

MINUTES
Financial Emergency Board
Thursday, June 18, 2026, 1:15 p.m.
Online via TEAMS

Vickie DePratter, Chairman
Randy Beach
Kathy Sneads

Chair DePratter called the meeting to order and thanked the board members, Superintendent Ripplinger and Superintendent Barfield for participating in today's meeting.

Chair DePratter noted that there would be opportunities for the public to provide comments on actionable items on today's agenda.

1. Approval of Minutes of June 4, 2026, Meeting of the Financial Emergency Board

Member Sneads moved to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2026, meeting of the Financial Emergency Board. Member Beach seconded the motion. The motion passed.

2. Approval of Expenditures for Continuing Operations Pending Approval of 2026-27 Budgets

Chair DePratter noted that each of the districts is currently operating under its revised 2025-26 budget, which ends on June 30, and that the Financial Emergency Board will review the proposed 2026-27 budget prior to its implementation, however, there will be a gap between the ending of 2025-26 and the approval of the 2026-27 budget. This agenda item was to provide authority for the districts to maintain routine operations in that gap period.

Chair DePratter called for a motion to provide authority for the districts to continue to pay routine operational costs under the same limitations as are currently in place between July 1 and the approval of the 2026-27 budget. Member Beach so moved and Member Sneads seconded the motion.

Chair DePratter provided an opportunity for public comment on the motion. No public comment was received.

Chair DePratter called for the vote. The motion passed.

Chair DePratter asked FDOE to provide a sample school board agenda item to each district for authorizing operational expenditures in the gap period between the end of one fiscal year and the approval of the budget for the next.

3. Union – Discussion of Current Budget Projection through End of Fiscal Year

Chair DePratter recognized Superintendent Ripplinger to present the latest fund balance projection for FY 2025-26.

Superintendent Ripplinger introduced Deborah Parrish to address the fund balance projection. The largest variance was payroll because they previously were scheduled for four payouts before June 30, but they deferred two to after June 30. They coordinated with the union, who agreed to this.

Chair DePratter noted that on the fund balance projection, the district listed \$1,143,000 in payroll through 6/30/26, but in the monthly “Projected Expenses through 6/30/26” report, the total projected for payroll was \$1,573,726. Deborah Parrish indicated that the true projection was \$1,143,000, and that the monthly projection had not been updated.

4. Union – Update on Tentative General Fund Budget Preparation for FY 2026-27

Chair DePratter recognized Superintendent Ripplinger to provide updates regarding the 2026-27 budget development.

Superintendent Ripplinger introduced Deborah Parrish to address the status of the 2026-27 budget development. Superintendent Ripplinger indicated the district is still developing the budget for next year and is looking at whether to fill positions and re-negotiating contracts. They are working towards a goal of reaching the required 3% fund balance ratio by the end of the year. Deborah Parrish noted that they are holding off on supply budgets until they know what the rest of the budget will be.

Member Beach noted that if the district balance at the end of 2025-26 is consistent with the projection, the district could end up at over 5% fund balance at the end of 2026-27, bearing in mind that they won’t receive additional state infusions of state funds in the future.

Chair DePratter verified with the district that the 2026-27 budget will result in a 3% fund balance by the end of 26-27. Deborah Parrish confirmed they will try to.

5. Consideration of Recurring and Expiring contracts

Chair DePratter recognized Superintendent Ripplinger to present Union’s list of recurring and expiring contracts.

Superintendent Ripplinger presented the district’s list that had been provided in advance of the meeting, noting the NEFEC, SRO and food service contracts, as well as OT and physical therapy contracts, and legal contracts. The district will omit contracts that they can do without and try to minimize costs as much as possible. They have identified those needing urgent approval.

Add a column to the contract list for date seeking approval, actual approval, and highlight those for the meeting. Member Sneads noted that even those contracts that are renewing automatically or without signing a new contract, those need to be on the list.

Add a column that has expiration date, and whether it is an auto-renewal. Put in Excel, not pdf. If waiting on quotes, put the amount from last year or an estimate. Put waiting on quote in status column. Also, list by fund. Add contracts that are not renewing so the board can see what is being cut to get to the required fund balance.

Member Sneads moved to approve those highlighted in peach, and Member Beach seconded the motion. Opportunity for public comment, but none received.

6. Union – Consideration of Immediate Needs

Superintendent Ripplinger confirmed that there were no immediate needs.

7. Union – Board Data Requests and Next Steps

Member Beach noted that at the next meeting the district will be in budget preparation and TRIM season. Chair DePratter noted that until the districts receive RLE, they will be in a lull.

Member Sneads requested the TRIM calendar.

Chair DePratter noted that the prior year audit included an additional matter where expenditures exceeded budget limits. Chair DePratter advised the district to revise the current year budget and have it approved by the school board so expenses will be in line with the budget limits in order to mitigate the district having the additional matter repeated in the current fiscal year.

8. Glades – Discussion of Current Budget Projection through End of Fiscal Year

Chair DePratter recognized Superintendent Barfield to present the latest fund balance projection for FY 2025-26.

Superintendent Barfield introduced Nichole Murry to address the fund balance projection.

Nichole Murry noted that the revenue increase included the transfer from LCIF, Ad Valorem, and FEFPI increase. The expenses were reduced because the prior estimation of expenses was too high, and she adjusted it based on what is actually left to spend by 6/30/26.

Chair DePratter noted that the district's budget has not been updated to reflect the 4th calculation. Nichole acknowledged this was accurate.

Chair DePratter asked if she is confident in the revenue reported. Nichole Murry indicated she is confident the report reflects what is in the system as it stands, however, she is not confident that all revenue that has been reported is General Revenue.

Chair DePratter noted that the district continues to report revenue categories that are no longer applicable. Nichole Murry acknowledged the need to update this.

Chair DePratter noted that the transfer in from LCIF should not be counted toward the fund balance ratio calculation.

Chair DePratter noted that FDOE will send the revenue distribution report, and the district will need to adjust the revenue accordingly.

Li Liu confirmed this will be released in July for FY 2025-26.

9. Glades – Update on Tentative General Fund Budget Preparation for FY 2026-27

Chair DePratter recognized Superintendent Barfield to provide updates regarding the 2026-27 budget development.

Superintendent Barfield introduced Nichole Murry to address the status of the 2026-27 budget development.

Nichole Murry asked for clarification on what can be paid by district, or what needs to be brought before the Board. The answer was normal operating expenses to keep the lights on can be paid, but contracts and purchase orders, and all other expenses need to be approved by the Board.

Nichole Murry will provide the TRIM calendar to the board.

Nichole Murry confirmed that Glades is an e-TRIM district. The budget is a work in progress.

Chair DePratter confirmed that the district will verify when the publication needs to be submitted to the newspaper to meet the necessary timeline for publication of the TRIM notice.

10. Glades – Consideration of Recurring and Expiring Contracts

Chair DePratter recognized Superintendent Barfield to present Glades' list of recurring and expiring contracts.

Superintendent Barfield introduced Nichole Murry to address the contract list. Nichole Murry requested clarification on what is needed on the contract list ongoingly.

Chair DePratter indicated that the Board needs to see all district expenses. Once the budget is developed and approved, not every invoice will need to come to the Board, however, there should be no expenditures on new purchase orders that have not been approved by the Board.

The district will maintain the contract list as a comprehensive list of contracts and purchase orders. The district will continue to put the contracts needing urgent approval above the green bar.

Chair DePratter recommended that the district share their template with Union.

Member Beach asked that they add a column for 2025-26 amount to be able to compare the price.

Member Sneads indicated that all of the expenses that have not been approved and need to start on July 1 need to be above the green line (need Board approval).

The district clarified that is in the Heartland consortium region, but they pay NEFEC for Skyward support. Heartland is being used for professional development.

Member Sneads noted that there are multiple instances on the contract list where unit price and total prices do not agree. On SROs, the total price was not correct on the list.

Member Sneads indicated that even continuing contracts need to be listed so that the board can approve the expenses without holding up the district.

The correct cost for the SRO \$230,000, which includes the SROs regular pay and extra-duty pay.

Chair DePratter asked whether the district can pay for chrome books with LCIF. Nichole Murry will investigate and move it over if the advertisement permits. The district should also review to see if any additional expenses for devices can be moved for 2025-26 as well.

Chair DePratter asked whether modular could be paid with LCIF, , and it was confirmed that the district's 25-26 Capital Outlay advertisement included such expenses.

Chair DePratter recommended that they try to add this to the advertisement and to try to pay as much as they can from the LCIF rather than GR.

Glades indicated they are seeking a sales tax referendum as well as the 1% discretionary millage. The board advised that the sales tax referendum will require an OPPAGA review.

Member Sneads moved to approve the contracts above the green line on the submitted contract list, with the updates discussed. Member Beach seconded. Chair DePratter offered an opportunity for public comment. None was received. The motion passed.

Nichole Murry discussed the internal controls the district has implemented for approval of requisitions and payments. Nichole Murry is the final approver.

Member Beach indicated that they can institute a threshold above which the superintendent has to approve.

Nichole Murry indicated she would like to cancel all blanket POs and start in the new year with new purchase orders. The Board discussed having the 26-27 turned on in Skyward, so they can track the new encumbrances, while still having the 25-26 running prior to close-out.

11. Glades – Consideration of Immediate Needs

Chair DePratter asked Superintendent Barfield whether there were any immediate needs to present for Board consideration.

Dan Thomas presented a request to approve PageFreezer to be ADA compliant in their archival of the webpage. They noted that Okeechobee county is using it successfully. The district previously used Civic Plus, and the PageFreezer is slightly more expensive due to ADA compliance.

Member Sneads noted the district needs for the contract or purchase order to have clear cancellation terms.

Chair DePratter asked which contracts the district takes to the district's attorney. Superintendent Barfield indicated at this point she is taking all of them.

Member Beach moved to approve the PageFreezer agreement for \$6,168. Member Sneads seconded the motion. Chair DePratter provided an opportunity for public comment. None was received. The motion passed.

Chair DePratter noted that the district needs to remove the prior vendor Civics plus and add PageFreezer to the contract list. Chair DePratter reminded the district to review the object codes and to verify the cancellation, indemnification and jurisdiction terms on the contract instrument.

Superintendent Barfield asked if the district receives the capital outlay special appropriations, does the board need to review the expenditures? Chair DePratter indicated that FDOE will provide guidance on this.

Suzanne Pridgeon indicated that although the district is not required to send invoices to FDOE, the projects should be presented to the Board and updates provided.

Member Beach would like an update on the voted millage and referendum.

12. Glades – Board Data Requests and Next Steps

Chair DePratter recommended that they check the budgetary controls by function to make sure that the school board revises the budget as needed to avoid an audit finding.

Chair DePratter then provided an opportunity for public comment on any item on today's agenda. No comment was received.

13. Final Comments and Discussion

Chair DePratter opened the floor for comments, questions or discussion by the members.

The next meeting will be July 9 at 1:15 p.m.

Chair DePratter thanked everyone for participating in today's meeting. The meeting was then adjourned.