

Freeburg Elementary School  
Monday, April 24, 2023  
7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Education for Freeburg Community Consolidated School District No. 70 was held on Monday, April 24, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria at Freeburg Elementary School.

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Roll Call**

In addition to Ms. Foppe, board members Jamie Smith, Ed Scheibel, Jayson Baker, and Ben Howes. Board members Ron Humphries and John Lawson were absent. Also in attendance were Dr. Melanie Brink, Superintendent, Mark Janssen, Financial Officer and Recording Secretary, and Lindsay Fark, Principal. Board attorney Heidi Eckert was also in attendance.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Board and public stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Visitors**

Visitors to the meeting included district staff Rachael Stehl, Gina Heiligenstein, Jenny Hummert, Leah Beth Black, Anna Smith, Allison Schanz, Angie Cooper, Caitlin Kirby, Abbey Payne, Theresa Goscinski, Shauna Blair, Melynda Walters, Amanda Diefenbach, Scott Schulz, Jodi Goodnight, Carrie Green, Jennifer Schuechner, Michelle Freebairn, Paula Mullins, Natasha Tucker, Ashley Krakosky, Lauren Baker, Ashlyn Birch, Jennifer Richter, Chris Marler, and Jane Range. Also in attendance were Frank Heiligenstein, Tara Lauf, Donna Rakers, Don Rakers, Ryan Burton, Sheila Tewell, Amber Trout, Bill May, Dave Stein, Leslie Wattawa, Chad Stehl, Michelle Etter, Gary Henning, Roger Skaer, Jeanine Sheppard, Danita Duecker, George Lawler, Bethany Smith, James Smith, and Leland Snyder. Hans Carpenter of the Freeburg Tribune was also in attendance.

Moved: Jamie Smith

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

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

- MINUTES OF THE MARCH 27, 2023 REGULAR BOARD MEETING
- INVESTMENT SUMMARY THROUGH APRIL 21, 2023
- BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH MARCH 31, 2023

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 5-aye, 0-nay.

### **Approval of the Bills**

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Jamie Smith

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

AYES: Smith, Scheibel, Baker, Howes, Foppe,  
Motion Carried

## **Reports of Standing Committees**

## **Reports of Special Committees**

### **Petitions/Communications**

There were two Freedom of Information Act requests. The first was from the Belleville News-Democrat requesting a copy of Mr. Wittenauer's resignation letter and recording of the March 27 board meeting. The other was from LocalLabs requesting a copy of the district's Mission Statement. Both requests were filled within the five-day timeframe.

### **Public Participation**

The Board welcomed the public to the meeting.

Sheila Tewell addressed the Board stating she has deep roots in the community. She also stated trainers are needed to train administrators on how to evaluate teachers. Dr. Brink's expertise in this is needed for this cause and to suggest she is stealing from the district as a result is ridiculous.

Bethany Smith expressed interest in Mr. Humphries's vacant seat on the Board. She believes board members are integral to the community and set a standard for the community.

Dennis Haas thanked the Board, administrators, and teachers for their hard work. He believes things will improve by virtue of the previous election and the next election. He also stated board service is supposed to be for the students.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Brink gave an update on enrollment. Currently, our enrollment is 789 students. Last month, we had 789 students.

Dr. Brink mentioned Secretary's Day is this Wednesday and she encouraged everyone to express their gratitude to Rachael, Gina, and Anna for their hard work every day.

Dr. Brink mentioned Teacher Appreciation Week is next week. Activities are planned to honor and thank the teachers all next week for their continued hard work.

Dr. Brink attended a meeting last week hosted by the Illinois Association of School Administrators President Dr. Brent Clark. It was stated there have been 59 new mandates passed by legislators over the past two years, many of them unfunded. Dr. Brink explained districts are constantly working to stay apprised of the new mandates and why sometimes parents may feel there are many changes within schools.

Dr. Brink explained our district attained "Commendable" status for last year. This is the second highest designation category. To that end, teachers will be reviewing curriculum roadmaps and last year's IAR test results to identify potential curriculum gaps and identify areas of opportunity to enhance or enrich the curriculum to hopefully work toward receiving the highest designation.

Dr. Brink gave a rundown of year-end activities. Some highlights of those activities include:

- April 27 – Art & Technology Night
- May 4 – Rotary Field Day
- May 10 – Carnival Day
- May 12 & 13 – Chorus Musical
- May 24 – Graduation
- May 25 – Last Day of School

Mr. Janssen gave an update on the accident at the Primary Center. All the work has been completed and Mrs. Mullins is back in her classroom. The carpet will be replaced this summer. He thanked Calhoun Construction for their quick turnaround on the repair.

Mr. Janssen updated the Board on the vestibules and lighting upgrade projects. Unfortunately, bid opening was supposed to be last week but was extended due to lack of perceived interest. As a result, the deadline to submit bids was extended by one week in the hope of drawing more interest. Bid opening will now take place this Thursday. This also puts us at risk of further delays due to delays in getting certain materials needed for completion available. The worst-case scenario is the project would need to be delayed until next summer.

Mr. Janssen gave a summary of the major summer projects planned for this summer. They are:

1. Replacement of three HVAC units at the Primary Center. Those include the units that serve the 1st-2nd grade wing, the cafeteria, and the kitchen.
2. Installation of new LED lights in the 1972 section, which includes the 6th-grade section and both Science Labs (the Board will consider bids Monday).
3. Construction of vestibules at both buildings. The pre-bid meeting for the lights and vestibules was held on April 11, with bids due Thursday, April 20. Remember, we applied for and received a grant from the State of Illinois of \$50,000 to complete these two projects.
4. Replacement of remaining asphalt behind the Primary Center. There is a drawing in the shared folder depicting the area. The area shaded in red needs to be replaced. It has deteriorated significantly over the years and has never been replaced. The area shaded in blue is what we did last year and needs to be sealed this year. Mark is receiving three quotes for this work and will keep you updated as those come in. This project is expected to cost approximately \$17,000 for the asphalt replacement and \$7,000 for the sealing.

Mrs. Fark presented the Principal's Reports. The Talent Show was held on March 30. She thanked Mrs. Ketchum for her hard work and complimented the students on how well all of them performed. A survey was sent to parents gauging interest in boys' volleyball. An open gym will be held in May to further gauge interest. The Spring Concert was held on April 20. This Friday is AG Day with Freeburg High School. Johnathan Barlow was named the Optimist Student of the Month for March.

At the Primary Center, on March 29, a book float was held where 7<sup>th</sup> graders displayed their 3D book float to the Primary Center students. On April 19, Mrs. Mullins moved back into her classroom since all repairs were completed. She thanked the teachers for helping her move back and the custodians for their hard work. She thanked the High School for inviting them to see the weather balloon last Friday.

## **Old Business**

## **New Business**

Moved: Jamie Smith

Seconded: Ben Howes

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM BOARD MEMBER RON HUMPHRIES, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY (SEE ADDENDA).**

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 5-aye, 0-nay.

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Ben Howes

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE 2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF BOARD POLICY REVISIONS, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 5-aye, 0-nay.

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Ben Howes

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE CONSOLIDATED DISTRICT PLAN, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 5-aye, 0-nay.

Moved: Jayson Baker

Seconded: Jamie Smith

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO RENEW THE SERIOUS SAFETY HAZARD DETERMINATIONS, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 5-aye, 0-nay.

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Jamie Smith

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:33 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)**

AYES: Smith, Scheibel, Baker, Howes, Foppe  
Motion Carried

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Ben Howes

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION AT 8:27 PM.**

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 5-aye, 0-nay.

Moved: Jayson Baker

Seconded: Ed Schiebel

