Agenda of Finance Committee Meeting

The Board of School Directors
Central Dauphin School District

A Finance Committee Meeting of the Board of School Directors of Central Dauphin School District will be held Thursday, September 10, 2026, beginning at 5:30 PM Administration Building Board Room, 75 South Houcks Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109.

1. **Call to Order**
The Committee Chair will call the meeting to order.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

    2.A. **Approval of Meeting Minutes.**
    The Committee Chair requests a motion to approve the May 14, 2026 meeting minutes.

3. **Old Business**

4. **New Business**

    4.A. **Administrative Priorities**

    4.B. **Savings and Efficiencies**

    4.C. **Cyber Costs**

    4.D. **5-Year Model - Mid November Target**

    4.E. **Act 1 26-27 Projected Index - 4.0%**

5. **Community Input**

6. **Adjournment**

CENTRAL DAUPHIN SCHOOL DISTRICT
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
May 14, 2026

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Eric Epstein

Committee Members Present: Eric Epstein, David Doernemann, Tom Garlic, Kristen Hanford
Other Board Members Present: Andrea Cavoli, Jeff Gordon, Mike Jacobs, Jeanne Webster
Members of Staff Present: Eric Turman, Dr. Sarah Box, Peter Bard, Howard Kressley, Shannon Leib, Chris Lopez, Kim McConnell, Randy Smith
Member of the Public Present: Peter Mireles, Megan Elkerton, Anna Stephenson, John Madas

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Doernemann made a motion to approve the April 16, 2026 meeting minutes. Seconded by Mrs. Hanford and approved unanimously.

3. Unfinished Business

3.1 Job Description Revisions

Mr. Turman and Dr. Box discussed the revision of job descriptions, focusing on the repurposing of the Coordinator of Curriculum position, clarifying its necessity, responsibilities, and the impact of recent restructuring and audit findings on curriculum consistency and teacher support.

Mr. Turman explained that the Coordinator of Curriculum position is not a net new role but a repurposed one, following the promotion of Chris Lopez and the resulting vacancy. The committee clarified confusion about whether the position was being eliminated, emphasizing that the role is being redefined to meet current district needs rather than removed.

Dr. Box explained that the restructuring of the curriculum department led to the hiring of Directors for Elementary and Secondary Education, but gaps emerged in curriculum oversight and consistency. The committee discussed how tasks previously handled by Chris Lopez are now divided among various staff, highlighting the need for a dedicated point person to ensure uniformity and improvement across all subject areas and grade levels.

Audit findings presented by Dr. Box revealed inconsistencies and outdated resources in the curriculum, particularly at the high school level. The committee recognized the need for a Coordinator of Curriculum to oversee curriculum cycles, resource updates, and ensure consistent processes for curriculum development, assessment, and sharing with teachers and the community.

A significant responsibility of the repurposed position is managing teacher induction and supporting instructional coaches. With an increase in new teachers, the Coordinator will lead efforts to onboard and retain staff, providing necessary training and resources to improve instructional quality and support student learning.

Mr. Turman confirmed that job description changes are communicated to affected staff in advance, referencing Randy's efforts to inform individuals before community meetings. The process ensures transparency and avoids surprises for staff whose roles are being revised.

3.2 Budget Presentation and Discussion

Mr. Bard led the presentation of the general fund budget, detailing additions for the 2026-27 fiscal year, including 58 new positions across kindergarten, special education, and JROTC, with a total cost of $6.1 million, and explained the rationale for these hires based on district needs and increasing student populations.

The budget includes 44 new positions for kindergarten centers and 14 for special education and JROTC, totaling 58 new hires. These roles address growing student numbers, special needs, and program expansions, with a combined cost of $6.1 million.

The additions are necessary due to rapidly increasing special needs and the opening of new buildings. The committee discussed the importance of these hires for maintaining educational quality and meeting legal and programmatic requirements.

Mr. Bard reviewed the district's debt service, highlighting recent borrowing, refinancing strategies, and the district's strong AA2 credit rating, which enables low interest rates and substantial long-term savings.

The district borrowed $41 million for renovations at EH Phillips and Paxtonia Elementary Schools, resulting in a debt service that is 5.6% of total expenses, considered low and healthy for a district of this size.

The AA2 credit rating from Moody's allows the district to secure lower interest rates, saving millions over the life of the debt. The rating is comparable to the state's, supporting favorable borrowing conditions.

Older debt was refinanced at lower rates, yielding net savings of several hundred thousand to a couple million dollars over a ten-year wraparound period.

Mr. Bard presented three budget scenarios with tax increases of 2.5%, 2.3%, and 2.2%. Each scenario was analyzed for its impact on revenues, expenses, deficits, and unreserved fund balance percentages.

Mr. Doernemann made a motion to present a budget with a 2.3% tax increase at the May 26, 2026 Board meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Hanford and approved unanimously.

Committee members asked Mr. Bard about banking practices, interest rate optimization, and alternative investment options, with Peter explaining the district's ongoing efforts to secure competitive rates, manage liquidity, and pursue additional revenue streams through consulting and grants.

Mr. Bard described the process of shopping for the best CD rates, using both direct outreach and competitive negotiation, and explained the advantages of six-month CDs for liquidity and rate parity.

The district occasionally issues Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) to banks, but often relies on internal outreach due to the costs and similar outcomes, with a staff member assisting in rate comparisons.

Questions about using liquid asset funds and other high-yield options were raised, with Mr. Bard noting regulatory restrictions and promising to review permissible alternatives for government funds.

The district expects increased revenue from consulting contracts and is pursuing a $5 million grant to offset costs for Northside, with projections of substantial non-tax revenue growth in future budgets.

4. New Business

There was no new business.

5. Community Input

Mr. Jeff Gordon discussed previous curriculum processes.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.