

**Administration School Board Report
March 2026**

Baird Refinancing Discussion

With the recent positive market movement on the short end, we've been watching our 2015 bond issue for a potential refunding opportunity and it's starting to show savings. I had a phone conference with Debby Brunett and Jordan Masnica from Baird Public Finance on March 4 regarding our options. I invited Jordan to join us at our board meeting via Zoom (6:30 p.m.) to fill the Board in on all of this as we consider options.

NEOLA Updates Vol. 35 No. 1

I met with our NEOLA rep (Ed C.) again on March 11 to discuss our next round of updates. There are fourteen updates for the Board, twenty tech corrections and a handful of options related to Act 57 and student support organizations. I have a little work to do on some of these before I will be ready to bring them to the Board for review and plan to do our official first reading at the April meeting.

There are several potential new policies that we could consider related to school support organizations, such as PTO, booster clubs, etc. I would like to take a little bit of time at our meeting to run through this with the Board and will ask for feedback in April if you think we should pursue these additions.

As an FYI, our NEOLA rep commented that NEOLA currently serves 86% of the Wisconsin school districts.

Referendum Updates

Construction continues to move forward smoothly overall. The interior walls are up in the admin addition and most of the electrical is installed along with HVAC ductwork. Sheetrock will be going up soon and substantial completion will be early summer. In fact, we could potentially hold our May Board meeting for May in the new facility. Mitch and I had a meeting with Dan Nelson from Nelson Flooring recently and we discussed a final flooring plan for the second floor of the middle school. At this point, we are discussing a plan that would update/replace all the commons and corridor flooring on the second floor. If needed, I will talk to the Board about any potential need of funding from our Fund 46 account. The baseball/softball field safety netting posts will be installed at the end of July. We will do a more formal tour of the facilities during our reports section at our meeting.

2026-27 Wage Planning

My goal is to have some recommendations to the Board for 2026-27 wages at the April meeting. As of February 26, the YoY CPI was at 2.4%. I will be keeping an eye on this and will most likely be recommending a increase that is at or close to the YoY CPI index. Our self-funded dental plan has been running slightly under budget, so I will be recommending keeping this as is with our current rates and we will be receiving our health insurance rate increase on April 10th. We anticipate an 8.5% rate increase at this time. I continue to keep an ear to the ground on state level decisions in Madison regarding our special education reimbursement rate as well as any other potential changes for our public education budget. My current forecast with these changes is for a balanced budget for 2026-27.

Calendar Items

March 6	CESA11 PAC meeting
March 11	Barron County Economic Development meeting NEOLA update meeting AEF Steering Committee meeting
March 17	CESA11 ESEA Spring Site visit
March 27	Admin Team meeting