



Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School

Finance Committee Meeting

Published on May 30, 2025 at 2:21 PM EDT

Date and Time

Tuesday June 3, 2025 at 6:00 PM EDT

Location

Google Meeting ID
meet.google.com/zkg-vctu-ikb
Phone Numbers
(US) +1 240-532-3788
PIN: 783 984 031#

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meet.google.com/zkg-vctu-ikb
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(US) [+1 240-532-3788](tel:+12405323788)
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Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
I. Opening Items			6:00 PM
A. Record Attendance		Marcy Conner	2 m

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
B.	Call the Meeting to Order	Sasha Viands	1 m
C.	Approve Minutes	Sasha Viands	5 m
Approve minutes for Finance Committee Meeting on May 6, 2025			
II.	Finance		6:08 PM
A.	PVPA FY26 Budget - Presentation	Marcy Conner	30 m
III.	Other Business		
Final meeting June 3, 2025.			
IV.	Closing Items		6:38 PM
A.	Adjourn Meeting	Sasha Viands	2 m

Coversheet

Approve Minutes

Section:	I. Opening Items
Item:	C. Approve Minutes
Purpose:	Approve Minutes
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Minutes for Finance Committee Meeting on May 6, 2025

APPROVED



Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School

Minutes

Finance Committee Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday May 6, 2025 at 6:00 PM

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Committee Members Present

James Montemayor (remote), Keith Black (remote), Sasha Viands (remote)

Committee Members Absent

Mindi Winter, Neil Hede

Guests Present

Brent Nielsen (remote), Marcy Conner (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Sasha Viands called a meeting of the Finance Committee of Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School to order on Tuesday May 6, 2025 at 6:02 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

Keith Black made a motion to approve the minutes from Finance Committee Meeting on 04-01-25.

James Montemayor seconded the motion.

The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Sasha Viands	Aye
Mindi Winter	Absent
Neil Hede	Absent
James Montemayor	Aye
Keith Black	Aye

II. Finance

A. PVPA FY26 Budget - Insurance

Reviewed the 5 year history of health insurance rate increases (see chart). Note that in 2022-2023 we increased the deductible to keep the annual increase in single digits. Blue Cross Blue Shield has sent an offer of renewal at an increase of 31.6 %. There are still options; take the offer and try to negotiate down based on willingness to renew, renew with higher deductibles which would drive the rate of increase down but also change some coverage, or go out to market. PVPA's broker is stating that going out to market would mean increases that are almost as high (20%-25%) for less coverage based on the utilization that BCBS would report.

The Committee reviewed the effect the increase would have; basically a \$3,500 increase per person or \$2,000 on the HRA if deductible were increased. We will be polling staff to see what preferences there are and will request information on plans with higher deductibles.

This is the final piece to balancing the 2025-2026 budget.

B. PVPA FY26 Budget - Transportation

Transportation is new to the budget for 2025-2026. There will be new account lines that show both revenue and expenses. The total cost of the 15 bus program will be \$1.1

million. We will receive reimbursement from the state in two forms; monthly as part of our tuition payments for transporting South Hadley students and after the fiscal year ends with regional transportation reimbursement.

For transporting South Hadley students, PVPA is eligible to receive the lesser of our cost to transport students or South Hadley's. Currently South Hadley's is lower at \$1,162.27 per student. With 27 projected students this means PVPA would receive approximately \$31,000.

The regional transportation reimbursement is a percentage that is set as part of the state's annual budget. For FY25 the rate of reimbursement was 84%. Based on this PVPA would receive \$968,145. This rate will change for FY26 so this is just for illustrative purposes.

With this in mind, the potential revenue to be receive would be just under \$1 million.

Which is actually an \$81,000 savings to the FY25 budgeted cost of transportation of \$234,554. Again, this is a hypothetical picture until the FY26 state budget determines the regional transportation reimbursement percentage.

Although not required to by the state, PVPA should consider setting aside a cash reserve for the transportation program. The regional reimbursement from the state will not come until August 2026, after the close of the fiscal year, however we will have invoices monthly from the transportation company that will need to be paid. Once the cash balance is confirmed by the audit for FY25, the Committee should review this item.

This program will be a tremendous benefit to our families while also having a positive impact on the budget.

C. FY26 Budget - FTEs

An overview of the budget FTE's and salaries for FY26:

1. Per CBA teachers will receive an automatic step increase plus 2% will be added to base wages on the salary matrix = 5%.
2. Per CBA non-teaching staff will receive a 3% increase to base wages.
3. Administrative support non-union staff will receive a 5% increase to base wages.
4. Administration will receive 3%-5% increase based on a salary review using the Mass Charter Public School Association's annual salary review.

There are a couple of new positions this year that will increase the overall number of FTE's for the school, especially in the middle school:

1. The development/re-alignment of the Technical Theater Department = 1 FTE plus a Department Leader stipend. Introducing a technical career path could lead us to some grant funding in the future.
2. Academic Support HS - Math = 1.0 FTE. PVPA has a history of needing improvement on math scores since condition were placed on the charter in 2012. The Administration currently has concerns about the upcoming charter renewal and the math achievement of students. Note: this position will be removed if needed to balance the budget due to the insurance rate increase.
3. PE/Health & Wellness MS = 1.0 FTE
4. Assistant Dean of Students MS = 1.0 FTE

PVPA is focusing on the middle school in efforts to improve social emotional learning and behaviors. There are some skills that need to be explicitly taught to students and focus on a more cohesive restorative approach. We are hopeful that this work will enable teachers to focus more on teaching and less on behaviors by creating a culture where we are able to retain both staff and students.

D. PVPA FY26 Budget - Tuition

Keith Black made a motion to Budget the FY26 tuition at a 3% increase over the FY25 projected tuition of \$7,919,752 for a total of \$8,157,345.

James Montemayor seconded the motion.

The budgeting history chart that was shared at previous a meeting was shared again with the final House Way & Means projection that was released in April. This projection was slightly higher (approx \$12,000) than the Governor's budget released in January.

The unknown piece, as always, is the above foundation funding from our sending districts. There are several communities that are laying off staff and/or asking for proposition 2 1/2 overrides to balance their school budgets due to the lack of COVID funds drying up and still needing to meet student needs. The recommendation from Administration is a 2.5% - 3% increase. This will leave what we hope is a comfortable margin should major shifts in AFR take place.

The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Sasha Viands	Aye
Mindi Winter	Absent
Neil Hede	Absent
Keith Black	Aye
James Montemayor	Aye

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sasha Viands

Documents used during the meeting

- FY 26 Budget - Insurance Rate 5 yr History.pdf
- FY26 Renewal - Proposed Increase 4-17-25.pdf
- FY 26 Budget - Transportation Estimate 4-28-25.pdf
- FY 26 Budget - Tuition 4-28-25.pdf

Coversheet

PVPA FY26 Budget - Presentation

Section:	II. Finance
Item:	A. PVPA FY26 Budget - Presentation
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	PVPA FY26 Budget Presentation 5-28-25.pdf



FY 26 Budget

Finance Committee on 6/3/25 recommended budget based on 3.0% increase in tuition.

PVPA Mission Statement



Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School offers its students intensive exposure to the performing arts within the context of an excellent college preparatory curriculum.

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Revenue - Continued

1. **Per Pupil Income** – On May 6, 2025 the Finance Committee voted to set the FY26 tuition budget increase at 3.0% of the DESE projected tuition for the third quarter of FY25. Total \$8,157,345.
2. **Grant Revenue** – grant funding levels for FY26 have not yet been released by DESE. The \$275,975 budget figure represents FY25 level funding for ESSA, IDEA and CSHS grants.
3. **School Based Medicaid** – Program that allows schools to access a students Medicaid for qualified services. In FY26 PVPA contracted with LPVEC to manage the program – a net \$2,037 was realized.
4. **Transportation Revenue** – Expanding our transportation services to all students allows PVPA to access funds for regional transportation reimbursement through the state and additional funds for transporting South Hadley residents. The regional transportation rate is set during the state budgeting process – the FY26 budget projects 87%. For transporting South Hadley students PVPA would receive the lesser of our cost per student or South Hadley's – the FY26 budget projects 27 students at South Hadley's rate of \$1,162.27.
5. **Student Activities Revenue** – student fundraising adjusting upward to align with current student activities.
6. **Interest** – will continue to roll over certificates of deposit as they mature however interest rates are projected to go down so the return will not be as much as FY25 and is difficult to predict.

Overall increase of 15.21% proposed in revenue as compared to the FY25 budget (majority of which 10.19% is the new transportation revenue).

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Expenses – Continued

1. Salaries & FTE Changes

FTEs

Arts Teachers	+1.00
Academic Teachers	+1.00
Academic Support Teachers	+1.00
Administrative	+1.00

Salary Increases: Matrix Union positions = 1 step 3% plus 2% added to base wages for a total increase of 5%

Non-Matrix Union positions = 3%

Administrative Support Non-Union positions = 5%

Administrators – varied 3%-5% based on position comparison to the MCPSA salary survey

2. Benefits

Health/Dental Insurance

Health Insurance	+29.9%
Dental Insurance	No Change

3. **Grant Expenses** – grants are paid as reimbursements – expenses match revenue based on FY25 funding levels.

4. **Production Other** – increase over FY25 as we continue to revise the production schedule and offerings.

5. **Technology** – increase due to computer replacement program for staff laptops and student ChromeBooks.

6. **Recruitment of Students** – slight increase for advertising related to student recruitment.

Expenses (continued)

				FY25 Budget	FY24 Projected	FY 26 Proposed Budget	% Increase Projected vs Proposed
			Total 5311600 · Recruitment-Employees	16,800.00	16,800.00	16,800.00	0.00%
			Total 5315600 · Business Office Expense	43,500.00	43,500.00	44,400.00	2.03%
			Total 5320600 · Board of Trustees Expenses	42,750.00	42,750.00	47,750.00	10.47%
			Total 5300600 · Administrative	1,555,044.44	1,591,177.76	1,801,477.17	11.67%
			Total 5330600 · Development	2,600.00	750.00	2,600.00	71.15%
			5400000 · Facilities Expense				
			Total 5400500 · Salaries	109,344.00	121,392.00	128,433.00	5.48%
			Total 5400560 · Taxes and Benefits-Facilities	29,868.31	31,280.15	45,168.68	30.75%
			Total 5400600 · Facilities Expense-Other	809,715.00	906,772.00	893,119.00	-1.53%
			Total 5400000 · Facilities Expense	948,927.31	1,059,444.15	1,066,720.68	0.68%
			Total 5500700 · Depreciation Expense	175,000.00	175,000.00	180,000.00	2.78%
			5600600 · Auxiliary Expense				
			Total 5600700 · Transportation	240,800.00	279,422.00	1,167,354.00	76.06%
			Total 5610000 · Food Service	26,204.93	29,136.71	32,714.08	10.94%
			Total 5600600 · Auxiliary Expense	267,004.93	308,558.71	1,200,068.08	74.29%
			5700900 · Other Expense				
			5700901 · Bad Debt Expense	6,500.00	10,000.00	2,000.00	-400.00%
			Total 5700900 · Other Expense	6,500.00	10,000.00	2,000.00	-400.00%
			66900 - Reconciliation Discrepancies	0.00	0.00		
			Total Expense	8,174,447.40	8,156,871.81	9,638,597.44	15.37%
			Net Ordinary Income	1,258.60	273,401.19	3,318.54	-8138.59%
			Net Income	1,258.60	273,401.19	3,318.54	-8138.59%

Expenses – Continued

7. **Business Office Expense**- slight increase due to the certification requirements for school purchasing officer.
8. **Board of Trustees Expense**– increased legal expense in anticipation of negotiating the CBA for 2026 – 2029.
9. **Facilities Expense** – 11.04% increase over FY25 budget due to the rising costs of utilities and repairs to the HVAC units.
10. **Depreciation Expense** – increases annually as we continue to make capital purchases
11. **Transportation** – new program increasing to 15 buses is an estimated \$1.1 million expense.
12. **Bad Debt Expense** – historically written off bus contracts –no longer charging for transportation

Balanced Budget

Budget is balanced with a small net income of \$3,318.54.

FY26 Capital Budget

Lease-hold Improvements		
	Bathroom Stalls	30,000
		30,000
Equipment		
	Classroom Furniture (6 rooms)	75,000
		75,000
	Total Capital Budget FY26	105,000

PVPA Salaries (PVPA CBA 2023-2026)

Matrix Positions

Step	BA	MA
1	\$ 43,268	\$ 45,432
2	\$ 44,567	\$ 46,795
3	\$ 45,904	\$ 48,199
4	\$ 47,281	\$ 49,644
5	\$ 48,699	\$ 51,134
6	\$ 50,161	\$ 52,668
7	\$ 51,665	\$ 54,249
8	\$ 53,215	\$ 55,875
9	\$ 54,811	\$ 57,552
10	\$ 56,455	\$ 59,277
11	\$ 58,148	\$ 61,057
12	\$ 59,893	\$ 62,888
13	\$ 61,691	\$ 64,775
14	\$ 63,541	\$ 66,718
15	\$ 65,447	\$ 68,719

Starting Rates for Non-Matrix Unit Positions

Position	2024-2025
Speech & Language Pathologist Assistant	\$21.16/hr
Paraprofessional	\$18.94/hr
Substitute Teacher	\$16.71/hr
Paraprofessional - Therapeutic	\$18.94/hr
Instructional Support Professional	\$23.97/hr
ELL Coordinator	\$66,836.70/year
Nurse	\$66,836 - \$75,748.26/year

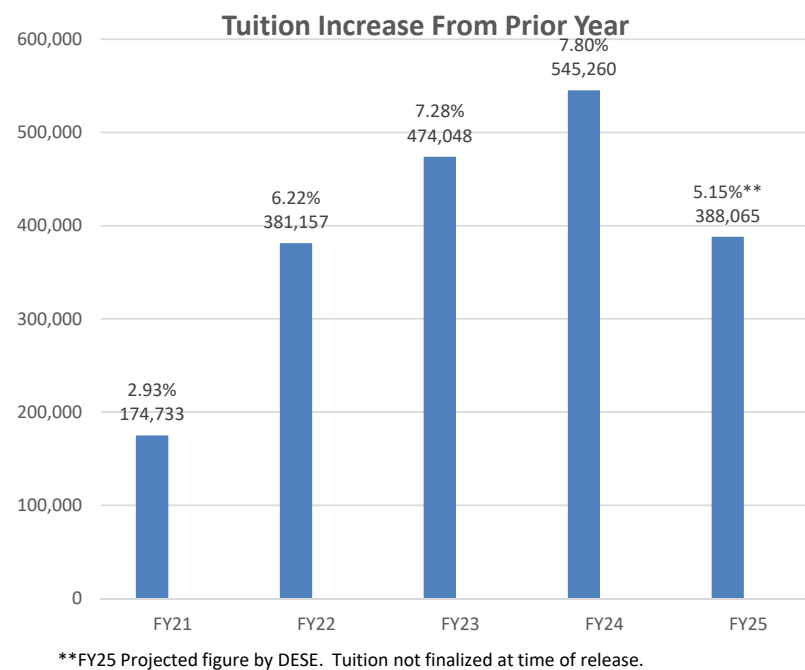
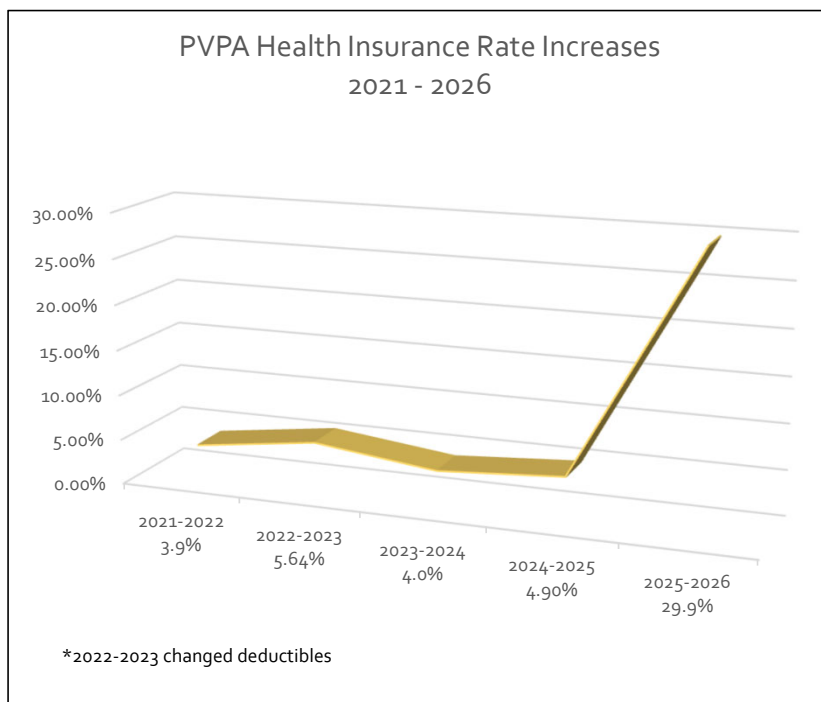
PVPA – 5 Year History of Cash Reserves

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Cash, per Balance Sheet at June 30	3,647,302	3,307,490	2,952,004	2,547,805	2,223,230
Operating expenses for 3 months	(2,200,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)
Balance	1,447,302	1,807,490	1,452,004	1,047,805	723,230



Inspired to Learn

FY26 Budget By the Numbers



FY26 Budget By the Numbers

