

Freeburg Elementary School
Monday, January 23, 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, January 23, 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, and John Lawson. Board member Ben Howes was 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 via videoconference.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board and public stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitors

Visitors to the meeting included district staff Leah Beth Black, Emily Vasquez, Rachael Stehl, Natasha Tucker, Scott Schulz, Ben Junge, Chelsi, Lloyd, Becky Howard, and Lauren Baker. Also in attendance were Dave Stein, Bill May, Amber Trout, Danita Duecker, Tara Lauf, Amber Lonsdale, Kelley Hotz, Alli Etter, Michelle Etter, Chris Etter, and Gary Henning.

Moved: John Lawson

Seconded: Jamie Smith

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

- MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 12, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND JANUARY 19, 2023 BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE MEETING.
- INVESTMENT SUMMARY THROUGH JANUARY 20, 2023
- BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 6-aye, 0-nay.

Approval of the Bills

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: John Lawson

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. LocalLabs, which is an online publisher of community-level public records. They sought information on our board members, including the start and ending date of their term and contact information. The request was filled within the five-day timeframe.

Public Participation

The Board welcomed the public to the meeting. Tara Lauf spoke to the board and thanked Mrs. Ketchum and the administration for hosting the Band Festival last week. She appreciated it and thought everything went very well.

Danita Duecker inquired when the Graduation date would be announced. She also advised the Board hire an RN, instead of another LPN due to the license restrictions.

Chris Etter inquired about a question last month regarding a bill from FordHarrison.

Athletic Director Ben Junge congratulated the 8th grade boys' basketball team on winning the Cahokia Conference Tournament earlier this month. He also thanked the administration for having a bus for students to attend the game. He also thanked the Freeburg Police Department and Fire Department for the celebratory escort back into Freeburg after the game.

Mr. Lawson congratulated the latest Artsonia winner, Sophia Strawn.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Brink gave an update on enrollment. Currently, our enrollment is 790 students. Last month, we had 785 students.

Dr. Brink gave a summary of the Building and Grounds Committee Meeting last Thursday. She stated the Board three HVAC units will be replaced this summer. These units service the 1st and 2nd grade wing as well as the kitchen and cafeteria. Those units are now expected to arrive in July. She also informed the Board we have a meeting with the architect regarding the construction of a vestibule at the Elementary School and new lighting in the 1972 section. She will also investigate adding a vestibule at the Primary Center. The project would not be too extensive as it involves adding a wall and an adjustment to the existing door and window in what is now a Speech classroom.

The Building and Grounds Committee is recommending the Board conduct a study of future expansion. The district architect firm would be able to perform this study. The study will include upgrading and/or adding to the current buildings or constructing a new building. The impetus for this study is for the Board to be proactive in the event enrollment increases.

Mrs. Fark presented the Principal's Report for the Primary Center. Last month, Santa Claus visited the students on December 15. Students sent virtual holiday greetings to residents in the senior housing. It is hoped next year these greetings will be able to be delivered in person. We had a teachers' institute on January 13 where teachers reviewed the math and science curricula, as well

as curriculum mapping. Special education staff attended a training regarding Individual Education Plans.

Mr. Wittenauer presented the Principal's Report for the Elementary School. On December 16, staff had a luncheon with team building activities in the afternoon. On January 17, the Freeburg High School FFA came over and made ice cream with the students. On January 20, the annual Band Festival with other local districts was held where the theme was superhero music. Jason Cooper was named the Optimist Student of the Month. Mr. Baker commented that he also heard the professional development was productive. He also commented he would like the district to move toward a no homework policy.

Old Business

Mr. Baker inquired to Mrs. Foppe why an item he requested in December was not placed on the closed session agenda. Mrs. Foppe stated she wanted additional information on the topic. After discussion, attorney Eckert advised the Board the item cannot be placed on this month's agenda but could be placed on next month's agenda.

New Business

Moved: Jamie Smith

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:46 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, Foppe,
Motion Carried

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: John Lawson

A MOTION WAS MADE TO RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION AT 8:46 PM.

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 6-aye, 0-nay.

Moved: John Lawson

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM WHITNEY SCHOENBECK AS LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 25, 2023.

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 6-aye, 0-nay.

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM CORY LAWRENCE AS SOFTBALL COACH.

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 6-aye, 0-nay.

Moved: Jayson Baker

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY JENNIFER DRESSLER AS PARAPROFESSIONAL.

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

Other Business

Adjournment

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: John Lawson

There being no further business to come before this body, **A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:50 P.M.**

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 6-aye, 0-nay.

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

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