WOODRIDGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68

memo

To:	The Board of Education and Dr. Patrick Broncato, Superintendent
From:	Curt Saindon, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services/CSBO
Date:	July 16, 2026
Subject:	Recommendation to Approve the FY2026-2027 Tentative Budget

Attached you will find ISBE Form 50-36, the Tentative Annual School District Budget Form, for FY 2026-2027. I would very much like to thank Michelle Swanson, Sue Baker, Jen McFann and our entire Business Office team for their hard work in ensuring that this tentative budget reflects the most up to date information available regarding projected revenues and expenses for the school district this fiscal year, as well as any proposed inter-fund transfers. They have all worked tirelessly with other district office and building level staff to develop accurate expense projections based on our current anticipated staffing patterns and benefit renewals, classroom needs, and projected operating requirements, and they have also been diligent in trying to discern and develop reliable revenue forecasts given the ever changing nature and scope of school funding, especially at the State and Federal level.

Overall, this budget is a refined version of the previous budget summaries provided in May and June, with adjustments for anticipated, finalized salaries and benefits, purchased services, materials and supplies, equipment, transportation costs, food service expenses, and other expenses related to our operating plan for the 2026-2027 school year. We are currently budgeting for a dozen additional class size reduction teachers, based on Board policy, past practice and estimated student enrollment, and paid for with local funds. In total, these positions account for just over $1 million in expenses. We also have updated several State and Federal revenue figures and we hope to have finalized information for most of them by the end of August. There are still a few grants and programs to be finalized, and we expect flat funding at best and decreased funding more likely in most cases, especially at the Federal level. Our initial, conservative projections remain in place for other State and Federal grants as we await official confirmation of final funding levels. Additionally, this budget includes contingencies for various operating funds, and if not needed, this will improve our bottom line. Finally, the tentative budget also includes $1M in interest transfers to help balance the budget in the Education Fund and help cover a projected deficit. In the past we transferred interest earnings to Capital Projects, and that fund does not need these additional revenues this year, but the Education Fund does…so we are re-directing those funds accordingly.

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As will be mentioned in the related FY2025-2026 Fund Balance Analysis and Review being presented tonight, we finished last year in slightly better shape than projected, after factoring out our one-time capital projects, thereby minimally increasing our overall reserves, while still completing almost $8M in capital improvement projects. In part this was due to additional early tax receipts received in June as compared to last year (about $1M more than the prior year), as well as the timing of paying for last summer's and this summer's capital projects. This led to about $1M in additional reserves at year-end compared to last year. We are in the process of completing about $1.2M in capital projects this summer and planning for another $1.2M in projects next summer. Based on this tentative budget, we are projecting an overall increase in operating reserves of about $500K for 2026-2027, but that includes $200K of contingency expenses, so factoring out that item, the overall budget is expected to be positive by about $700K, with an estimated overall surplus in all funds of around $800K. With both revenue and expenditure updates being received throughout the summer, we hope to submit a finalized budget in September that is responsible, reflective, and hopefully balanced, after taking out the contingency reserve allocations and expected one-time capital spending mentioned above.

I'd be happy to discuss this proposed, tentative budget in more detail and answer any questions you might have. With your approval of this tentative budget we will publish the notice of public budget hearing in a local newspaper, post it on our website, make it available for public inspection in the Business Office, and begin preparing the final budget for the budget hearing and final presentation to the Board, for your review and approval on September 21st. As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to let me know. Thank you.

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the Board approve the attached Tentative FY 2026-27 Budget, as presented on ISBE Form 50-36, and direct the Business Office to post said tentative budget on the school district website, put it on display in the Business Office, and make it available for public inspection going forward. Additionally, that the Board agree to hold a Public Hearing on said budget at least 30 days after such approval and posting of a notice (scheduled for September 21, 2026, at 7:45PM in the DAC Board Room), and after giving full consideration of any comments made at the public hearing, to approve the final budget as presented at a future Board Meeting by the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year, as required by law (also scheduled for September 21st after the Public Hearing has been held). Finally, that the Board direct the Business Office to publish in a local newspaper of general circulation a Notice of Public Hearing on the Budget, to inform the public of their opportunity to review this tentative budget during normal business hours and address the Board on this proposed budget at the public hearing, prior to its final adoption and filing, as required by law.