

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

This meeting was held remotely via Google Meet
February 9, 2026 at 7:30 a.m.

Members in Attendance: John Bellingham, Ashley Benhart, Jamie Bente, Lynda Boudreau, Rob Dehnert, Dick Dotterweich, Jason Engbrecht, Stacy Fox, Meghan Knutson, Brett Martindale, Barbie Roessler, and Chad Wolff

Others in Attendance: Cassie Riopelle

Members Absent:

This meeting was called to order at 7:31 a.m.

I. Business Items

- a. Introduction of Dick Dotterweich, new committee member. Mr Wolff thanked Mr Dotterweich for all of his support and attendance of school board meetings in the past. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.
- b. Approval of the previous meeting minutes: Motion to approve by Mr Bente and seconded by Ms Fox. Motion carried..

II. Contracts, Agreements, Bids and Grants for Review

- a. New Position Request Approval: Ms Riopelle, Director of Community Education presented a request for a new, full-time 230 days per year, College and Career Navigator position. This position would be prorated for FY26 and would work in the RISE room and act as a RISE mentor. This position would be grant funded, one third funded by the Student Grow Your Own grant and two third funded by the Adult Grow Your Own grant. This position would provide navigation for all the youth and adult students who plan to become teachers by providing one on one student meetings, preside over the Future Teacher club at the middle school and high school, and providing some active study sessions during the evenings for adult students. Mr Wolff asked about the potentiality of two ways to fund the position. Cassie responded that there is currently a Grow Your Own Coordinator who is currently running the program alone. Cassie split the job into two columns so that the positions will be easier to navigate for the students. Mr Wolff also wanted to confirm that no funds will be coming from the general fund. Lastly, Mr Wolff wanted to confirm what will happen long term. Cassie replied that these grants are through 2030 but also mentioned that if these grants were to end, this position would no longer be needed. Motion to approve by Mr Dehnert and seconded by Mr Bellingham. Motion Passed.
- b. New Position Request Approval: Mr Dehnert, Director of Special Education, requested that a new position for a Behavior Facilitator be approved. This position would help coach and mentor new teachers of students with behaviour

disabilities. The goal would be to help these new teachers develop the skills needed to handle behaviours proactively rather than reactively. This position would take effect in FY27 and would cost approximately \$150,590 annually. There are two different ways to pay for this cost, both out of federal funds. One would be a direct federal reimbursement or two, it could be a reimbursement into the general fund of about \$120,000. Motion to approve by Mr Wolff and seconded Ms Boudreau. Mr Wolff asked why this position is needed now and why not in the past. Mr Dehnert replied that there is an increased load of new students from outside districts and the work load for the current part-time person has been greatly increased. There is also some pressure nationally to no longer use suspension and physical restraints. Motion passed.

III. Financial Performance

- a. January Student Counts: Enrollment for January saw a decline, the most being in the middle school (10) and ALC (8). The average daily membership for January was 2962. The combined average over 5 months of this school year is 2,997 and adding in our projected tuition kids, we're looking at about 3,050 ADM and we budgeted for 3,057 students. It will be interesting to see how February shakes out because in January we did see a decline in students in our schools and if we see those 15 day drop students return in February. Mr Wolff: "Barbie, do you feel we have a good handle on students leaving our districts for other districts or leaving the country? Do we track that?" Ms Roessler stated that yes, we have ways to track students when they move to other schools or even other countries. However, if they simply stop coming to class, we don't necessarily know where they are at that time until they either come back to FPS or enroll in another district. Ms Boudreau asked about the 15 day drop and how are we keeping them on. Mr Bente replied that, at this time, we're allowed to keep them on our books if we're keeping in direct contact with the students/families. If they are a 15 day drop but we can't get into contact with them, we need to drop them. Ms Boudreau also had a question about deliveries or drops that we are providing to students and how that is justified to which Mr Bente replied that we'd need to look into this to get more information. Ms Riopelle mentioned that when we do have a student drop out, we have a system in place to get them back through a GED or Diploma program so that we don't lose them completely.
- b. January Investment Financial Report: We're seeing a slight decline in our investments but that is to be expected as we continue to spend down our construction expenses. We've also increased our expenses as we've settled contracts and costs continue to increase. Our investments are still in a good place and have plenty of liquidity in case of emergencies.
- c. January Comparative Financial Report: HVAC didn't have a bill at this time last year and we're seeing quite a hike in January of 2026. We had communication issues with meter reading at Roosevelt. When reviewing the bill for January, we noticed the meter readings weren't really making any sense and we have an

inquiry into Xcel to question this. Water is right in line with where we think we should be. Electricity is slightly up and we'll probably need to submit a revised budget to the school board towards the end of the year. We've seen more snow so far this year than last year at this time but we're still only at 45% of our total FY26 budget. Self-insured: Both employee and employer contributions are greater than last year due to our increased premiums. Medical claims are lower now compared to last year and overall year-to-date, our revenues exceed our expenses by \$143,000, helping to replenish our fund reserve.

- d. January Analytics: Nothing too exciting to report here. The general fund is pretty much on target at 47% for expenditures. Nothing unusual in Food Service or Community Ed. Construction, we've talked about this in the past, we've spent the majority of our expected expenditures in July, August and slowly now throughout the year. Debt Redemption: we made our big debt bond payment in January, for principal and interest. The rest of the funds are pretty much on par with where we think we should be. The multi-year comparison shows only the general fund and breaks it out by object code. All of these are looking good. The only real exception are capital expenditures which are trending slightly downward compared to last year.

IV. Financial Strategies

- a. FPS will be going out for four different RFPS: Food Service, Printers and Copiers, Phone system, and Auditing Services. We follow a timeline protocol to get proposals in, vendors to ask questions, etc. We use a rubric system to score them and choose the vendor based on the results. Ms Boudreau asked if there would be any changes to Food Service? Ms Roessler stated that we're still looking at a contracted service instead of bringing this in house. Mr Wolff had a follow up and thought we're going out for RFP one year early in our contract with our current contractor. Ms Roessler stated that we needed to provide them with a 60 day notice and she did provide that to them back in November. Mr Wolff also wondered what our timeline was for getting these RFPS out. Ms Roessler stated that those would be going out this week.

V. Next Meeting: March 9, 2026, at 7:30 am.

VI. Adjournment at 8:05 am: Motion to adjourn by Ms Benhart and seconded by Mr Bente. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Brett Martindale