

Freeburg Elementary School
Wednesday, August 2, 2023
6:00 p.m.

A special meeting of the Board of Education for Freeburg Community Consolidated School District No. 70 was held on Wednesday, August 2, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Freeburg Elementary School Cafeteria.

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 also in attendance. Also in attendance were Dr. Melanie Brink, Superintendent and Mark Janssen, Financial Officer and Recording Secretary. Board attorney Heidi Eckert was also present.

Visitors

Visitors to the meeting included district staff Rachael Stehl, Jodi Goodnight, Shauna Blair, Courtney Maisel, Michelle Freebairn, Paula Mullins, Jenny Hummert, Chelsi Lloyd, Nicole Mueller, Marc Derwort, Ben Junge, Theresa Goscinski, Kaitlin Becker, Jennifer Scheuchner, Ashley Krakosky, Jane Range, Emily Vasquez, Renee Graul, Jekyel Schulz, Scott Schulz, Fritz Holcomb, Leah Beth Black, Abby Vosse, Daralynn Gross, Cory Lawrence, Angie Cooper, Amanda Diefenbach, Jennifer Hopfinger, Carrie Green, Lauren Baker, Gina Heiligenstein, Abbey Payne, Michelle Rogers, Natasha Tucker, and Brendan Havel. Also in attendance were Danita Duecker, Ryan Wittenauer, Gary Henning, Sheila Tewell, Brad Goodnight, Theodore Mueller, Amber Lonsdale, Tara Lauf, Joshua Lauf, Karen Fellows, Robin Skaer, Roger Skaer, Angie Beck, Jenny Patterson, Jamie Wheeler, Derrick Green, DeeDee Ross, Renee Wittenauer, Andrea Reynolds, Ryan Burton, Amanda Glander, Kelley Hotz, Stephanie Combs, Bethany Smith, James Smith, Donna Kisgen, Ben Belding, George Lawler, and Tiffany Smoker.

Public Participation

Sheila Tewell addressed the Board in support of Dr. Brink. She stated she has done a great job and being an administrator is difficult enough without having to deal with all of the turmoil she has dealt with.

Amber Lonsdale addressed the Board in support of Mr. Baker. She stated he has the district's best interests in mind. She wished Dr. Brink well in her next role.

Gary Henning addressed the Board stating he is a long-time resident of Freeburg. He is proud of Freeburg and hates seeing what has happened to Dr. Brink. He is also concerned about the recent increased turnover in administration. He wished Dr. Brink well and expressed his support.

Cory Lawrence addressed the Board in support of Dr. Brink. He stated he has never felt more supported than he is now. He believes the district is losing an outstanding Superintendent who cares about students and staff.

Jennifer Hopfinger addressed the Board in support of Dr. Brink. She is a long-time resident of Freeburg and takes pride in our community. She is disappointed the district is losing an administrator who gives so much time and attention to the students and staff of the district.

Ben Belding addressed the Board stating having differing opinions is good for productive discussions. He believes in the quality of our teachers and the teachers going above and beyond for our students. He wished Dr. Brink well in her next role.

Moved: Bill May

Seconded: Jayson Baker

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:30 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 WHEN THE DISTRICT FINDS THAT AN ACTION IS PROBABLE OR IMMINENT. 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(11);

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

Moved: Amber Trout

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

A MOTION WAS MADE TO RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION AT 8:15 PM.

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

Moved: Jason Baker

Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM SUPERINTENDENT MELANIE BRINK.

AYES: Baker
NAYS: Smith, Scheibel, Trout, Stein, May, Foppe
Motion Failed

Adjournment

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Jamie Smith

There being no further business to come before the Board, **A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:20 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