



DATE: April 13, 2026

TITLE: Finance and Operations

TYPE: Information

PRESENTER(S): Todd Lechtenberg, Executive Director of Finance and Operations

BACKGROUND:

The Finance Department includes payroll, employee benefits, accounts payable, accounts receivable, accounting, and fixed asset management. The Executive Director of Finance and Operations oversees Facility Services, Food & Nutrition Services, and Transportation Services.

Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment

- Building and Grounds are working to develop a way to print ID cards for our vendors when they are in our buildings, so staff know who they are.
- Thank you to Jennifer Lawhead for leading a work group for reviewing three different software companies for replacing our current facilities rental system. Jennifer will be presenting at the April work session the results of this work group.
- New copiers are going to be installed during the week of March 9th and will allow us to move into phase 3 of Papercut. Thank you to Amy Thuesen and her team for leading this process.
- Developing a plan for security cameras not only installing new ones but also ensuring we have replacement plans in place for current ones.
- During the last week of March, Brandon and Joe worked with the Mower County Sheriff's Office to walk our buildings to develop initial mapping proof of our buildings. This will then be made digitally so that if we have a 911 call, dispatch knows exactly where to go in our buildings.

Packer Profile for all learners

- The Departments continue to collaborate with colleagues across the district to better learn how we can support the work.
- Working with Teaching and Learning to review all instructional budgets related to Packer Profile to ensure that we have a long-term funding plan in place.
- Working with high school class to help design the entrance to the AHS office space. This is a great chance for students to learn about design work while changing our facilities.

District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners

- The Departments continue to collaborate with Teaching & Learning, Special Services, and Building Administration to support and learn about MTSS and the impact it will have on student success.
- Working with Special Services to look at ways to maximize reimbursement for 3rd party billing and special education.
- Reviewing our state and federal special education budgets to decide the best way to maximize our funding.

Excellence in Resource Management

- **Finance Department**

- Budget process for 2026-2027 school year is underway with some challenging times ahead. We are facing declining enrollment and uncertainty on how much our compensatory revenue is going to be reduced.
- Here is the financial review for [February](#). If you have any questions, please contact us.
- We are starting to review the process of applying for the ASBO Excellence in Reporting, which will be a goal for the 2025-2026 audit along with the 2026-2027 budget.
- **Food and Nutrition Department**
 - During our recent spring break, we started to make equipment upgrades and during this summer we will finish with upgrades at AHS, Southgate, Neveln and Ellis.
 - The Food Service department is moving to a new menu software system (School Café) towards the end of this school year that will make it easier on our head cooks and staff for production records and digital menus. The only change to parents will be a new URL, which we will communicate once we are ready to roll the new software out.
- **Building and Grounds**
 - Been meeting with City of Austin and Riverland to develop to ensure that the Austin Public Schools baseball program will have access to the fields at Riverland. These meetings have been productive, and the joint powers agreement is almost ready between City of Austin and Riverland.
 - Thank you to Joe and team for all their hard work during the recent fire marshall walk through. We have a few things that we need to work on, and Joe has already started to meet with principals to develop a plan of action.