



**THORNTON TOWNSHIP
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 205**
Nathaniel Cunningham, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

August 12, 2026





**THORNTON TOWNSHIP
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 205**
Nathaniel Cunningham, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent

OPEN SESSION

C A L L T O O R D E R



**THORNTON TOWNSHIP
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ROLL CALL



**THORNTON TOWNSHIP
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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE





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COMMITTEE OF WHOLE

- A. Report from Curriculum Committee
- B. Report from Finance & Facilities Committee
- C. Report from Policy Committee
- D. Report from Discipline Committee



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CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes & Executive Meeting Minutes dated July 8, 2026
- B. Approval of District 205 Bills: Dated July 8, 2026, through August 11, 2026
- C. Personnel: Approval of Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires, Terminations, & Extra Compensation dated August 11, 2026
- D. Ratification:
 - i. Approval of 2026-2027 School Calendar Revision



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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

We now open the Public Participation section of our agenda. At this time, members of the community are invited to address the Board. We ask that you state your name and town, limit your total time to three minutes, and talk only about items on the current Board Agenda.

In addition, if your comments are of a critical nature about specific people, the Board requests that you present your comments during the personnel portion of the "executive session."

Your name will not be called if you do not sign in and list a topic or the topic is not on the current Board agenda or if public participation has begun.



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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

DR.DOSS



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NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation: Thornton Urban Farming- Dr. Ratliff & Mr. Cepeda

Thornton Urban Farm Lab

Planting Ideas

Growing community



Farm or Garden ?

Garden

Hobby

Farm

Business
Monoculture

Urban Farm

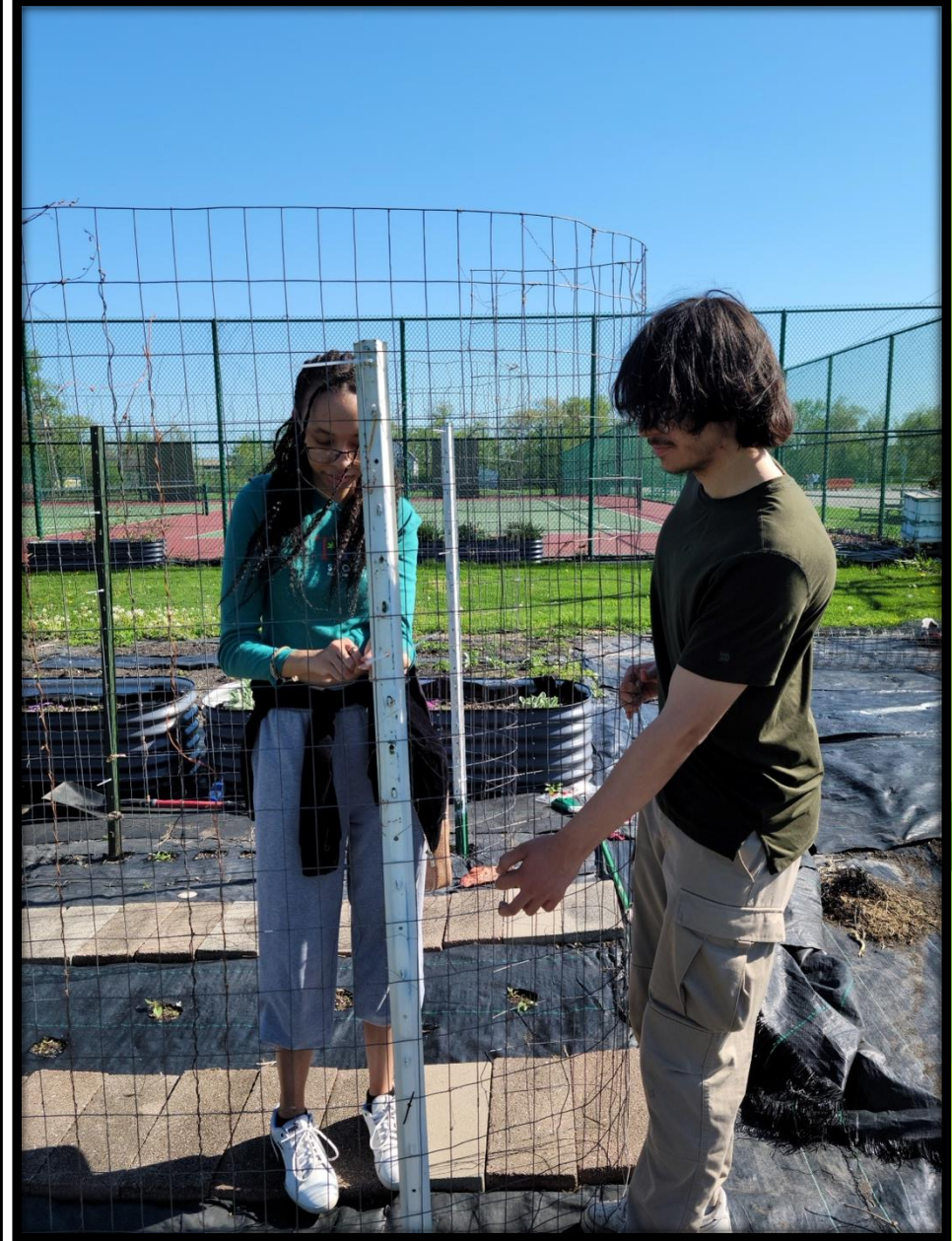
**Social
Justice**



Students







Big Ideas

- **Food Access**

A community securing its own access to food

- **Building Community**

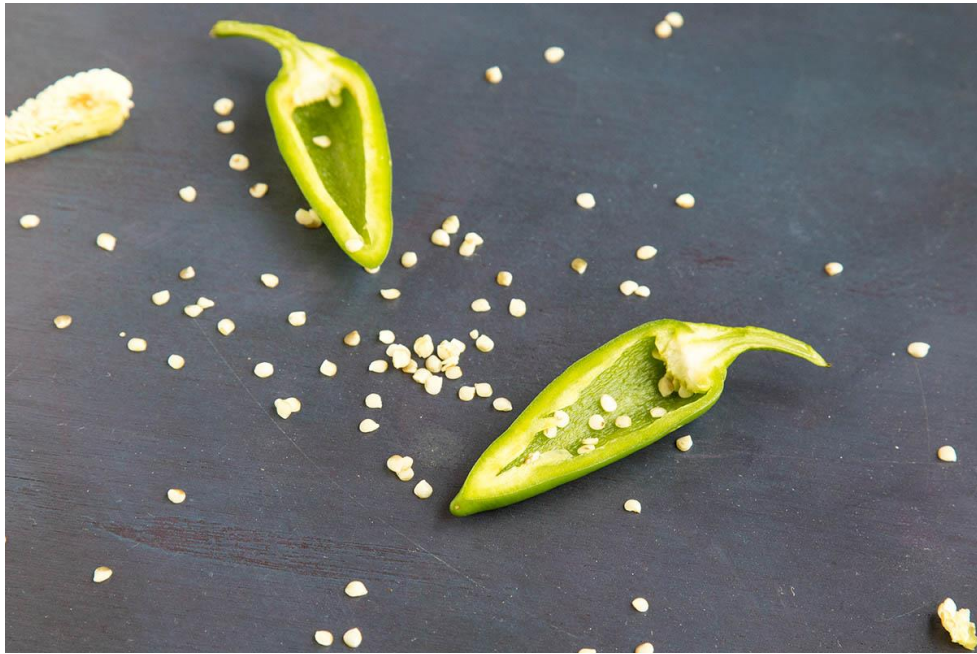
Do gardeners ever stop talking?

- **Culture Preservation**

Who is making our cultural foods after the elders have passed?

Teaching students to save seeds

SEEDS = POWER



- How much food potential is in each seed?
- What can be done with this potential?

Introduce students to
abundance and gratitude

80 peppers plants
10 peppers ea. Plant

800 peppers

*Each pepper
has hundreds of seeds*

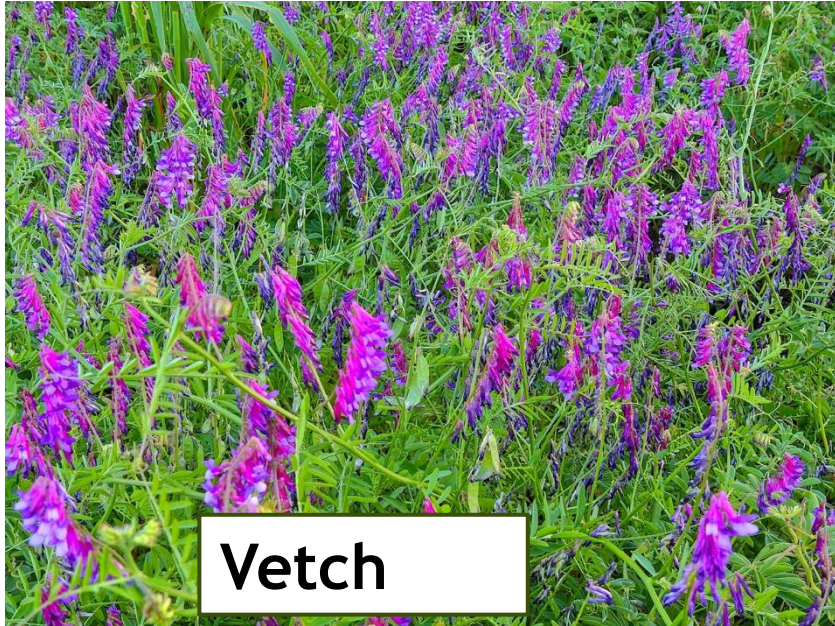




Pollinator Garden



Anthology



Vetch



Tick Seeds



Black eyed susan



Bee Balm

Entomology

Beneficial
and pest
management

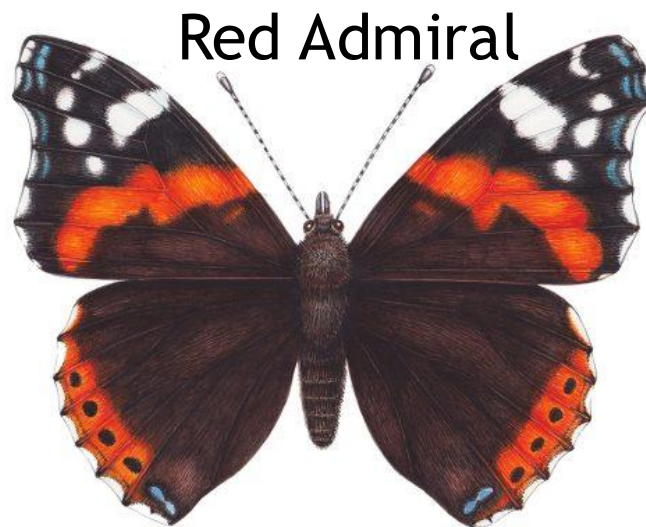


Bumble



Yellow
Jacket

Honey



Red Admiral



Red
Wiggler



Vine Borer



Japanese
Ladybug



Hornworm



Composting

Soil Health
Soil repair

ADVANTAGES OF COVER CROPPING

Building
soil health



Nutrient
retention



Erosion
control



Weed
reduction



Alltech
CROP SCIENCE







- **Harvesting
5,000 lbs**
- **Donating
approx. 250lbs/
week**

- ▶ Raspberries
- ▶ Blackberries
- ▶ Blueberries
- ▶ Carrots
- ▶ Eggplant
- ▶ Compost
- ▶ Sunflowers
- ▶ Experiments
 - ▶ Luffas
 - ▶ Quinoa
 - ▶ Wheat
 - ▶ Kohlrabi

- Corn (s)
- Pumpkins
- Peppers
- Potatoes
- Cucumber
- Beans
- Chickpeas
- Tomatoes
- Collards
- Herbs





Community building

Plant Giveaway

2,000 plants - vegetable/ herbs/ perennials
a monetary value of over \$10,000



- 150 families
- 65% from Harvey
- 50% new gardeners











 [BUY PHOTO](#)





**THORNTON TOWNSHIP
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NEW BUSINESS

B. Presentation: Preliminary Budget Fiscal Year 2027- Dr. Johnson



Thornton Township High School District 205

Presentation of 2026-2027 Budget

Preparing Today for the Challenges of Tomorrow

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2027

Breakdown of Total Budget by Fund

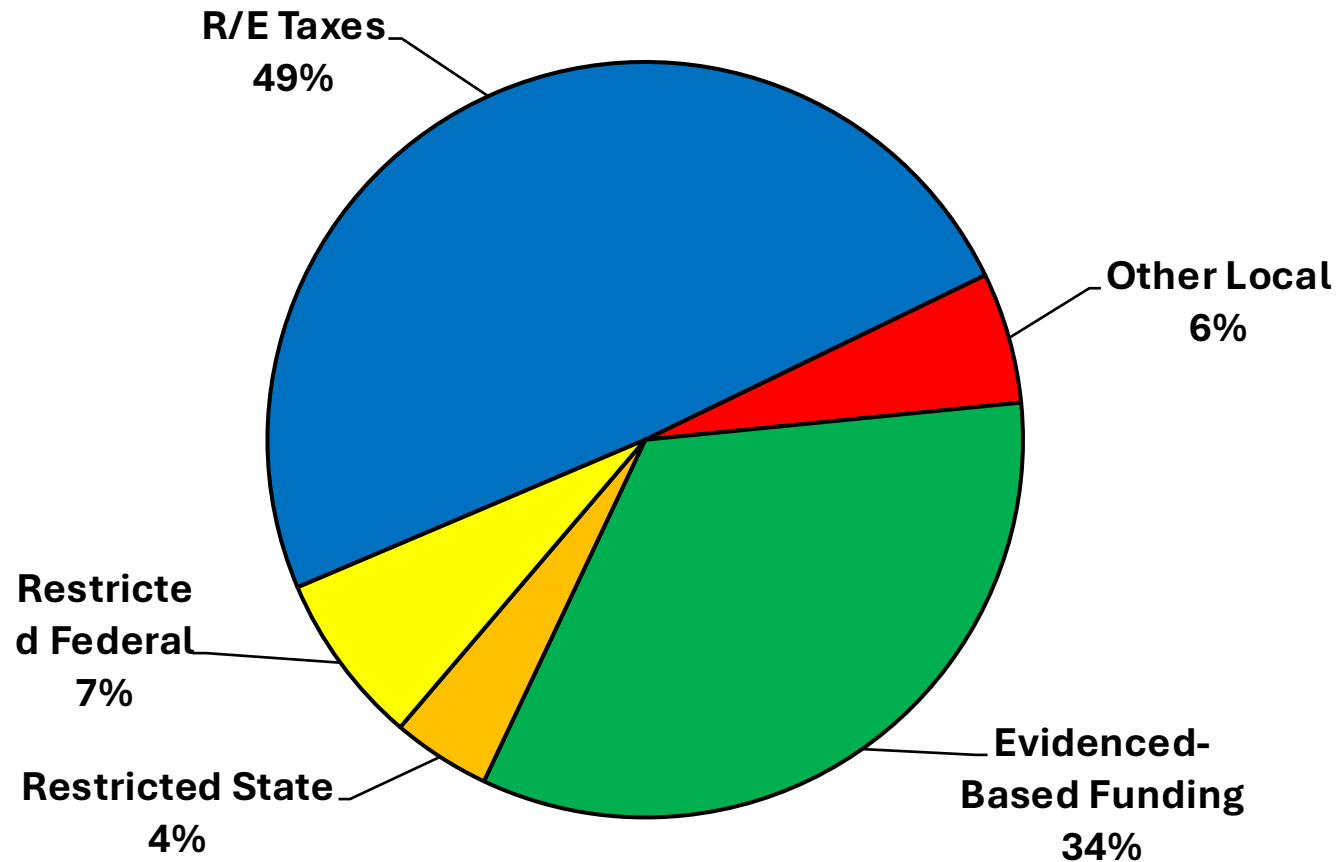
	Estimated Beginning Balance	Revenues	Expenses	Bond Proceeds/ Transfers	Estimated Ending Balance
Education	\$ 82,491,000	\$129,774,000	\$127,895,000	-	\$ 84,370,000
Building	10,907,000	19,857,000	21,251,000	-	9,513,000
Bond & Int.	1,449,000	11,611,000	11,165,000	-	1,895,000
Transportation	5,402,000	14,611,000	12,375,000	-	7,638,000
IMRF/SS	5,245,000	1,437,000	2,776,000	-	3,906,000
Capital Projects	7,292,000	-	32,000,000	30,000,000	5,292,000
Working Cash	33,274,000	1,329,000	-	-10,000,000	24,603,000
Tort	-	-	-	-	-
Life Safety	1,809,000	-	-	-	1,809,000
Total	\$147,869,000	\$178,619,000	\$207,462,000	\$20,000,000	\$139,026,000

Budgeted Revenues – All Funds

Comparison of Budget Verses Prior Years

Source	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	Unaudited FY 2026	Budget FY 2027
Real Estate Taxes	\$ 71,023,000	\$ 73,867,000	\$ 79,031,000	\$ 78,984,000	\$ 87,907,000
Other Local Revenues	14,980,000	13,769,000	9,792,000	11,037,000	10,012,000
Evidenced-Based Funding	50,099,000	53,613,000	57,062,000	57,176,000	60,000,000
Other State Grants	3,129,000	6,868,000	6,711,000	7,460,000	7,524,000
Federal Grants	<u>15,951,000</u>	<u>17,887,000</u>	<u>26,665,000</u>	<u>10,567,000</u>	<u>13,176,000</u>
Total Revenues	\$155,182,000	\$166,004,000	\$179,031,000	\$165,034,000	\$178,619,000

Breakdown of Budgeted Revenues by Source

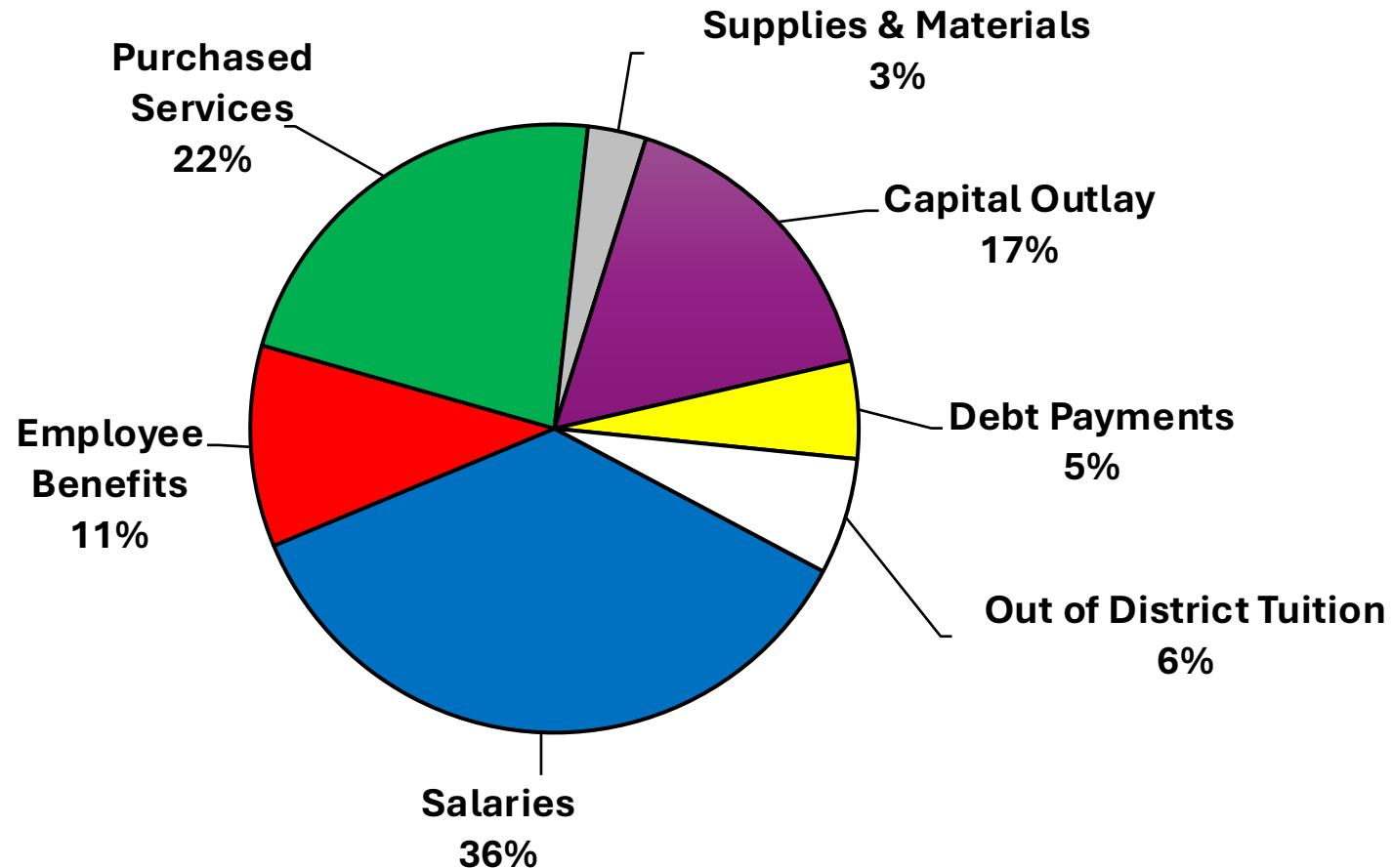


Budgeted Expenditures – All Funds

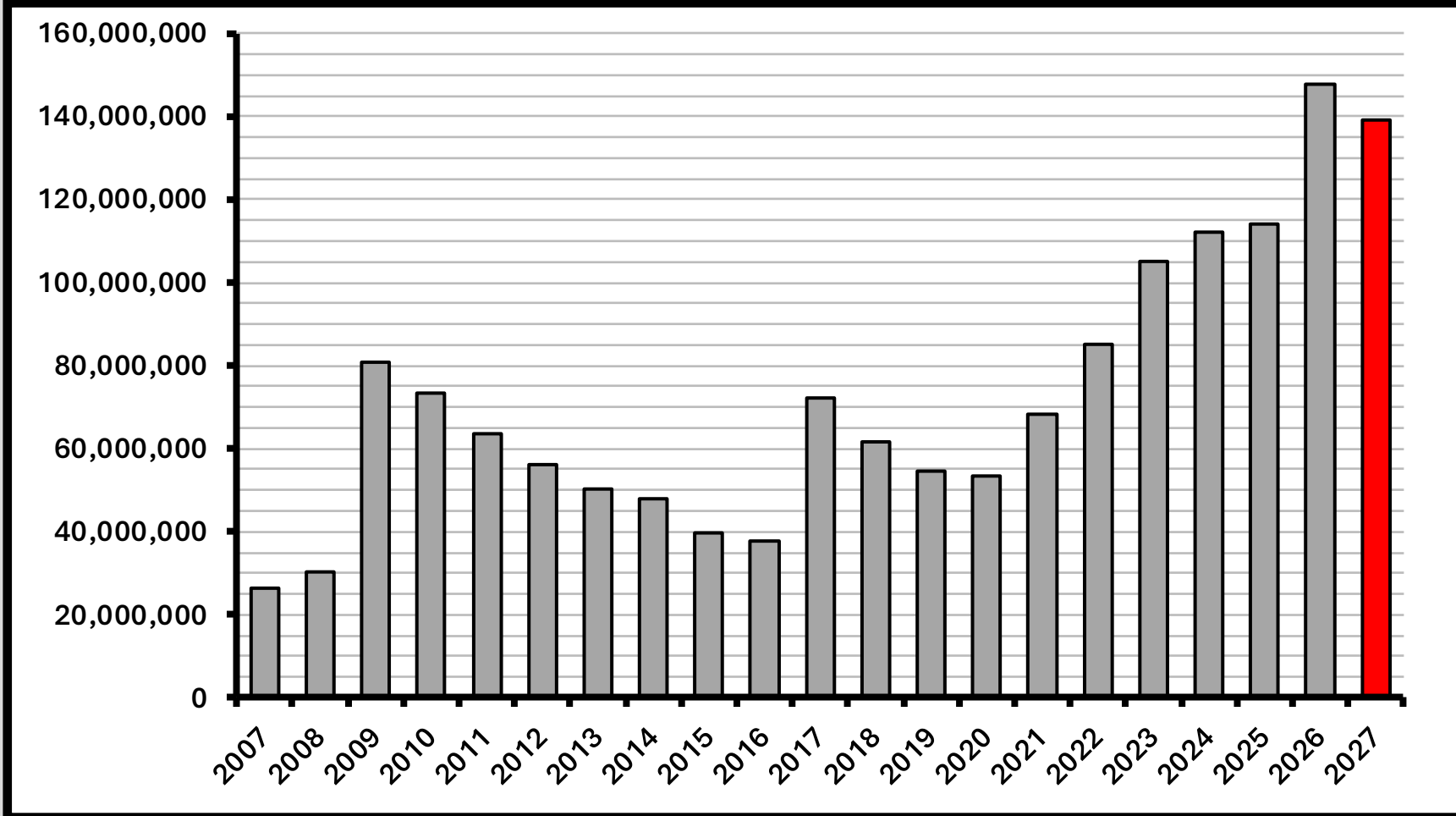
Comparison of Budget Verses Prior Years

Source	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	Unaudited FY 2026	Budget FY 2027
Salaries	\$ 58,831,000	\$ 63,981,000	\$ 66,921,000	\$ 70,744,000	\$ 74,481,000
Employee Benefits	14,286,000	16,803,000	18,026,000	18,243,000	22,194,000
Purchased Services	30,639,000	44,802,000	48,576,000	44,123,000	46,321,000
Supplies and Materials	7,882,000	8,211,000	6,732,000	6,178,000	6,442,000
Capital Outlay & Equip	4,827,000	15,673,000	27,674,000	33,028,000	34,287,000
Out of District Tuition & Other	11,838,000	12,052,000	13,394,000	11,592,000	12,808,000
Debt Service	<u>9,828,000</u>	<u>9,795,000</u>	<u>10,746,000</u>	<u>10,357,000</u>	<u>10,765,000</u>
Total Expenses	\$138,131,000	\$171,317,000	\$192,069,000	\$194,424,000	\$207,462,000

Breakdown of Budgeted Expenditures by Type



Historical and Budgeted Fund Balances





End of Presentation



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NEW BUSINESS

C. Possible Action Concerning Transportation Services Contracts- Dr. Johnson

- i. Zoom Elite Transportation
- ii. Zoom Charter
- iii. J&D Transportation



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NEW BUSINESS

D. Possible Action Concerning Purchase and Installation of Security Cameras at District Football Stadiums- Dr. Johnson



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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT



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EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Motion to enter into Closed Session, pursuant to 2(c) of the Open Meetings Act to consider the following:

- i. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees;
- ii. Student discipline;
- iii. Individual student issues;
- iv. Collective negotiating matters; and
- v. Pending, probable or imminent litigation



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RECONVENE OPEN SESSION



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ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting

September 9, 2026

THORNRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL