

Freeburg Elementary School
Monday, March 27, 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, March 27, 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 John Lawson. Board members Ron Humphries and Ben Howes were absent. Also in attendance were Dr. Melanie Brink, Superintendent, Mark Janssen, Financial Officer and Recording Secretary, Ryan Wittenauer, and Lindsay Fark, Principals. 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 Anna Smith, Rachael Stehl, Mike Joseph, Theresa Goscinski, Nicole Mueller, Marc Derwort, Tami Henning, Jim Janssen, Melynda Walters, Jodi Goodnight, Jekyel Schulz, Scott Schulz, Ben Junge, Carrie Green, Leah Beth Black, Jennifer Hopfinger, Jennifer Scheuchner, Michelle Freebairn, Ashley Krakosky, Natasha Tucker, Brandi Ross, Megan Cook, Jenny Hummert, Chelsi Lloyd, Lea Havel, Kathleen Woods, Emily Vasquez, Dustin Thompson, Sarah Gagen, Christine Marler, and Lauren Baker. Also in attendance were George Lawler, Amber Trout, Bill May, Tara Lauf, Amber Lonsdale, Matt Lonsdale, Andrea Meyer, Dave Stein, Gary Henning, Mike Blaies, Mary Blaies, Lou Lengerman, Ryan Burton, Sheila Tewell, Dennis Thoma, Dereck Green, Chad Stehl, Erick Freebairn, Roger Skaer, Stephanie Combs, Alli Etter, Kelly Edwards, Michelle Etter, Jessica Kern, Bethany Smith, James Smith, Kelley Hotz, Danita Duecker, Bethany Raetz, DeDee Ross, Renee Wittenauer, Kathy Sinasky, Jay McCullough, Kayla Webster, Adam Greenfield, and Leland Snyder. Hans Carpenter of the Freeburg Tribune was also present.

Moved: John Lawson

Seconded: Jayson Baker

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

- MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 27, 2023 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND MARCH 7, 2023 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
- INVESTMENT SUMMARY THROUGH MARCH 24, 2023
- BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2023

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

Approval of the Bills

Moved: John Lawson

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

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

AYES: Smith, Scheibel, Humphries, Baker, Lawson, Foppe,
Motion Carried

Reports of Standing Committees

Reports of Special Committees

Petitions/Communications

There was one Freedom of Information Act request. The request was from Danita Duecker who requested administrative contracts, administrative evaluations, benefit days used by Dr. Brink, and payments to FordHarrison and BASSC in August – October. The request was filled within the five-day timeframe.

Public Participation

The Board welcomed the public to the meeting.

The Response to Intervention Team, Michelle Freebairn, Jennifer, Scheuchner, and Ashley Krakosky, gave a rundown of the program, including how it is administered. The team uses the MTSS model (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) to teach the whole child. The presentation can be found in the addenda.

Kayla Webster addressed the Board to inform them she submitted a formal complain last fall. Ms. Foppe reminded her this was a personnel matter and could not be discussed in open session.

Amanda Glander received a message from Board Member Smith asking if she knew who the anonymous poster on Facebook was and if she had any additional information.

Sean Bricker stated there are problems with bullying and wished everyone would do a better job of getting along.

Stephanie Combs stated her son has benefitted from the RtI program. She thanked the teachers and expressed concerns about bullying.

Jennifer Beckett also expressed concern with bullying.

Amber Lonsdale condemned the attacks on Board Member Baker. She stated some have turned on him and placed blame on teachers. She apologized on behalf of the community to Mr. Baker.

Danita Duecker expressed concern board members were not performing their fiduciary duties. She also did not agree with the Board addressing administrative contracts so close to the election. She also alleged Dr. Brink was shortchanging the district while she performed work with the Illinois Principals Association.

Gary Henning expressed support for the staff, teachers and administration. He stated expressed pride in Freeburg students doing very well academically, beginning with Pre-K and going all the way through high school.

Michelle Etter emphasized the importance of communities. She expressed disappointment and frustration that questions raised by the citizens were not being answered by the Board or administration. She also asked for a delay in considering contracts.

Board Member Lawson congratulated the students who received perfect scores at the most recent Band & Chorus Ensemble held on March 7.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Brink mentioned she attended the recent Freeburg Area Women's Club fundraiser. She thanked them for their support and for purchasing food during parent-teacher conferences last month.

She thanked the PTO for purchasing additional supplies for the emergency backpacks.

Dr. Brink mentioned she and a few staff received a week-long Social-Emotional Learning. To that end, the district is piloting a program called Class Catalyst in grades first, third, and fifth. This program uses live and long-term data to help build self-awareness, improve self-regulation and better connect students with teachers.

The Primary Center Library received \$2560 in donations to the memorial of Skip Kilman. She and Mrs. Fark sent thank you letters and appreciated the generosity of everyone who contributed.

Dr. Brink mentioned the book studies mentioned last month are ongoing. The two book studies are "Energy Bus" and "Relentless."

She thanked everyone who attended last Friday's Trivia Night to benefit the Scholar Bowl team.

She reminded the public the annual Talent Show is this Friday, beginning at 6 pm.

She thanked the Custodians and Maintenance Staff for their hard work over spring break.

She thanked Secretary Christina Kaemmerer for her hard work during her tenure. She is moving on from the district to pursue another opportunity.

Dr. Brink gave an update on enrollment. Currently, our enrollment is 789 students. Last month, we had 790 students.

Mr. Janssen gave an update on the accident at the Primary Center. Work has begun on the repair of the classroom. The temporary wall has been built and it was hoped demolition work on the brick would have begun by now but the cold and the rain prevented that. It is now planned work will begin tomorrow morning. The hope is dry weather will prevail in the coming days so the outside work can be completed. It is expected the project will take a few weeks to complete, weather permitting.

Mrs. Fark presented the Principal's Report for the Primary Center. On March 2 - 6, the Primary Center held a Boot Camp refresher to review rules and expectations. On March 7, the district held a tornado drill. On March 8, second grade went to the Magic House. Pre-K screenings were held on March 23 and 24. There were 42 kids who were screened. Family Reading Night was held on

March 21 and was very well attended. Mrs. Fark thanked Mrs. Freebairn and all the staff for their work putting it on.

Mr. Wittenauer presented the Principal's Report for the Elementary School. On March 2 – 6, the Elementary School also held a Boot Camp refresher to review rules and expectations. On March 22, IAR testing got underway. It is hoped they will be completed by the end of this week. He reminded parents the 5-essentials survey will close this Friday, March 31. He congratulated Ruth Buchanan for being named Optimist Student of the Month.

Old Business

New Business

Moved: John Lawson

Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE DISTRICT CALENDAR FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).

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

Moved: Jayson Baker

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE 1ST READING OF BOARD POLICY REVISIONS, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).

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

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: John Lawson

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:15 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, Lawson, Foppe
Motion Carried

Moved: Jayson Baker

Seconded: John Lawson

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

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

Moved: Jayson Baker

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY ELIZABETH THOEL AS TEACHER FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR.

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

Moved: Jayson Baker Seconded: John Lawson

A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY REAGAN BIRKNER AS TEACHER FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR.

AYES: Smith, Scheibel, Humphries, Baker, Lawson, Foppe
Motion Carried

Moved: Jayson Baker Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM ELEMENTARY SECRETARY CHRISTINA KAEMMERER, EFFECTIVE MARCH 31, 2023, AS PRESENTED.

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

Moved: Ed Scheibel Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM BEN JUNGE AS ASSISTANT BOYS' BASKETBALL COACH.

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

Board Member Baker made a motion to table all administrative contracts but there was no second on the motion.

Moved: John Lawson Seconded: Ed Scheibel

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE A NEW THREE-YEAR CONTRACT FOR ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL LOREN HOLCOMB, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).

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

Moved: John Lawson Seconded: Ed Scheibel

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE A NEW THREE-YEAR CONTRACT FOR ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL RYAN WITTENAUER, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).

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

Moved: Ed Scheibel Seconded: John Lawson

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE A NEW THREE-YEAR CONTRACT FOR PRIMARY CENTER PRINCIPAL LINDSAY FARK, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).

