



DATE: February 9, 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.
- We have started a work group to determine a replacement system for facilities rental with the goal to have a system operational by July 1, 2026
- We will be moving forward after the install of these copiers with phase two of Papercut during the school year of 2026-2027.

Packer Profile for all learners

- The Departments continue to collaborate with colleagues across the district to better learn how we can support the work. Examples of improvements that we have provided to Packer Profile
 - Investments into strength finders for all 9th graders
 - Working with AHS leadership to develop an on-going budget

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.

Excellence in Resource Management

- **Finance Department**
 - Thank you to Rachel Ausrud and Jenny Sayles on meeting the deadline to get the 1099 and W2's out before the end of January
 - Here is the financial review for [December](#). If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.
 - 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**
 - We are finishing up the quote process at updating our equipment and food services facilities during this upcoming summer.

- Food Service department is moving to a new menu software system (SchoolCafe) 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.
- Thank you to the head cooks for allowing me to come onsite and watch how we serve breakfast and lunch. These meetings have been very valuable for me to learn not only about your processes but also what you need to continue to provide the extra customer service that you do.

- **Building and Grounds**

- Work has started on phase one of the Ellis Lightening project.
- We are also starting to have review meetings on our track resurface project that we are hoping to gain approval for and begin in late spring of 2026.
- Reviewing with ISG and PTMA the facilities need and determine what the critical needs of the buildings are after November's referendum results and start to determine next steps.
- Thank you to Joe Adamson and his team for all their hard work during the month of January with the facilities issues that we have incurred. This team does an amazing job of ensuring that our students and staff are safe.
- Been meeting with City of Austin and Riverland to develop to ensure that 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.