

SPPS District Financial Advisory Committee Agenda
 April 14, 2025
 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM

1. Welcome & Introductions.
2. Grounding: [Review Purpose of the Group](#)
3. The importance of informing AND advising.
4. [Review notes from 2/24/25 meeting.](#)
5. [FY 26 Budget Update for March 18 BOE](#)
 - A community member asked for clarification about “assigned fund balance”. Essentially this is using some funds that were unused from a specific purpose. Community members are still concerned about passing a referendum when people are “feeling the pinch” due to high property taxes.
6. Example of Board Small Group Work Sessions on Options

3/10/2025	Reaching the \$19 Million Target	\$19.00	
	Added Revenue in PreK, formula allowance, and MA billing fund balance	\$2.19	\$16.81
	iPad sale revenue	\$2.30	\$14.51
	Fund 02 Chargeback	\$0.50	\$14.01
	Inflation Reduction Act Rebate	\$2.00	\$12.01
	DOSL	\$6.00	\$6.01
	Reduce 5 KG Sections	\$0.60	\$5.41
	Hire 70 teachers at \$10 K less	\$0.70	\$4.71
	Reduce Pre K Non intervention Sections	\$0.35	\$4.36
	Close Pre K Hub	\$0.50	\$3.86
	Adm and Ops	\$4.00	-\$0.14
	Business and Finance	\$0.30	-\$0.44
	Human Resources	\$0.60	-\$1.04
	ESI	\$0.60	-\$1.64
	BOE Budget	\$0.30	-\$1.94
	Close K-8 online	\$0.25	-\$2.19
	Reduce Travel	\$0.90	-\$3.09

	Total FY 26 Budget Change	\$22.09	
	Amount Exceeding the \$19 million Target	\$3.09	

7. [Update on Federal Funding](#)

8. [Minneapolis Tech Levy Website](#) and [Handout](#)

- Chief Sager shared this to show how MPS recently implemented a referendum. It's an example of how to do this with easy to understand, clear communication, and it was successful!

9. Population Data:

[Data by Topic: Our Projections / MN State Demographic Center](#)

[Saint Paul | MN Compass](#)

[Minnesota Report Card](#)

10. Operating Referendum: Next Steps...????

11. Your guidance in helping plan the April 29 public engagement session. See paragraph below from Board Policy 720

PUBLIC INPUT The district shall host a public meeting on April 29 to gather feedback from community members for the purpose of informing budgetary decisions. A future meeting will take place prior to winter break in 2025. At least one will take place within the eight weeks prior to the adoption of the budget.

Questions for Discussion:

What are the key “big picture” themes and messages that will be important for people to know?

- Where was the budget pre and post pandemic? A broader understanding of what it looked like in the past few years. Help the community get a better idea of why things need to be cut.
- Thorough explanation of our use of the fund balance.
- Talking about the uncertainty of funding; the federal “unknowns”.
- COVID money- the public should be made aware of the restrictions when we had those funds. “Why didn’t you save some of that money?”
- Talk about the cost drivers.
- 3 funding drivers for a district- here are the buckets of money that we have.
- Is this the time and place for the topic of the operating referendum? Some concern about there being confusion on when those funds would be available if approved. It also makes sense to add this to the discussion as if it starts coming up after the community may feel blindsided.

- We can't "coast" anymore. We are tapping into our "savings"; help people understand the predicament we are in as it relates to their own finances. Our deficit spending is unsustainable. Plain language is important for our broad, community audience.
- How we say it is important; caution the district from saying "we've been talking about this for a few years". We are reminding some and informing others- don't make the assumption that everyone knows about the district's finances. We need to tell the whole story.
- Keep in mind that many people coming to the April 29 meeting may be those largely impacted by the cuts.

The word "engagement" means many things to many people. Knowing that staffing and budget decisions will be communicated to district staff on April 25, what will be helpful for public stakeholders to hear and learn on April 29? (Keep in mind that principals will be holding school community meetings from April 8 through April 16.)

- Funding for specialists- discretion on what specialists are placed in each space and what level of autonomy do schools have in those decisions.

What other ideas do you have that may help this meeting be helpful and positive?

Adjourn: 5:30 PM or before.

Next Meeting: June 16, 2025 at 4:00 PM, Room 5A We plan to use this time together to review our year and do some planning for next year. Thank you.

- Philanthropy fundraising- on the radar for another time.