

NOVEMBER 13 MEETING SUMMARY

Provided by Stephanie Oppegard, Neptune Business Administrator

On November 13, 2025, Neptune Township, the Neptune Township School District, the Governor's Office, and members of the LD11 Senate and Assembly team met to discuss the district's ongoing financial challenges and the collaborative steps being taken to ensure strong educational outcomes for students. The discussion focused on both immediate fiscal pressures and long-term planning.

Several key factors were discussed and continue to shape this work:

- **Sale of Surplus Property:** Under state regulations, if a Schools Development Authority (SDA) district sells surplus property that is not being replaced under an SDA grant agreement, proceeds—pending approval from the Director of the Division of Budget & Accounting—must be used either to support capital maintenance or school facilities projects within the district (aligned with the district's Long-Range Facilities Plan) or returned to the SDA for use on district projects.
- **Revisions to the school funding formula:** The LD11 lawmakers are sponsoring legislation aimed at improving the reliability, equity, and transparency of the school funding formula, which would help eliminate drastic year-over-year reductions to the district.

Ongoing Research and Cost-Savings Efforts

To address these financial realities responsibly, Superintendent Dr. Crader launched four administrative working groups at the start of the school year. Each group is conducting a comprehensive review of potential cost savings and revenue opportunities, focusing on:

1. Financial Impact of Reconfiguration, Consolidation, and Property Lease/Sale — including personnel, facilities, and transportation.
2. Cost Savings Through Negotiations — examining contractual efficiencies.
3. Cost Savings in Program Delivery — reviewing instructional models, scheduling, and resource allocation.
4. Revenue Generation — identifying new and sustainable revenue opportunities.

This work reflects both a deep dive into previously considered ideas and the exploration of new strategies designed to strengthen district finances while maintaining high-quality instruction.

Next Steps

Neptune Township will continue evaluating the working groups' findings and broadening stakeholder engagement. A larger meeting—including community representatives and local leaders—is planned for January, where recommendations and potential next steps will be shared and discussed collaboratively.