

MSAD 11
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, September 8, 2026
5:00 p.m.

Committee Members: Rebecca Fles, Finance Chair; Dan Coutts; Jeff Hanley (left at 5:41 pm); Brandon Martin; Kady Gould, Superintendent; Andrea Disch, Business Manager

Absent:

Others Board Members: Tyler Eldridge

THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING AT [09.03.2026 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING.](#)

Director Fles called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

A. FOOD SERVICE EQUIPMENT - DISCUSSION

The Business Manager advised the Committee that the high school dishwasher is not reaching the required sanitizing temperature, resulting in a food safety compliance concern. Due to the age of the equipment and an estimated repair cost of \$15,140, she recommended replacing the unit at a quoted cost of \$27,673.

Motion by Director Hanley, to approve up to the quoted cost, to purchase a dishwasher at the high school, seconded by Director Martin.

Voted: 4 - 0

Motion Passed.

B. AUDIT FIRM – DISCUSSION

The Business Manager advised the Finance Committee that the District's auditing firm, Nicholson, Michaud & Nadeau, may continue serving municipal clients, potentially allowing the District to retain the firm beyond its current commitment for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. The Business Manager will keep the Committee informed of any developments.

C. MSAD 11 LEGAL COUNSEL – DISCUSSION

The Business Manager provided the Finance Committee with a 20-year overview of the District's legal expenses. From FY2007 through FY2026, the District incurred approximately \$1.28 million in legal costs, averaging \$63,978 annually. Although expenses fluctuated from year to year, they remained relatively consistent overall, with



no sustained upward trend. FY2025 and FY2026 were higher-cost years, while FY2027 expenditures currently total \$2,157.

The Committee also discussed seeking proposals for legal services. The Business Manager explained that, because legal services are professional services, the District would issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) rather than conduct a traditional bid process based primarily on price. An RFQ allows the District to evaluate firms based on relevant experience, expertise in education and municipal law, availability, potential conflicts of interest, service approach, and fee structure. The Business Manager and Superintendent will develop the RFQ and interview qualified firms.

Motion by Director Martin, to authorize the Business Manager and Superintendent, to conduct a Request for Qualification for Legal Services and to bring the results back to the full School Board, seconded by Director Hanley.

Voted: 3 – 1 (Becky Fles Opposed)

Motion Passed.

D. BOARD POLICY DJ – BIDDING & PURCHASING

The Business Manager addressed concerns raised at the School Board meeting regarding the absence of conflict-of-interest provisions in Board Policy DJ, *Bidding and Purchasing*. She advised the Committee that related requirements are contained in Board Policy DJH, *Purchasing and Contracting*, and Board Policy DJ-R, *Bidding and Purchasing Requirements*. Policy DJH specifically addresses conflicts of interest, conflict-of-interest disclosures, and staff gifts and solicitations.

The Finance Committee Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Attest a true record,



Kady Gould, Secretary