

Freeburg Elementary School  
Monday, February 26, 2024  
7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Education for Freeburg Community Consolidated School District No. 70 was held on Monday, February 26, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria at Freeburg Elementary School.

### **Call to Order**

Mrs. Foppe called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call of the members.

### **Roll Call**

In addition to Mrs. Foppe, board members Jamie Smith, Ed Scheibel, Jayson Baker, Amber Trout, David Stein, and Bill May were in attendance. Also in attendance were Dr. Melanie Brink, Superintendent and Mark Janssen, Financial Officer and Recording Secretary. Principal Tiffany Zurliene was present. Board attorney Heidi Eckert was also present.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Board and public stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Visitors**

Visitors to the meeting included district staff Carrie Green, Jennifer Scheuchner, Mike Joseph, Jodi Goodnight, Ashley Krakosky, Shannon Petty, Jennifer Hopfinger, Nicole Mueller, Cory Lawrence, Emily Vasquez, and Rachael Stehl. Also in attendance were Amber Lonsdale, Chris Hopfinger, Danita Duecker, Aaron Keistler from FGM Architects, Sheila Tewell, Eric Vaquez, and Roger Skaer.

Moved: Amber Trout

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

### **A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

- MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 22, 2024 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND FEBRUARY 1, 2024 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING
- INVESTMENT SUMMARY THROUGH FEBRUARY 23, 2024
- BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2024

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 7-aye, 0-nay.

### **Approval of the Bills**

Moved: Jamie Smith

Seconded: Amber Trout

### **A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE BILLS, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

AYES: Smith, Scheibel, Baker, Trout, May, Foppe

NAYS: Stein

Motion Carried

### **Reports of Standing Committees**

The Personnel Committee met on February 1. The Board will be updated on that meeting later in open and closed session.

## **Reports of Special Committees**

### **Petitions/Communications**

There were seven Freedom of Information Act requests. They were:

1. A request from Amber Lonsdale seeking copies of previous FOIAs from “Concerned Citizens of Freeburg” and David Stein. This request was filled within the five-day time period.
2. A request from Amber Lonsdale seeking a copy of a FOIA from the Freeburg Elementary Teachers’ Association. This request was filled within the five-day time period.
3. A request from David Stein seeking records of email originating from or sent to the email domain of @nara.gov. This request proved to be too voluminous, so a request was sent for him to narrow the scope of his request. No subsequent request was received.
4. A request from Amber Lonsdale seeking additional records from a previous FOIA from “Concerned Citizens of Freeburg”. The request was filled after a five-day extension.
5. A request was received from SmartProcure seeking all purchasing information since November 15, 2023. This request was filled within the five-day time period.
6. A request from “Concerned Citizens of Freeburg” seeking all litigation costs associated with David Stein. This request is still in process but will be filled within the five-day time period.
7. A request from Garrett Hoerner requesting various communications to and/or from Jayson Baker and two other employees. This request is still in process as it was received on Friday.

### **Public Participation**

The Board welcomed the public to the meeting. Eric Vasquez addressed the Board regarding previous concerns brought to the Board’s attention and a communication over the weekend.

### **Superintendent’s Report**

Dr. Brink asked the Board to think about the possibility of adding a Student Resource Officer. This was broached during the Personnel Committee meeting earlier this month. The Board will weigh this at the March meeting.

Dr. Brink reminded parents our district will be in session on March 19. Freeburg High School will be eLearning due to their school being a polling place. Our district will be in-person learning that day.

Dr. Brink reported current enrollment stands at 780 students.

Mr. Scheibel gave an update from the Illinois Association of School Boards. There are upcoming trainings for administrators centering on board meeting preparation. The meeting times and dates can be found on the IASB website.

Mr. Janssen gave a general outline of the particulars of the One-Cent County Facilities Sales Tax being considered by school districts in the county. This tax offers a consistent revenue stream in lieu of property taxes. In short, it’s projected to generate approximately \$600,000 per year. Some uses of funds include new buildings, renovations, roofs, parking lots, and possibly SROs and Mental Health Professionals, to name a few.

An important component of success is our ability to communicate our needs and how we intend to use these dollars if it passes. Some ideas and needs the district has are:

1. Reduce taxes.
2. Aging roofs at Primary Center and Elementary School
3. Aging HVACs at the Elementary School.
4. Deteriorating sidewalks
5. Non-ADA compliant restrooms
6. SRO/Mental Health Professionals (if ballot is worded as such)

These are just a few ideas. Mr. Janssen believes it will be important to engage staff and stakeholders to identify priorities.

Mr. Janssen presented five-year financial projections on the three main operating funds for the district. In short, the district continues to do its part in controlling expenses. The financial footing of the Education Fund has greatly improved over the past two years. The Building Fund is showing signs of strain while the Transportation Fund continues to be on a very solid footing. The Board continues to monitor expenditures very well. To illustrate, Mr. Janssen noted discretionary spending in the Education Fund has increased on average just 1.77% over the past 18 years. The complete report can be found in the addenda.

Board member May stated he has received feedback from parents expressing a desire to have a few traditional snow days when school is called off for inclement weather. For example, instead of each snow day being an eLearning day, he proposed setting aside the first or first two days being traditional snow days. Board member Stein agreed it may not be a bad idea. Mr. Janssen responded that whatever is decided will need to be agreed upon with the teachers. He also stated staying on the same schedule with the High School is beneficial and there is worry about confusion with parents if some days will be eLearning and others are not. This issue will be revisited this summer.

Mrs. Zurliene presented the Principal's Report for the Primary Center. Upcoming Events/Dates:

- Thank you to Stephanie Lysakowski for her generous donation to the Primary Center.
- PC Dances took place this past weekend and were well attended. Kudos to all involved with the planning and preparation for these events, especially Mrs. Ketchum and Mrs. Gagen.
  - Also want give credit to the following Student Council students for their help at the dances:
    - Will Cook
    - Finnley Gagen
    - Mila Jarvis
    - Zoey Smith
    - Baleyn Vasquez
  - Zoey and Baleyn helped both nights. We were short-staffed on Saturday and couldn't have done it without them. They each ran a craft room on their own.
- March 7 - PreK Field trip to Flip & Play
- March 20 & 22 - PreK Screenings, there will be no PreK classes on those days.
- Spring Break March 25- April 1

Mrs. Zurliene presented the Principal's Report for the Elementary School. Upcoming Events/Dates:

- Grades 3 & 4 celebrated Valentine's Day with fun grade level celebrations.
- Students that earned Straight As for Quarter 2 in grades 7th & 8th got to attend McLimo on Tuesday.
- IAR Testing will be March 14, 15, 18, 19, and 20th.

## **Old Business**

## **New Business**

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Bill May

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE 2024-2025 DISTRICT CALENDAR, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 7-aye, 0-nay.

Moved: Jamie Smith

Seconded: Amber Trout

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE BID FROM WWCS, INC. FOR \$80,124 FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE EXTERIOR DOORS IN THE 1996 ADDITION.**

AYES: Smith, Scheibel, Baker, Trout, Stein, May, Foppe

Motion Carried

Moved: David Stein

Seconded: Jamie Smith

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO CREATE A FULL-TIME DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES POSITION, EFFECTIVE WITH THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR.**

AYES: Smith, Scheibel, Baker, Trout, Stein, May, Foppe

Motion Carried

Moved: Amber Trout

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE THE DATE OF THE MARCH BOARD MEETING FROM MARCH 25 TO MARCH 11.**

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 7-aye, 0-nay.

Moved: Jamie Smith

Seconded: Bil May

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT FROM ST. CLAIR SERVICE FOR GASOLINE AT \$3.083/GALLON AND \$3.46/GALLON FOR DIESEL FUEL FROM MARCH 1, 2024 – NOVEMBER 30, 2024, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

AYES: Smith, Scheibel, Baker, Trout, Stein, May, Foppe

Motion Carried

Moved: Amber Trout

Seconded: Bill May

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE 1<sup>ST</sup> READING OF A BOARD POLICY REVISION, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 7-aye, 0-nay.

Moved: Bill May

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:40 PM TO CONSIDER:**

**THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES OF THE DISTRICT INCLUDING HEARING TESTIMONY ON A COMPLAINT LODGED AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE. 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1); AND**

**LITIGATION, WHEN AN ACTION AGAINST, AFFECTING OR ON BEHALF OF THE PARTICULAR DISTRICT HAS BEEN FILED AND IS PENDING BEFORE A COURT OR ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL, OR WHEN THE DISTRICT FINDS THAT AN ACTION IS PROBABLE OR IMMINENT, IN WHICH CASE THE BASIS FOR THE FINDING SHALL BE RECORDED AND ENTERED INTO THE CLOSED MEETING MINUTES. 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(11)**

AYES: Smith, Scheibel, Baker, Trout, Stein, May, Foppe  
Motion Carried

Moved: Bill May

Seconded: Jayson Baker

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION AT 10:16 PM.**

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 7-aye, 0-nay.

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Jamie Smith

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM ASHLYN BIRCH AS CHEERLEADING COACH.**

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 7-aye, 0-nay.

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Bill May

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST FROM TEACHER ELIZABETH THOEL FROM APPROXIMATELY APRIL 18, 2024 UNTIL THE END OF THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 7-aye, 0-nay.

Moved: Jayson Baker

Seconded: Jamie Smith

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY REAGAN BIRKNER AS ASSISTANT TRACK COACH, AS PRESENTED.**

AYES: Smith, Scheibel, Baker, Trout, Stein, May, Foppe  
Motion Carried

### **Other Business**

### **Adjournment**

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Jayson Baker

There being no further business to come before this body, **A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:21 P.M.**

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 7-aye, 0-nay.

Michelle Foppe, President  
Board of Education, Dist. #70

Jamie Smith, Secretary  
Board of Education, Dist. # 70