

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MAY 8, 2024

The regular meeting of the Freeport Area School District Board of School Directors scheduled for 7:00 pm in the Auditorium of the Freeport Area High School, 625 South Pike Road, Sarver, Pennsylvania, was called to order by Mr. Gary Risch, Jr., Board President, at 7:06 p.m.

Roll call:

Ms. Davies	Present
Mr. DiGiacobbe	Present
Mr. Haven	Present
Mr. Huth	Present
Ms. Maxwell	Present
Mr. Risch	Present
Mr. Ritter	Present
Mr. Selinger	Present
Ms. Zembrzusi	Present

Student school board members:

Madalin Burnheimer	Present
Sylvia Crytzer	Present
Kodi Esau	Absent
Aven Heavner	Present
Anne Lindsay	Absent
Emma Michelini	Absent

Administrators present were Mr. Magness, Superintendent; Mr. Robb, Program Director; and Mr. Walker, Director of Finance and Operations. Also participating was District solicitor Mr. Matthew Hoffman.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr. Risch welcomed members of the public and asked for comments on any agenda item. No public comments were offered.

Reports

1. It was moved by Mr. Haven, and seconded by Mr. Huth, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 10, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.
2. The Board Secretary reported that the Board met as follows since the last report to the Board at the Regular Meeting on April 10, 2024: The Board met in Executive Session on May 1, 2024, to discuss Safety and Security, Personnel, Legal Matters, and Confidential Student Matters. The Board held a Committee Meeting on May 1, 2024. The Board met in Executive Session on May 8, 2024, to discuss Personnel, Legal Matters, Contracts and Negotiations, and Confidential Student Matters.

3. During the Board's May 1, 2024, Committee Meeting, Mr. Walker presented his 2024-2025 Preliminary Budget Update and a Building Project Financing Update.
4. Nicholas Smith, District Band Director, made a presentation to the Board regarding new marching band uniforms.
5. Mr. Risch thanked everyone for reviewing and commenting on the District feasibility study presented at the April 8, 2024, meeting. He reported that Freeport Borough Council was initiating a junior council member program similar to the Board's student school board member program.
6. Mr. Huth reported that Lenape Technical School's Joint Operating Committee would be meeting the following week.
7. Mr. Haven and Ms. Maxwell presented the Legislative Committee's report.
8. Ms. Zembruski reported that the Freeport Area School District Foundation would be meeting the following week.
9. The Student School Board Members presented their reports to the Board.

Personnel

It was moved by Mr. Haven, and seconded by Mr. DiGiacobbe,

- a. To accept the resignation of Julie M. Domhoff, part time Cafeteria Worker, effective May 3, 2024.
- b. To accept the resignation of Victoria P. Beuth, part time Cafeteria Worker, effective May 30, 2024.
- c. To accept the resignation of Kari A. Freshcorn, part time Cafeteria Worker, effective May 30, 2024.
- d. To accept the resignation of Lee A. Johnston, Educational Assistant, effective May 30, 2024.
- e. To accept the resignation of Jennifer L. Acierno, School Nurse Assistant, effective May 31, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Selinger, and seconded by Ms. Davies,

- f. To approve the employment of Cristy J. Flemm as a full time Custodian, at an hourly wage rate of \$15.50, effective May 31, 2024, and contingent on satisfactory completion of all pre-employment requirements.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Haven, and seconded by Ms. DiGiacobbe,

- g. To accept the resignation of Cristy J. Flemm, Educational Assistant, effective May 31, 2024.
- h. To accept the resignation of Dennis P. Crissman, Custodian, effective July 31, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Selinger, and seconded by Ms. Zembrzuski,

- i. To approve the request of Employee No. 1093 for Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave.
- j. To approve the request of Employee No. 1765 for Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave.
- k. To approve the request of Employee No. 2058 for Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Haven, and seconded by Ms. Maxwell,

- l. To approve the employment of Matthew J. Wallisch as an intern with the District's information technology group, at an hourly wage rate of \$7.25, effective June 3, 2024, through August 15, 2024, with approval contingent on satisfactory completion of all pre-employment requirements.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Ms. Davies, and seconded by Mr. DiGiacobbe,

- m. To approve the employment of Paxton H. Mentnech, Christy D. Gregori, and Mylee O. Sikorski as full time Teachers, each at an annual salary of \$46,000, effective August 16, 2024, and contingent on satisfactory completion of all pre-employment requirements.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Ms. Davies, and seconded by Mr. DiGiacobbe,

- n. To accept the resignation of Christy D. Gregori, Educational Assistant, effective August 16, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Huth, and seconded by Ms. Davies,

- o. To approve the employment of the paid and volunteer individuals listed on the attachment for the District's 2024-2025 Athletics Programs, with salaries in accordance with contracted terms of remuneration approved by the Board and contingent on satisfactory completion of all pre-employment requirements.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Haven, and seconded by Ms. Maxwell,

- p. To approve the employment of the paid and volunteer individuals listed on the attachment for the District's 2024-2025 Extracurricular Programs, with salaries in accordance with contracted terms of remuneration approved by the Board and contingent on satisfactory completion of all pre-employment requirements.

Motion carried unanimously.

Curriculum and Technology

It was moved by Mr. DiGiacobbe, and seconded by Mr. Selinger,

- a. To adopt the revised High School Programs of Study for the 2024-2025 school year, with changes as provided on the attachment and subject to change at Administration's discretion.
- b. To approve the attached Site-Based Learning Affiliation Agreement with Capella University, establishing guidelines for the cooperative provision of internship and practicum experiences at District schools, effective April 15, 2024, and renewing annually thereafter, at no cost to the District.

Motion carried unanimously.

Athletics and Activities

It was moved by Mr. Huth, and seconded by Mr. Haven,

- a. To approve a High School student field trip described on the attachment, to attend the 2024 PJAS State Meeting in State College, Pennsylvania, from May 19 to May 21, 2024, at a cost to the District of \$420 plus the cost of two substitute educational assistants for two days.
- b. To approve a High School student field trip described on the attachment, to attend the 2024 U.S. High School Bowling National Championships in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, from June 7 to June 10, 2024, at no cost to the District.

- c. To approve pay rates for officials and athletic-event workers as listed on the attachment, effective July 1, 2024.
- d. To approve the request of Thomas D. Koharchik, High School Musical Advisor, for approval of the 2024-2025 High School student productions of:
 - a fall musical: *9 to 5*
 - a spring musical: *Les Miserables* (school edition)
- e. To approve the request of Thomas D. Koharchik, Middle School Dramatics Advisor, for approval of the 2024-2025 Middle School student production of:
 - a musical: *Frozen, Jr.*
- f. To approve the request of Robert W. Harris, Buffalo Elementary School Musical Director, for approval of the 2024-2025 student production of:
 - a musical: *Wizard of Oz, Youth Edition*

Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

It was moved by Ms. Maxwell, and seconded by Ms. Zembrzuski,

- a. To elect Michael J. Huth as School District Treasurer for the 2024-2025 school year, effective July 1, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Huth, and seconded by Mr. DiGiacobbe,

- b. To approve the District's continuing membership in the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA), at a cost of \$13,172.16 for the 2024-2025 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Ms. Davies, and seconded by Mr. Huth,

- c. To appoint Sylvia R. Maxwell as the Board's Voting Delegate to the PSBA 2024 Delegate Assembly to be held on November 2, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Selinger, and seconded by Ms. Zembrzuski,

- d. To approve the attached Letter of Agreement setting forth the District's roles and responsibilities under the Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) Program, for the 2024-2025 school year.
- e. To approve the proposed budget of the Lenape Technical School for the 2024-2025 school year, as presented on the attachment.
- f. To approve W. L. Roenigk to provide student transportation services for the summer 2024 program as listed on the attachment.
- g. To approve the award of student accident insurance coverage for the 2024-2025 school year to AXIS Insurance Company, through Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., at no cost to the District.
- h. To approve the attached Attachment A to the District's Day Student Education Agreement dated May 1, 2023, with Glade Run Lutheran Services, dba St. Stephen's Lutheran Academy and St. Stephen's Academy Utica (St. Stephen's), providing for enrollment of a resident student in St. Stephen's Enhanced Education Program during the 2023-2024 school year, at a daily rate of \$213.92.
- i. To approve the attached Attachment A to the District's Full-Time Special Education Placement Agreement dated October 11, 2023, with Hope Academy, providing for enrollment of a resident student in Hope Academy's Extended School Year Program in accordance with the student's IEP, at a cost of \$12,000.
- j. To approve an agreement with Pittsburgh Behavioral Services, Inc., for educational services to be provided to a District resident student in an extended school year program in accordance with the student's IEP, for up to a total of 59 hours from May 31, 2024, through July 26, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$72.13.
- k. To approve the participation of a resident student in The Watson Institute/Sharpsburg Campus's extended school year program, in accordance with the student's IEP, from July 10, 2024, through July 26, 2024, at a cost of \$3,150.
- l. To approve the participation of a resident student in The Watson Institute/Sewickley Campus's extended school year program, in accordance with the student's IEP, from July 10, 2024, through July 26, 2024, at a cost not to exceed \$3,675.

- m. To approve the participation of a resident student in DePaul School for Hearing & Speech's extended school year program, in accordance with the student's IEP, from July 1, 2024, through July 25, 2024, at a cost of \$3,200.
- n. To approve the attached Agreement with MHY Family Services for extended school year educational services to be provided to resident students in accordance with the students' IEPs, from June 10, 2024, through July 12, 2024, at the daily rates of \$176 for Special Education Students and \$247.50 for Life Skills/Autistic Support Students.
- o. To approve an agreement with the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children, for educational services to be provided to two District resident students in an extended school year program, in accordance with the students' IEPs, from July 8, 2024, through July 25, 2024, at a cost to the District of \$4,200 per student.
- p. To approve an agreement with the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, for educational services to be provided to a District resident student in an extended school year program in accordance with the student's IEP, from July 8, 2024, through July 25, 2024, at a cost to the District of \$1,800.
- q. To approve the attached agreement with Adelphoi Education, Inc., for education services to be provided during the 2024-2025 school year, at the following daily rates: one (1) guaranteed seat reserved at a rate of \$97.27 for regular education or \$115.49 for special education and any additional seats at a rate of \$101.18 each for regular education and \$118.95 each for special education.
- r. To approve the attached Day Student Education Agreement with Glade Run Lutheran Services, dba St. Stephens Lutheran Academy and St. Stephens Academy Utica, for educational services to be provided during the 2024-2025 school year, at the rates listed on Attachment A to the Agreement.
- s. To approve the attached Services Agreement with The Day School in Pittsburgh (The Day School at The Children's Institute) for educational services to be provided to resident students whose IEPs provide for alternative educational placements, for a term from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, with fees as provided on Exhibit A to the Agreement.
- t. To approve the attached Agreement with UPMC Children's Community Pediatrics, for School District Physician services described in the Agreement, to be provided from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, at a cost of \$6,000.
- u. To approve the attached PowerSchool proposal for Headed2 Software license and subscription fees, for the period from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, at a cost of \$3,986.82.

- v. To approve the attached PowerSchool proposal for Schoology Learning Management System license and subscription fees, for the period from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, at a cost of \$11,988.
- w. To approve the attached Agreement for Computer Services with Government Software Services, Inc., for data processing services to be provided from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026, with fees as provided in Paragraph 5 of the Agreement.
- x. To approve the attached request for proposals for Band Uniforms and the attached bid notice.
- y. To approve the attached Easement Agreement with West Penn Power Company and the attached Customer's Statement of Compliance.
- z. To accept a Pennsylvania Department of Education Office of Safe Schools Grant in the amount of \$50,000 to be used for the District's safety and security equipment and program development.
- aa. To accept a Pennsylvania Department of Education Office of Safe Schools Grant in the amount of \$46,150 to be used for the District's school police officer contract costs.
- bb. To accept a \$2,100 grant from Capit Learning to be used to purchase literacy instructional materials for South Buffalo Elementary School.
- cc. To accept the DonorsChoose.org donation for the Freeport Area Middle School Project: "Promoting Reading in Middle School" described on the attachment (Total Project Cost \$399.10).
- dd. To approve a Stipulated Adjudication for Student A, as recommended by Administration.
- ee. To approve a Stipulated Adjudication for Student B, as recommended by Administration.

Motion carried unanimously.

Finance

Mr. Walker provided an overview of the attached Finance Report.

It was moved by Mr. Huth, and seconded by Mr. Selinger,

- a. To approve the attached April 2024 financial reports.
- b. To approve the bills for payment listed on the attachments.
- c. To approve the attached list of budgetary transfers.

- d. To accept the following estimated funds for the 2024-2025 school year:

IDEA-B	\$ 290,000
Title I	\$ 194,493
Title II A	\$ 33,930
Title IV	\$ 15,352

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Ms. Maxwell, and seconded by Mr. DiGiacobbe,

- e. To approve the proposed Final Budget of the School District for the 2024-2025 fiscal year on form PDE-2028 as presented on the attachment, *but modified to reflect a 0% millage increase for Butler County and a 13.07% millage decrease for Armstrong County*, and to make the proposed Final Budget available for public inspection.

Roll call vote requested. Roll call vote:

Ms. Davies	<u>No</u>
Mr. DiGiacobbe	<u>Yes</u>
Mr. Haven	<u>No</u>
Mr. Huth	<u>No</u>
Ms. Maxwell	<u>Yes</u>
Mr. Ritter	<u>Yes</u>
Mr. Selinger	<u>No</u>
Ms. Zembrzuski	<u>No</u>
Mr. Risch	<u>No</u>

The motion *did not carry* on a vote of three (3) to six (6).

It was moved by Mr. Huth, and seconded by Mr. Selinger,

- e. To approve the proposed Final Budget of the School District for the 2024-2025 fiscal year on form PDE-2028 as presented on the attachment and to make the proposed Final Budget available for public inspection.

Roll call vote requested. Roll call vote:

Ms. Davies	<u>Yes</u>
Mr. DiGiacobbe	<u>No</u>
Mr. Haven	<u>No</u>
Mr. Huth	<u>No</u>
Ms. Maxwell	<u>No</u>
Mr. Ritter	<u>No</u>
Mr. Selinger	<u>Yes</u>
Ms. Zembrzuski	<u>Yes</u>
Mr. Risch	<u>Yes</u>

The motion *did not carry* on a vote of four (4) to five (5).

It was moved by Mr. Huth, and seconded by Mr. Selinger,

- e. To approve the proposed Final Budget of the School District for the 2024-2025 fiscal year on form PDE-2028 as presented on the attachment and to make the proposed Final Budget available for public inspection.

Roll call vote requested. Roll call vote:

Ms. Davies	<u>Yes</u>
Mr. DiGiacobbe	<u>No</u>
Mr. Haven	<u>No</u>
Mr. Huth	<u>Yes</u>
Ms. Maxwell	<u>No</u>
Mr. Ritter	<u>No</u>
Mr. Selinger	<u>Yes</u>
Ms. Zembrzuski	<u>Yes</u>
Mr. Risch	<u>Yes</u>

The motion *carried* on a vote of five (5) to four (4).

It was moved by Mr. Huth, and seconded by Mr. Selinger,

- f. To direct the Board Secretary to advertise display of the 2024-2025 Preliminary Proposed Budget twenty (20) days in advance of the Final Budget adoption and to advertise the Final Budget Notice in substantially the form as presented on the attachment in a newspaper of general circulation at least ten (10) days before the date scheduled for final adoption of the Final Budget and to post the Notice conspicuously at the School District offices.

Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meetings

Mr. Risch announced that the Board would hold a Committee Meeting on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at 7:00 pm and a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 7:00 pm, in the High School Audion.

Comments from the Public

Jodi Parker of Buffalo Township and Suzanne Conger of Freeport Borough each commented on the District's budget and the cost of employee healthcare. Miranda Vironi commented on the District's membership in the Pennsylvania School Boards Association and the benefits of that membership. Dan Lucovich of Buffalo Township commented on the proposed adjustments to real estate tax rates for Buffalo and South Buffalo township residents.

Comments from the School Directors

Mr. DiGiacobbe congratulated Mr. Magness and his staff on the grant awards approved under meeting agenda items 7.z. and 7.aa. Ms. Davies requested that Mr. Haven and Ms. Maxwell petition the state legislators to honor their promises to afford residents real estate tax relief in regard to school funding.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Selinger, and seconded by Mr. DiGiacobbe, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Risch declared the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

/s/ Gary L. Risch, Jr.
Board President

/s/ Mary Dobransky
Board Secretary