

OPS Board Agenda

Q & A

September 2026

(II.A)-GPM #3- Who sets the minimum qualifying score for the ASVAB test?

The minimum score requirements for the ASVAB under North Dakota's College and Career Readiness Framework (and the North Dakota Scholarship indicators) are set by the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) in alignment with state legislation (NDCC § 15.1-21-02.6).

(II.A)-GPM #3-What areas are OPS students falling short?

We find that students that are struggling to hit the minimum score are almost always low in the Arithmetic Reasoning or Mathematics Knowledge sections, rather than the science or technical components.

(II.D)-A+ Science Data – Why is this assessment only on grades, 4, 8 and 10?

The North Dakota A-PLUS (ND A+) assessment tests science in grades 4, 8, and 10 to comply with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) while minimizing the overall testing burden on students. ESSA requires states to assess students in Math and English Language Arts (ELA) every single year from grades 3 through 8 (and once in high school), the federal mandate for science testing is less frequent.

(III.S)-Approve Final 26-27 Budget – In the 2025-2026 Budget-Actual, how were our expenditures reduced by \$310,970?

The largest savings were seen in junior high instruction, transportation, technology, SRCTC tuition, custodial operations, and several grant-funded programs. We were able to use the Miscellaneous Fund levy to offset expenses in other budget areas. These savings also reflect the district's intentional focus on aligning expenditures with our strategic goals and Board Guardrails, as highlighted in this month's Guardrail #5 report.

(III.S) How likely is it that the expenditure reductions are going to be repeatable the next 3 years?

Not likely. While some of the savings reflect improved fiscal management and may be partially repeatable, many resulted from one-time circumstances such as staff vacancies, delayed purchases, or expenditures that came in below budget. Moving forward, budgets should be based on realistic spending projections rather than prior-year underspending. In addition, the district faces ongoing financial pressures, including declining enrollment, reduced state aid, limited growth in local tax revenue due to declining valuations and the 3% property tax cap, rising costs for salaries, benefits, fuel, and food, and increasing facility costs resulting from years of deferred maintenance. As the saying goes, "We should plan for the worst and hope for the best".

III.V-ADA Bathroom Project – Why was the estimate from ESG for this project so high, they estimated \$100,000 and the facilities meeting discussion was talking 20-25K? Was there a list of line items from ESG?

ESG did not provide us a list of line items as we were not in contract with them to design the project. ESG's \$100,000 estimate was a conservative planning estimate based on limited information and the potential for broader ADA-related improvements in a 100-year-old building. After further discussion and

review by the Facilities Committee, the anticipated scope is smaller, resulting in a current estimate of approximately \$20,000-\$25,000. ESG did guide us to this less expensive solution.

V.A-Facilities – Do we have an updated Deferred Maintenance plan after ESG did their evaluations; which shows every item in need of repair, timeline for it to be addressed and the approximate cost?

We have a plan from ICS and a plan from ESG. I will include these with the Q & A shared document. ESG has not updated the original timeline, as we were waiting to see what projects would be addressed in the referendum and also in a possible energy savings project. Once the board makes a decision on the energy savings project, ESG will update the timeline and costs will be estimated with allowances for yearly inflation, etc...

V.A-Facilities-What type of interest rate do we earn on the money in the building fund account?

We do not have separate accounts for our different funds. We have money in all 3 local banks and we earn anywhere from .25% to 2.52%.

V.A-Facilities-What kinds of issues have we had with the elementary HVAC system in the last 5 years?

Bobby Knodel diligently tracks all facility repairs. I will include with this Q & A document, his log of elementary HVAC issues over the past 5 years.