BUDGET COMMISSION DATE: 3/25/2026

	PRESENT:	ALTERNATE-NAME
RICHARD JEFFREY, ERIE COUNTY AUDITOR	X	
KEVIN BAXTER, ERIE COUNTY PROSECUTOR	X	
CALEB STIDHAM, ERIE COUNTY TREASURER	X	
JOHN ROGERS, CHIEF DEPUTY AUDITOR	X	

OTHERS:

Kathy Herschler- Treasurer's office

Brenda Hurst- Auditor's office

Mr. Jeffrey called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

On motion of: Mr. Baxter and seconded by Mr. Stidham to approve

minutes of _______ February 25,2026 meeting

	AYE	NAY
RICHARD JEFFREY	X	
KEVIN BAXTER	X	
CALEB STIDHAM	X	

APPROVAL/ ADDRESS CERTIFICATES

		AYE	NAY
	RICHARD JEFFREY	X	
AMENDED__2026_ YR	KEVIN BAXTER	X	
	CALEB STIDHAM	X	

FOR ENTITIES: Erie County,City of Sandusky, and MetroParks.

TOPIC: School discussions 9 am to 2:30

Edison Schools: Present Corey Ream Superintendent and Stephanie Hannah Treasurer
Ms. Hannah presented their 5 year forcast and continued into a discussion of pending house bills that would potentially cause future budget issues. It has been 13 years since they asked for a Levy.
Nexus pipeline dollars make the district look more wealthy at the state level than they are which decreases their state funding. The Piggyback has lost them approximately $243,000 and they expect the revenue to drop over the next 5 years with 2027 showing a negative cash balance and deficit spending.
Mr. Ream noted facility plans for a one campus solutioin that will be on the ballot soon. Part will be cofunded by the state. Current Capital budget will be partly used by roofing project.
Discussion continues with all present about enrollment declining, but steady with 50-60% of the Junior and Senior students going into Vocational School or College Credit Plus options.
Their carryover is below 25% and all current levies will be due between now and 2029.
Discussion of HB 86 as well as the need to keep lines of communicaiton open were noted.
The Commission thanked Mr. Ream and Ms. Hannah for coming today.

EHOVE: Present were Tim Coleman Treasurer, Chris McCully Superintendent, Paul Lockwood- Bd President
Mr. Coleman discussed the effect of the current legislations, the piggyback loss of $220,000 and the 2 mil floor.
He discussed their current large scale building project. 90% needs to be bid out yet and they will be including a 7% inflation increase in the estimate.
Mr. McCully noted a fear of the unknown built into the calculation. There will be 4 new high school and 2 new adult education programs.
Mr. Jeffrey discussed the legislature pending house bills as well as levies to go back on the ballot since EHOVE is in multiple counties and the cost that that will require for them.
Mr. McCully noted the project completion is set for 12/2029.
Mr. Lockwood noted that enrollmnent has been steady with an expectation of increase once project complete.
Mr. McCully noted that you cannot compare Career Tech schools to K-12 schools. Costs for programs and labs can go into the millions of dollars. Currently also have 600 enrolled in the adult education program.
The Commission thanked all who came today to discuss this information.

Huron Schools- Present were Mike Limberios, Treasurer, James Tatman Superintendent, Jude Hammond Board member.
Mr. Jeffrey welcomed and introduced the board present. Mr. Limberios then went over the five year forcast.
Mr. Hammond noted that the Facilities are the challenge and trying to stay off the ballot, with levies expiring in 2028 and 2030. They are operating with 100 days true cash carryover. Mr. Tatman noted the forecast may also change as the piggyback and the possility of voted levies change.
Facilities discussion continued, plans are being discussed to eliminate a possible building due to enrollment, working with other local entities to discuss options.
Mr. Limberios noted the Capital fund is currently 5.8 mil with 1.2 in transfer and the PI fund is 3.4 mil. The roof replacement is needed and will use part of these funds.
Mr. Baxter asked about enrollment. Mr. Tatman noted it is down with 80-90 students per grade with a low of 56 in the current kindergarden class.
Mr. Hammond talked about short term rentals taking over and the lack of family homes for students to live in the district as well as College Credit Plus and EHOVE taking students.
Mr. Jeffrey thanked all who came today to discuss the information as well as talked about current legislation that may affect them going forward.

Margaretta Schools- Present were Keegan Hall, Treasurer, Ed Kurt, Superintendent and Diane Keegan, previous treasurer and financial conselor.
Mr. Jeffrey introduced the board as well as welcoming them to discuss their current budget plans.
Mr. Kurt noted the last operating levy was in 2010 and they were also a Nexus recipient which will be used for their Facility plan, which is currently being built on land purchased back in 1968. The plan was to use 75% of the Nexus revenue towards the building, but operating budget is short, so money is also going there.
Due to multiple delays and inflation, the project went from 49.1 to 67.3 million. 50% of the construction is complete and January 2027 there should be kids in the building.
Mr. Hall presented their 5 year forcast. Ms. Keegan noted the budget would be very tight as the state owes for part of the facility and reimbursement will not occur until completed and when the state disburses it for the ELP program.
Mr. Stidham asked if the money from the solar project would cover some of the loss, Mr Kurt said not the case.
Discussion continued about the facilities, pool and high school gym area and current leases on other buildings. Mr. Stidham asked about EHOVE expansion and if that would hurt Margaretta Schools.
Mr. Kurt agreed that it would as they have dropping enrollment, sharing staffing may be a possibility.
Mr. Jeffrey thanked all present.

Sandusky Schools- Present were Yvonne Anderson, Treasurer and Margaret Murray, Board Member
Mr. Jeffrey introduced the board present and asked them to discuss their current budget situation.
Ms. Anderson presented her 5 year forcast and noted they are deficit spending and in 2029 they will be in fiscal emergency. Sandusky Schools has a unique situation with class sizes and student needs. Their Special Education costs are tremendous as well as therapy costs, IAP's and the loss of federal funding has caused their general fund to pay for these state required services. She noted some declining enrollment- average 2900-3000 students. Staffing is cut by attrition and reviewed yearly.
Mr. Stidham asked if there was legislative impact. Ms. Anderson noted the piggyback cost them $500,000 and the 1.5 Mil levy no longer covers their costs. They are evaluating a levy.
Ms. Murray discussed federal funds and the fluctuation with fair school funding with the enrollment decrease.
Discussion of Charter Schools and the loss to school districts and costs they must incur that is a hardship.
Mr. Jeffrey thanked all present and discussed current legislation and it's effect going forward

Vermilion Schools- Present Justin Klingshirn, Treasurer and Wes Weaver, Superintendent
Mr. Jeffrey introduced the board present and talked about the importance of this meeting.
Mr. Klingshirn discussed his 5 year forecast. He noted current cash on hand is 160 days. They have a 4.25 Mil renewal levy to go on the ballot. Current debt of 1.2 Million paid by general fund
Current Facilities issues include a roof, HVAC, Water line replacement and Electrical updates.
Salaries have increased 3% but a possible salary freeze and staff elimination will occur.
Revenue loss has been $500,000 due to the piggyback.
Discussion continued about enrollment decline, the Waterwood development TIF as well as current legislation and items that will affect the budget going forward.
Mr. Jeffrey thanked all present and recessed the meeting at noon to begin again at 1:30 PM

Kelleys Island Schools- Present were Betty Schwiefert, Treasurer and Ben Ohlemacher, Superintendent
Mr. Jeffrey introduced the board and discussed the purpose of the meeting.
Mr. Ohlemacher discussed the uniqueness of the Kelleys Island School district noting they take care of the kids of Kelleys Island as well as the Kelleys Island kids that may visit. They have a building built in 1901 as well as a building built in 2000. Both of which have required facility updates. Capital projects have included redoing parking lots, replacing the flat roof on the gym, replacing the library roof- which is part of the Sandusky Library program, and a basement update. This year they are evaluating fire escapes, play ground equipment, and the pavilion used for Science Saturday throughout the year. Over 1500-2000 kids go through the facility with the summer camps, school field trips and visits. They are proactive looking at their needs.
Even though they can collect 12 Mil, they use 4 Mil. They group kids when they can and also have Gym passes and a community Garden for all of the residents to use.
Ms. Schweifert noted current enrollment and that they are responsible for open enrollment costs to other areas.
Mr. Stidham commended them for their good stewardship.
Discussion continued about school funding issues and that consolidation limits local residents representation.
We must find a way to improve school funding as well as decrease tax burdens on residents.
Mr. Jeffrey thanked all present.

Perkins Local School District- Present Betty Schwiefert, Acting Treasurer and Lonny Rivera, Superintendent
Ms.Schwiefert discussed the aging school buildings as well as the HVAC system needing a $10,000,000 update. Staffing is reviewed before replacing and all expenses are evaluated. Grants are sought when possible. Enrollment is decreasing, currently 1817.
Discussion Continued about the College Credit Plus program, University of Findlay courses on campus and the effect of EHOVE in the loss of students.
Mr. Chris Gasteier previous principal noted students could get their Associate degree from BGSU before graduation.

Public Discussion:
Mndy Kayl, Candidate for County Commissioner had questions about documentation of number of residents struggling to pay taxes. Mr. Stidham noted he gets many calls to his office and can provide forclosure numbers. She also quesioned if the Vacation Rental nomey goes to schools. Mr. Stidham noted that they must be used per ORC for tourism and most recent changes, for public safety. She also questioned if there was a list of all business's that get a tax break. Mr. Jeffrey noted that each entity can do their own TIF contracts.

Discussion continued about the Data Center in Perkins Township and the loss of revenue due to their decision to provide the TIF.

Discussion ended with HB 186 discussion regarding continuing levies and the cost to put them on the ballot increasing for all school districts.

Also present and not documented above include Beth Ferback and Melissa Price from Erie Metroparks.

Mr. Baxter moved and Mr. Stidham seconded to

Adjourn the meeting at: 2:33 PM

	AYE	NAY
RICHARD JEFFREY	X	
KEVIN BAXTER	X	
CALEB STIDHAM	X	