

Freeburg Elementary School  
Monday, February 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, February 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, Ron Humphries, Jayson Baker, John Lawson, and Ben Howes. 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 Leah Beth Black, Brooke Krauss, Natasha Tucker, Stephanie Ketchum, Abbey Payne, Caitlin Kirby, Amanda Diefenbach, Angie Cooper, Scott Schulz, Renee Gaul, Jennifer Hopfinger, Amanda Braun, Jenny Hummert, Marc Derwort, Paula Mullins, Jekyel Schulz, Lea Havel, Kathleen Woods, Jodi Goodnight, Jane Range, Michelle Rogers, Theresa Goscinski, Nicole Mueller, Shauna Blair, Erin Kassly, Kendra Deterding, Jennifer Delashmit, Dustin Thompson, Jim Janssen, Darren Pierce, Jennifer Schuechner, Ashley Krakosky, Michelle Freebairn, Melissa Kolakowski, Shannon Petty, Carrie Green, Rebecca Howard, Chelsi Lloyd, Ally Schanz, Courtney Maisel, Mike Joseph, Ben Junge, Sarah Gagen, Megan Daumueller-Cook, Cory Lawrence, Anna Smith, Chris Marler, Sherri Yarber, and Lauren Baker. Also in attendance were Dereck Green, Adam Krakosky, DeDee Ross, Chad Stehl, Lou Lengerman, Bill May, Amber Trout, Leland Snyder, Dave Stein, Renee Wittenauer, Amy Thoma, Dennis Thoma, Amber Lonsdale. Chad Watkins of the Illinois Association of School Administrators and Hans Carpenter of the Freeburg Tribune were also present.

Moved: John Lawson

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

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

- MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 23, 2023 REGULAR BOARD MEETING
- INVESTMENT SUMMARY THROUGH FEBRUARY 24, 2023
- BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2023

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

### **Approval of the Bills**

Moved: Ben Howes

Seconded: Jayson Baker

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

AYES: Smith, Scheibel, Humphries, Baker, Lawson, 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 a citizen who made a request for what was deemed not to be a public record. As such, the request was denied. The second request was from SmartProcure who sought all purchasing records since November 28, 2022. The request was filled within the five-day period.

### **Public Participation**

The Board welcomed the public to the meeting. Board member Lawson thanked the staff and Student Council for the great job they did hosting the mother-son and father-daughter dances this past weekend.

Members of the Freeburg Elementary Teachers' Association read a statement in support of administration. The letter accentuated the noteworthy accomplishments of the district this school year but expressed concern those accomplishments were being minimized due to an emphasis on negativity and a lack of cooperation. The teachers requested board members return to a more productive and professional manner of conducting board meetings.

Bill May addressed the Board and inquired to Mr. Baker to answer the question he was asked last month if he had ever discussed any executive session information with anyone outside of the Board. Mr. Baker stated he had not and offered he was available to speak to anyone about any concerns one may have.

Danita Duecker addressed the Board stating the PTO does a wonderful job. She praised Sarah Gagen, Lauren Baker, and Stephanie Ketchum, in particular. She also stated Mrs. Ketchum does a great job with the band and chorus programs. She also thanked Mrs. Range and Mrs. Goodnight for their support of her child.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Brink addressed a question received about last month's professional development for teachers. Mr. Baker inquired if the district was moving toward a no homework policy. The professional development was titled, "Increasing Student Engagement in K-8." The crux of the presentation dealt with designing curriculum road maps, building relationships with students, enriching classroom discussions, and incorporating a growth mindset. Any changes to the curriculum or homework policies will be reviewed by teachers and then given to the District Leadership Team prior to presentation to the Board of Education.

Dr. Brink stated seven staff members attended the PEP (Positive Energy Purpose) conference in Collinsville. Attendees included Jekyel Schulz, Michelle Freebairn, Carrie Green, Ashley Krakosky,

Brooke Krauss, Lea Havel, and Theresa Goscinski. The conference focused on staff positivity and well-being.

Dr. Brink mentioned two book studies will be available for staff in the coming weeks. Brooke Krauss and Theresa Goscinski will lead a book study on “The Energy Bus” by Jon Gordon. Jim Janssen and Jessie Janssen will lead a book study on “Relentless: From Good to Great to Unstoppable” by Tim Grover.

Dr. Brink received a letter from Jan Wiggs who filled a leave for a fourth grade teacher. The letter was very complimentary of the fourth-grade team. The letter detailed the team’s attitude of putting the students first, being well organized, and communicating and sharing very well. Mrs. Wiggs felt like she was a part of the team and she appreciated that.

Dr. Brink thanked Theresa Goscinski for her work organizing the Trivia Night. There were also many staff who also pitched in to make the evening a success. A total of a little over \$6000 was raised for the athletic programs.

Dr. Brink recognized Mrs. Kolakowski for her work organizing the 2023 Kids Heart Challenge. A total of over \$18,400 was raised for the American Heart Association.

Today, the High School Pep Band visited our students in grades 3-8. They performed a short concert to generate excitement and continue continuity between our district and the high school.

Dr. Brink wanted to recognize our Food Service Department. These ladies always have a smile on their face and work hard to ensure our students have everything they need. They are more than line cooks and servers. They are also friends and mentors to our students.

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

Mr. Janssen gave an update on the accident at the Primary Center. On February 5, a driver left the MotoMart and lost control of his vehicle and slammed into the east wall of the Primary Center outside of Mrs. Mullins classroom. There was significant damage to the brick and the interior wall necessitating her classroom be moved to another location. The insurance claim has been filed and we have been in contact with the architect and a prospective contractor to complete the work. All facets of the repair bid are complete except the brick portion. Once that is done, it is hoped we’ll be able to proceed with the repair. Unfortunately, until we have the bid, we cannot speculate on when the repair will be completed. Mr. Janssen also recognized the teachers and maintenance staff that came in that Sunday to help Mrs. Mullins move her classroom.

Dr. Brink set Graduation for May 24, 2023 at 7 pm in the Main Gym.

Dr. Brink presented a proposal for the 2023-2024 district calendar. This calendar is a product of meetings with the other feeder districts. Freeburg High School approved their calendar earlier this month. The only difference between their calendar and ours is the student non-attendance day following parent-teacher conferences in October. The High School is taking October 27. Dr. Brink is proposing we take November 1 off, the day after Halloween. This was suggested by both students and staff. Other highlights of the proposed calendar include:

- August 14 & 15 - Teachers’ Institutes

- August 16 - First day for students
- December 21 - January 2 - Holiday Break
- March 25 - 29 - Spring Break
- May 21 - Last Day of school for students

The Board will consider formal adoption of this calendar next month.

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 is improving. 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 2.01% over the past 17 years. The complete report can be found in the addenda.

Mrs. Fark presented the Principal's Report for the Primary Center. She mentioned our ESL program is now being conducted in-house. On February 2, the new sensory room was opened for students. She thanked those staff and board members who attended the grand opening. She thanked the staff for their work following the accident at the Primary Center to make Mrs. Mullins' move as seamless as possible. Mrs. Fark also mentioned the mother-son and father-daughter dances were attended by 180 and 260 people respectively. She thanked Mrs. Gagen, Mrs. Baker, and Mrs. Ketchum for their work in putting them together.

Mr. Wittenauer presented the Principal's Report for the Elementary School. On January 27, the winter celebration was held where students watched a movie with popcorn. McLimo was held on February 1. He thanked Freeburg McDonald's for their continued participation in that program. On February 13, the administration competed against the Scholar Bowl team in a friendly match. Mr. Wittenauer was impressed with the breadth of knowledge of our scholar bowl team. He added to Dr. Brink's comments on fundraising for the American Heart Association by stating District 70 is now in the top 10 for total dollars raised with over \$91,000. He congratulated Kindergartener Hadley Otte, fourth-grader Donovan Hart, and fifth grader Will Joelner for having the highest amounts raised. He congratulated Adelaide Leonard for being the Optimist Student of the Month.

## **Old Business**

## **New Business**

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: John Lawson

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO RENEW THE TRANSPORTATION LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING WITH ST. LIBORY DISTRICT #30 FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

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

Moved: Jayson Baker

Seconded: John Lawson

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT FROM ST. CLAIR SERVICE FOR GASOLINE AT \$3.095/GALLON AND \$3.736/GALLON FOR DIESEL FUEL FROM MARCH 1, 2023 – FEBRUARY 29, 2024, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

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

Moved: Ron Humphries                      Seconded: Ed Scheibel

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:48 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, Humphries, Baker, Lawson, Howes, Foppe  
Motion Carried

Moved: Ed Scheibel                      Seconded: John Lawson

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION AT 9:29 PM.**

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

Moved: John Lawson                      Seconded: Ed Scheibel

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY BRIDGET ROMPEL AS NURSE, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 6, 2023.**

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

Moved: Ben Howes                      Seconded: Ed Scheibel

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY JR BRENTLINGER AS TRACK COACH.**

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

Moved: John Lawson                      Seconded: Ron Humphries

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR TEACHER JANE RANGE FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR.**

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

Moved: John Lawson                      Seconded: Ed Scheibel

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR MAINTENANCE WORKER MATT TADLOCK FROM FEBRUARY 3, 2023 UNTIL APPROXIMATELY AUGUST 1, 2023.**

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

Moved: John Lawson                      Seconded: Ben Howes

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM TEACHER DONNA SMOKER, EFFECTIVE AT THE END OF THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR.**

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

Moved: Jayson Baker                      Seconded: Ron Humphries

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY SAM MARLER AS NOON SUPERVISOR.**

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

### **Other Business**

### **Adjournment**

Moved: John Lawson                      Seconded: Ed Scheibel

There being no further business to come before this body, **A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:34 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