Finance Committee Meeting

Thursday, August 27, 2026 3:50 PM Central

HS CONFERENCE ROOM
705 N 9th Street
Arlington, NE 68002

1. Review Budget and All Components with Certificated Valuations
Valuations are up 5.02%.
Discussion regarding whether we are comfortable with the numbers where they are, or if we want to attempt to slow the drop in levy by adding a penny or two in SBF or Bond Fund. The committee is comfortable where the levy is, and the budgeted funds.
Discussion, for the purpose of the new bond election communication, if we want to keep the bond levy at .07 or drop it to .062, as the budget proposes. All of our communication to date connected to the bond election has been based on 2025-2026 levy amounts. Lowering to .062 changes the conversation some.
The finance committee conversation revealed there was some misunderstanding about the "offset" discussion with the building committee. It wasn't clear that the offset from the SBF cushions the full projected bond levy, and brings the increase to a manageable 5 cents (now 4 cents due to the lowered bond request). We will clearly indicate in all communication that dropping the SBF some will help cushion the impact of the second bond if the voters approve it in November. That is what the building committee understood about the "offset" language we have been using. We didn't realize that it was understood differently by other board members or community.

We will drop the bond levy to .062 for the 2026-2027 year. Dr. Lewis will communicate with Northland Securities and we will update the bond election communications to reflect this change going forward.

The budget and levy request hearing documents will publish as presented in committee, without changes. Those will be sent to the full board to review, and sent to the paper.

2. Recommendation to the board as a result of this meeting: