

DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2
LRFP/FINANCE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday May 21, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.
District Office Board Room

Present: Tyler Ferrari, Rob Oglivie, Christy Perry, Jeffrey Hernandez, Lydia Hodge, Trista Girt, Sara LeRoy, Emma Jackson, Stephen Burroughs, Austin Markee

Absent: Michael McCollum, Ed Dressel, Bob Archer, Kelli McGuire, Robert Spivey, Tami Larson, Tyler Lalack, Wendy Latta

Guests: Megan Baker-Wilmes and Marlene Gillis from Soderstrom Architects

Called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Chair Jeffrey Hernandez

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

2.0 Approval of the May 21 16, 2026 Agenda: A quorum was not present.

3.0 Approval of the April 16, 2026 Minutes A quorum was not present.

4.0 Guest Report

4.1 Update from Soderstrom guests Megan Baker-Wilmes and Marlene Gillis

The Dallas School District Long Range Facility Planning and Finance Committee convened to continue discussions regarding district facility planning, capacity analysis, and long-term infrastructure priorities. Due to a lack of quorum, no formal votes or approvals were conducted, including approval of prior meeting minutes. The meeting focused primarily on collaborative discussion, information gathering, and strategic planning rather than formal decision-making.

Committee Organization & Meeting Purpose

- Committee members, district staff, and consultants introduced themselves at the start of the meeting.
- The chair clarified that the session was intended as a working meeting focused on gathering ideas, refining information, and discussing long-range planning concepts before presenting formal recommendations to the broader board.
- Members agreed it would be inefficient to duplicate presentations before the group is prepared with finalized recommendations and clearer direction.

Modular Classrooms & Facility Capacity

- The committee discussed current use of modular classrooms, including spaces used for music, English Language Development (ELD), preschool, and specialized programs.
- Questions were raised regarding whether modular foundations could be reused if permanent buildings were constructed in their place.
- Consultants and staff explained that modular structures are built under different permitting and code requirements than permanent buildings, making reuse of foundations unlikely or impractical.
- Members emphasized several concerns regarding modular facilities:
 - Limited long-term efficiency for expanding capacity
 - Increased security challenges due to additional exterior access points
 - Need for ongoing monitoring of modular lifespan and replacement planning
- The committee recommended including modular end-of-life planning within the district's long-range facilities strategy.

Capacity Planning & Program Expansion

- Staff discussed plans to refine building capacity analyses with school principals to ensure room usage and space allocations are as accurate as possible.
- Potential preschool expansion at Lyle and Oakdale Heights schools was discussed, with consideration of adding up to two classrooms at each site.
- Additional facility planning considerations include the addition of behavioral support space at LaCreole Middle School.
- Members noted that upcoming program changes—including the return of choir, middle school art, performing arts, and evolving athletic programming—will significantly affect future facility utilization and space needs.

Stakeholder Engagement & Visioning

- Committee members emphasized the importance of broader stakeholder engagement in the planning process.
- Discussion centered on creating opportunities for staff, students, and community members to provide input regarding:
 - Building utilization
 - Educational programming
 - Future learning environments
 - Long-term district priorities
- Members suggested developing surveys and collaborative visioning exercises to gather broader feedback and incorporate it into future bond planning and facility design discussions.

Long-Range Planning & Grant Timeline

- The committee reviewed the timeline associated with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) grant supporting the long-range planning effort.
- Staff explained that an interim report may need to be submitted by early 2027 to satisfy reimbursement requirements, though the plan itself will remain a living document subject to continued revisions.
- Members discussed the importance of balancing immediate facility conditions and maintenance needs with long-term growth and programmatic visioning.

Maintenance & Capital Improvement Priorities

- Future planning discussions will include evaluation of districtwide maintenance and infrastructure needs, including:
 - Roof replacements
 - Exterior repairs
 - Solar and infrastructure projects
 - Existing bond-funded improvements
- Committee members acknowledged that prioritizing deferred maintenance alongside future growth initiatives will be a key component of the final facilities plan.

5.0 Staff Reports: Sara Leroy

5.1 Update on Special Projects

The district provided updates on expanding preschool, behavioral support, and career technical education programs. A tuition-based preschool program has launched at \$750 per month, with hopes that new Preschool Promise Grant funding will increase enrollment by offering free preschool to

qualifying families. The district is also exploring preschool transportation options and emphasizing kindergarten readiness.

The new K–5 Behavior Center is expected to open in September through a partnership with the ESD, utilizing a nine-classroom pod with both bond and ESD funding supporting facility improvements and specialized equipment.

Additionally, the district is developing new CTE programs in medical assisting and nail technology in partnership with the ESD. Staff are preparing classroom spaces and visiting other programs for planning inspiration.

Committee members also discussed the possibility that the neighboring Fall City School District could close due to financial difficulties, which could potentially add 100–150 students to Dallas schools in the future. Overall, the discussion focused on facility capacity, program growth, accessibility for families, and long-term enrollment planning.

6.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7.0 Committee Discussion/Recommendations to Board

The committee discussed future recommendations for the board regarding long-range facilities planning and community engagement. Members agreed they were not yet ready to make major decisions about school consolidation or capacity changes until they had more firsthand understanding of how school spaces are currently being used.

There was broad support for continuing the Facilities and Finance Committee into the next year and expanding community participation. Members also emphasized the importance of gathering additional feedback from staff, families, students, and community members through facilitated discussions, surveys, and engagement opportunities at school events.

The discussion highlighted the need for ongoing collaboration and data collection before making long-term facility recommendations, especially given anticipated program changes in areas such as performing arts and athletics.

8.0 Future Agenda Items

The committee discussed plans for next year's Facilities and Finance Committee membership and meeting schedule. Members expressed interest in continuing the committee, with staff planning to send emails to gauge participation interest and preferred meeting times. It was noted that formal committee appointments would likely occur in July, with meetings resuming in August or September rather than during the summer months due to lower attendance.

The meeting concluded with members reflecting positively on the progress made so far, while acknowledging that additional work and collaboration will still be needed moving forward.

9.0 Adjourn at 6:54 pm