



DATE: March 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
- 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.

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 opportunity for students to learn about design work while making an impact on 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 determine 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.

- Thank you to Amy Hauser and Amy Flanders as they have been working through the ACA reporting timelines to ensure we are complying.
- Here is the financial review for [January](#). 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**
 - 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.
 - Thank you to our facilities committee for all their hard work over the past few years on reviewing all the needs of our building and getting prepared for the presentation at this March board meeting.
 - 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.