



Finance & Operations Committee

May 21, 2026

MINUTES

Meeting called to order: Kehoe 4:00 p.m. **Board members:** Kehoe, Picard (Christenson absent)

District staff: Merritt, Minnick, Greene, Malbon, Tyszkiewicz, Jory **SVU Student Rep:** Neha Aekka

Citizen Representatives: Roderique, Johnson (DeMers absent)

Presenting: N. Miller/ TMP Associates; B. Gesaman, N. Tindall/McCarthy & Smith

Public Comments – none

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – May 7, 2026– Approved.

Purchase of Pilot Furniture for P-CEP Buildings - Natalie Miller of TMP Architecture provided an overview of the proposed Phase Two High School Pilot Furniture Program for Plymouth, Canton, and Salem High Schools. The program would expand on the previous classroom furniture pilot and provide additional opportunities for staff and student feedback regarding flexible learning environments. Three fully furnished classroom kits would rotate through the buildings approximately every six weeks throughout the school year.

Joe Greene discussed the extensive staff and student involvement already completed as part of the pilot process, including classroom pilots, showroom visits, and professional development sessions regarding flexible classroom design and instructional practices. Discussion included the significant shift from traditional classroom furniture to more collaborative and flexible learning environments, along with the importance of allowing additional time for staff input and classroom experimentation prior to full implementation.

The committee also discussed balancing district-wide furniture standards with specialized classroom needs such as science, STEM, and art spaces. Additional conversations regarding teacher desks, classroom storage, and podium configurations will continue throughout the pilot process. The long-term implementation plan remains for Plymouth and Salem High Schools to receive new classroom furniture during summer 2027, followed by Canton High School during summer 2028. TMP Architecture recommended approval of the pilot furniture package from VS America through Great Lakes Furniture Supply, utilizing OMNIA cooperative purchasing pricing in the amount of \$51,500.12 to be funded through the 2023 Bond Funds.

Bid Package #EL-4 Hoben Painting Revised Contract - Brian Gesaman of McCarthy & Smith reviewed a revised contract award recommendation for Bid Package EL-4 involving the Painting bid division at Hoben Elementary School. Mr. Gesaman explained that the painting contract originally awarded to Papa's Painting is being recommended for termination after issues arose during the post-award submittal process related to approved paint manufacturers, specified materials, and additional cost concerns identified by the contractor.

Mr. Gesaman explained that Sherwin Williams products had been specified and approved within the bid documents, however Papa's Painting later indicated they could not provide the specified materials without additional cost increases. The project team determined that accepting those additional costs would not maintain an "apples to apples" comparison with the original bid specifications. Because of this, the recommendation was made to terminate the Papa's Painting contract and move to the next lowest qualified bidder from the original December 5, 2025 bid opening.

The project team recommended awarding the contract to Trio Painting, who had also previously been awarded painting work at Gallimore Elementary and has successfully completed prior district projects, including work at Salem High School. Mr. Gesaman noted that Trio Painting agreed to honor their original pricing while still utilizing the specified Sherwin Williams materials. The revised award for Bid Division 120 – Painting at Hoben Elementary totals \$44,450, representing an increase of \$2,030 over the original contract amount.

Discussion also included clarification that no work had been completed or payments made to Papa's Painting, and because the contract amount was below the \$50,000 threshold, no performance bond had been required. Mr. Gesaman stated that the recommendation was to simply terminate the contract with no additional legal action due to the relatively minor cost difference and lack of district damages. It was further determined that the contingency amount for the Hoben project would be reduced by \$2,030.

Purchase of Replacement Security Cameras – Kurt Tyszkiewicz, Assistant Supt. of Student Services, presented a recommendation to replace 61 original security cameras at P-CEP that are no longer fully compatible with the district's newer security technology, including the visible firearm detection system.

Discussion included advancements in camera technology since the original installation approximately 15 years ago, along with camera functionality, warranties, licensing, and compatibility with existing district systems. The replacement cameras are one-for-one replacements of existing units and would not require additional licensing increases. Mr. Tyszkiewicz will confirm the details of the warranty prior to Tuesday evening's presentation to the Board.

The committee reviewed the proposed purchase of new Avigilon cameras, associated hardware, and warranties through the Safeware consortium purchasing program utilizing OMNIA cooperative pricing in an amount not to exceed \$98,245.67. District Safety & Security staff will complete the installation work in-house to maximize available funding and reduce project costs. Funding for the project will be provided through State of Michigan Section 31aa carryover grant funds.

Five-Year Renewal of Contract with Durham Student Services for Transportation

(Discussion) – Ms. Minnick provided a brief update regarding ongoing Durham School Services transportation contract renewal discussions. She explained that additional meetings are taking place regarding not only the contract renewal itself, but also operational efficiencies involving specialized transportation services, athletic transportation, and other transportation-related activities.

Discussion included potential opportunities to consolidate services and identify efficiencies that could help offset future transportation cost increases. Ms. Minnick noted that while some level of increase is anticipated, the district remains hopeful that collaborative operational adjustments may help reduce the overall impact. The committee also discussed rising driver wages, regional competition for drivers, and the fact that Durham's previous five-year agreement did not include financial reopeners during the contract term.

2026-27 Budget Process Update and Final Assumptions - Ms. Minnick presented an update on the development of the proposed 2026-2027 General Fund Budget and reviewed the final budget assumptions heading into June budget adoption. Discussion included the May 2026 Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference (CREC), current state budget proposals, projected enrollment trends, and updated revenue assumptions.

Administration is currently assuming a \$250 per pupil foundation allowance increase, a projected enrollment decline of 75 students, and a net state aid increase of approximately \$3.22 million. Discussion also included ongoing state budget conversations involving weighted funding formulas, dual enrollment reimbursement, school safety funding, and Section 31aa grant funding.

The committee spent considerable time discussing the district's rapidly increasing dual enrollment participation and associated tuition costs, which are projected to exceed approximately \$800,000 this year. Additional discussion focused on expenditure assumptions including staffing aligned to enrollment, estimated retirement savings, MPSERS savings, healthcare costs, utilities, and contractual obligations.

Ms. Minnick also reviewed projected fund balance levels and the district's ongoing efforts to maintain long-term financial stability while protecting classroom instruction and student supports. She noted that additional budget reductions will continue to be necessary over the next several years in order to maintain the district's targeted 15% fund balance. The committee also reviewed staffing reduction recommendations, operational efficiencies, stakeholder input gathered throughout the budget process, and upcoming June budget timelines.

Financial Reports as of April 30, 2026- Due to time constraints, the committee did not review the General Fund Financial Statements through April 30, 2026 during the meeting. Committee members were asked to review the materials independently and forward any questions or concerns to Ms. Minnick for clarification.

Adjourn: 6:03 p.m.