds can be set aside now, and it is important for ELCO to provide a CTC program for our students. She stated that the district is not wealthy enough to provide its own CTC program. Mr. Ondrusek stated that the proposed amount for the CTC project is not reasonable for the district. Mrs. Vicente shared that the JOC has expressed concerns about the cost of the proposed renovation project.
- Mrs. Mathias shared that the 4.2% tax increase is necessary because ELCO does not receive adequate funding.
- Mr. Kramer shared that the PARSS organization is advocating for additional funding. He also shared that he supports reducing the costs of the CTC renovation and stated that the district needs to partner with the CTC to give our students opportunities.
- Mr. Ondrusek shared that the district's iPad costs could cover some of the expenses. He stated that there isn't a need to refresh iPads on such a short cycle because his personal computer lasted 12 years.
- Mrs. Schaeffer offered the perspective of a parent, saying that every dollar removed from the budget is an opportunity for students that is being eliminated. If items continue to be removed, more and more students will leave the district for cyber charter schools.
- Mr. Kramer shared that fewer and fewer teachers are graduating from college, and teacher retention will be a challenge.

Public Comment:

- Mr. Kahl respects the work the administration has done to reduce the budget, but he feels that the board must do its part to raise taxes to the index and explain the reasons to taxpayers.

- Mrs. Morrissey asked what the district would do if it did not provide iPads to students. She shared that students would be behind without the ability to learn the technology.
- Mrs. Schaeffer also shared that all state testing is now required to be online, and that there are benefits to their using the technology regularly to perform at their best.
- Kaitlyn Strayer advocated for the position of math coach, which she held in previous years in the district. She asked for the board to reinstate her as a math coach and virtual academy coordinator. She stated that students are not ready for the math PSSA because she is not there to provide support for teachers and students.
- Ruth Simenza asked if employees can speak or if comments are restricted to residents only.
- Eric Tanger asked what class sizes would look like if staff were not being replaced due to attrition.

Next Finance Committee Meeting:

- May 5, 2026

Adjournment

- Mr. Ondrusek adjourned the meeting at 5:48 pm.

Future Finance Committee Meetings:

June 9, 2026

August 4, 2026

September 9, 2026

October 6, 2026

November 3, 2026