

I. New Business:

I.1. Donations - See attachment

I.2. Budget Streamlining Recommendations

The district is anticipating a \$200,000 reduction in compensatory aid next year due to changes in the state funding formula.

To address this, I will present recommendations focused on:

- Realigning staff assignments to better match our highest areas of need
- Maximizing cross-subsidy reimbursement, particularly in special education and English as a Second Language

These changes are designed to generate revenue and savings roughly equal to the cost of a teaching position.

Additional recommendations include:

- Adjustments to duties in Appendix C and related Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)
 - These changes would reduce costs while shifting responsibilities to existing positions
- Facility rental policy updates
 - The district currently absorbs \$25,000–\$30,000 in annual facility rental costs
 - A policy revision will be presented in May to recover these expenses
- Special education coding adjustments
 - We are exploring changes that may generate up to \$40,000 in additional revenue

We are also reviewing:

- Use of fund balance for targeted reinvestment
- Energy savings opportunities

Together, these strategies are intended to help offset the anticipated loss in compensatory aid. Full details of these recommendations will be presented and discussed at the board meeting.

I.3. Staffing and Impacts of Online Instruction on Enrollment Considerations

April 20, 2026 Board Meeting

Since January, high school enrollment has declined by approximately 30 students. A significant factor in this decline is students moving to online programs and the Alternative Learning Center (ALC).

This is not unique to LPGE. Based on conversations with other districts and statewide data, this trend is increasing; particularly at the 9–12 grade level.

The district leadership team has been discussing:

- The long-term impact of this trend
- Possible responses by the district
- The future direction of programming at LPGE

Recommendation from Administration

Based on these discussions, I am recommending that the board consider opening an LPGE online school option for grades 9–12.

This could allow us to:

- Offer credit recovery options
- Expand access to college courses
- Provide a broader range of electives
- Retain and potentially attract students

This would require:

- Creation of an Online Instructor position
- Selection and procurement of an online vendor
 - Vendors provide curriculum, platforms, security, and course access
 - Without a vendor, it is not feasible to launch by fall

I am also requesting:

- Board approval for administration to begin the process of offering this option to students outside the district (requires a state application)
- Consideration of future staffing flexibility:
 - Add a teacher if enrollment exceeds 40 students for up to another additional 40 students
 - Add a paraprofessional if enrollment exceeds 40 students for up to another 20 students

Immediate Action Needed

April 20, 2026 Board Meeting

To continue planning for a possible fall launch, two actions are needed at this time:

1. Approval to create an Online Instructor position within the teacher master contract
2. Approval to select and contract with an online vendor

Other elements of this proposal can be addressed at a later time.

I.4. Non-Exempt Contract Approvals

At least one non-exempt contract is ready for board approval, specifically for a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN).

Contracts for Speech Language Pathologist Assistants (SLPAs) may also be ready, depending on final negotiations.

These positions are:

- Salaried
- Non-exempt, meaning they are subject to overtime rules and regulations

I.5. Solar Project Grant

We are awaiting final word on whether the district has been awarded the Solar for Schools grant (third cycle).

iDeal Energy will be present at the board meeting to:

- Provide an overview of the proposed project
- Answer questions
- Share updated information
- Provide potential energy impacts

Funding Overview:

- Solar for Schools Grant: \$499,730
- Federal Investment Tax Credit (ITC): \$204,345
 - This is a federal incentive covering approximately 30% of eligible costs
- Estimated District Cost: Approximately \$10,000

This project would place a solar array above the geothermal field at the secondary school and reduce long-term energy costs.