

## Prospect Heights School District 23 Board Memorandum Information Item

Date: December 18, 2025

Title: Sustainable Financing Overview

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We provide this memo and overview to "set-the-stage" for a series of presentations that will be shared at upcoming Board meetings. Because of the depth and complexity of the topic, we hope to share incrementally to support understanding and provide time for digestion. In its totality, this series of presentations is meant to provide a comprehensive summary of past, current, and projected future budget data to help guide our planning process for long-term sustainable financing strategies.

For all of these presentations, we will need to remain "in the balcony" with a more global perspective as there are too many specific details to be able to share coherently and succinctly. We believe these presentations will also be useful in educating our D23 Community about the myriad factors and components of school finance in a clear and concise manner.

In January, we will start with a look back at the key influences and factors that have impacted the District's financial position including fund balances, historical revenue and expenditures, and stable (or less than stable) patterns. We share this background information as a means to create a foundational understanding of where we have been as a District over the past 10 years.

In February, we will provide a snapshot of our current financial position including the implementation of budget and staffing reduction strategies and actions that have established our "new normal". This presentation will serve as the baseline for future actions and establish the core funding necessary for the District to maintain its operations. This will include our operational cost projections for Full Day Kindergarten in the short term with assumptions shared about what is and what is not a part of our District's foundational mission.

In March, we will utilize our financial software to generate future forecasts based on different sets of parameters and expectations. We hope to provide different scenarios that show sustainable financing options based on different levels of revenue and expenditure. Understanding that these models are not predictive or absolute, we know that these models will help to craft a path forward for program, facility, and other needs in the future.

Following this series of presentations, we will be ready for our Board and Administration retreat to discuss Strategic Plan goals and actions for the 2026-27 School Year and beyond. With a clearer understanding of the costs and needs, we will discuss options for maintenance of current levels of performance and options for increased revenue to minimize reductions or elimination of programs and services while planning for future facility needs.

We are happy to discuss this plan with you if you have questions or if there are any data points you would like us to include. We gathered some feedback from the Finance Committee and want to ensure that you have the information you need to better understand and plan for the sustainable financing needs of D23.