Benjamin School District 25
Business & Operations

November 2025
Business & Operations Report

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Joel Filas, Chief School Business Official
DATE: **November 9**, 2026
RE: Business & Operations Report

Electricity Contract

Our current electricity contract with Constellation New Energy expires in December. The current contract established electricity rates at $5.288 cents per kWh. The District has secured an electricity price lock with ENGIE Resources at $4.994 cents per kWh through May 2030. The new contract will set our electricity rates 5.56% lower than current for the next three and a half years. The longer lock provides a stable basis for budgeting the covered electricity costs.

The administration is also exploring a separate Community Solar subscription that could provide additional utility bill savings without installing solar panels on District property.

Legislative Update

LEND submitted testimony to the Illinois State Board of Education as part of its FY28 Budget Hearings. The testimony focused on the importance of continued State investment in public education, particularly Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) and Mandated Categorical (MCAT) reimbursements.
Highlights of the testimony include:

- Fully Fund MCATs: Increase State reimbursement for mandated categorical expenses, particularly regular and special education transportation.
- Restore Transportation Reimbursements: Establish a multiyear plan to address continued proration and move toward full reimbursement of eligible transportation costs.
- Increase EBF Funding: Continue and increase the State's annual investment in Evidence-Based Funding to help districts manage rising operating costs and inflation.
- Recognize Financial Pressures Across All Tiers: Recognize the increasing costs facing districts in all four EBF tiers, including those receiving limited additional funding.
- Prioritize Additional ISBE Dollars: Direct any additional K-12 education appropriations toward EBF and mandated categorical reimbursements.

A LOOK AHEAD

December Board Meeting:

- Tax Levy Hearing

Respectfully submitted,

J. Filas