

Freeburg Elementary School  
Monday, October 24, 2022  
7:11 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Education for Freeburg Community Consolidated School District No. 70 was held on Monday, October 24, 2022, at 7:11 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, Lindsay Fark, Principals, and Daralynn Gross, Director of Student Services. Board attorney Heidi Eckert was also present.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Board and public stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Visitors**

Visitors to the meeting included district staff Paula Mullins, Scott Schulz, Theresa Goscinski, Sarah Gagen, Ashlyn Birch, Natasha Tucker, Kendra Deterding, Leah Beth Black, Lauren Baker, Whitney Schoenbeck, Chris Marler, Emily Vasquez, Jodi Goodnight, Anna Smith, Christina Kaemmerer, Rachael Stehl, and Nicole Mueller. Also in attendance were Amber Trout, Natashia Hart, Tara Lauf, Josh Lauf, Julie Williams, Brock Schoenbeck, Jamee Wheeler, Leland Snyder, Kelley Hotz, Josh Hotz, Tiffany Smoker, Eric Vasquez, Danita Duecker, Lou Lengerman, Ashley Lengerman, Chad Stehl, Brian Weinstock, Amber Lonsdale, Matt Lonsdale, and DeDee Ross. Hans Carpenter of the Freeburg Tribune was also present.

Moved: John Lawson

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

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

- MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 26, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND OCTOBER 18, 2022 CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING
- INVESTMENT SUMMARY THROUGH OCTOBER 21, 2022
- BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

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

### **Approval of the Bills**

Moved: John Lawson

Seconded: Jamie Smith

### **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**

Dr. Brink gave an update on the Curriculum Committee meeting held last week. Among the topics discussed were the eLearning Plan and the MTSS system of support. The eLearning Plan will guide the eLearning for days school is canceled due to inclement weather. The MTSS system of support is a “living” document, meaning it is always being evaluated and revised.

## **Reports of Special Committees**

### **Petitions/Communications**

There were no Freedom of Information Act requests.

### **Public Participation**

The Board welcomed the public to the meeting. Bill May inquired about moving the public participation portion of the meeting to the end. He often has comments about what just transpired at each meeting. Mr. Howes stated public participation is at the beginning of each meeting to avoid having citizens wait through the entire meeting before being heard. Amber Lonsdale expressed concern about the fire at the Fall Fest. She stated it was a red flag day where burning was discouraged. She expressed concern for her child’s safety at school, as a result. Lou Lengerman inquired about having two public participations at each meeting. He also asked how concerns from parents get addressed by the board. Natasha Hart inquired about having a crossing guard at the cross walk on State Street near Lincoln Court.

## **Superintendent’s Report**

Dr. Brink gave an update on enrollment. Currently, our enrollment sits at 784 students. Last month, we had 788 students.

Daralynn Gross, the new Director of Student Services was present to introduce herself to the Board and give a summary of how it was going in her new position. This is the first year of a two-year sharing agreement with Freeburg High School for this position. She stated she has begun three initiatives in her first year. Those are the implementation of problem-solving teams where staff review FastBridge data to identify struggling learners. Next, she is working on developing a system of support, including interventions for teachers to assist teachers with those struggling students. The last initiative was the development of a special education manual for the district. This would outline the rules and guidelines for special education.

Dr. Brink reviewed the eLearning Plan update earlier in the meeting under the Standing Committee update.

Mrs. Fark presented the Principal’s Report for the Primary Center. More-at-Four had their family picnic. This included snacks and crafts for those students and parents. Fire Prevention Week was held the week of October 3. On the early dismissal of October 6, various staff received Crisis Prevention and Intervention training. We also hosted speaker Matt Weld. The district-wide fire drill was held on October 19. The earthquake drill was held on October 20. The Book Fair is being held this week at the Elementary School Library.

Mr. Wittenauer presented the Principal's Report for the Elementary School. On September 30, the 8<sup>th</sup>-grade had Career Day at the Career Center of Southern Illinois. The fall concert was held on October 6 and was well attended. The Fall Fest was held on October 14. Mr. Wittenauer thanked the Communication team and parents for their help in putting it together. McTeacher night for the PTO was held on October 18. Two students made a presentation to Dr. Brink, Mr. Wittenauer, and Mr. Junge on implementing boys' volleyball. He complimented the students on a very good presentation. A survey will be released to gauge interest among the students. Maddison Rogers was named the Optimist Student of the Month.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Baker inquired about his parliamentary procedure question from last month. Mr. Janssen explained the district cannot move an item from a discussion item to an action item without giving notice to the public. He also stated it has been past practice to have discussion items in the Superintendent's Report and the action items are under New Business. The Board agreed if a request is made for the agenda it will need to be stated where it should go on the agenda.

### **New Business**

Mr. Baker requested the Board review and enforce the following statutes and board policies: 105 ILCS 5/10-22.6, 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7, and 105 ILCS 5/27-6.3 and Board Policies 2:130, 3:40, 6:60, 7:190, 7:200. Specifically, he is alarmed at the number of out-of-school suspensions handed out by the district last year. He stated the law provides this exclusionary punishment shall be limited when other avenues are exhausted. He also stated he had expressed concern last November that the new 30-minute recess law for grades Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> grade was not being followed. This led him to bring the concern to the Illinois State Board as he felt he was not being heard. He also brought the concern to the Regional Office. Mr. Baker was given a listing of all the recess times for all the grades showing the statute was being followed. This allayed his concern.

Mr. Baker also inquired to the Board why the Superintendent has not been evaluated yet. It is a requirement for Boards to annual evaluate the Superintendent. He stated teachers are evaluated routinely, so why not the Superintendent? Board President Foppe stated she took over the Board President position in January right around the time this should have been done. She distributed the evaluation instrument to the Board later in the spring and received only one back. Her plan is to distribute it again next month to have the evaluation at the beginning of next year.

Mr. Baker inquired why the bullying policy has not been annually reviewed as required by law. Board President Foppe stated it was reviewed over the summer during the process of overhauling the student handbook for this year.

Mr. Baker brought a concern as it relates to the Transportation Plan. He is concerned about the loss of instruction time brought about by the change in the pickup procedure. He stated it is about 20 minutes lost each day and he has had teachers approach him concerned about having adequate time to teach the material. Mrs. Fark commented on the pickup being a new process this year. Adjustments have been made, and it is now closer to ten minutes. She also stated the pickup process can be hectic with pickups occurring in three directions at the same time, while keeping safety the number one priority. Mr. Baker expressed a desire for the Transportation Committee to meet soon to discuss this. The Board was agreeable to this.

The Board allowed Jennifer Beckett to address the Board. She inquired about the turnover of so many Special Ed. Teachers from last year. She expressed concern that the other teachers have had

to pick up the slack, as a result. She also inquired why the Superintendent wrote “Not Applicable” for questions on her Statement of Economic Interest. She also inquired why the public does not get answers to questions from the Board.

Mr. Janssen reviewed options for the Board if there was interest in going back to Zoom for the board meetings. The options are:

1. Keep as is with no Zoom and board meetings in the board room.
2. Continue to have board meetings in the board room. Video the meeting to post on the website the next day. No live stream. There will most likely be areas of the room where the camera cannot pick up. For example, the board members on the edges may not be in view. The audio will be less than ideal as those closer to the camera will be heard better than those farther away.
3. Continue to have board meetings in the board room while live streaming on Zoom. The audio and video challenges will remain.
4. Have the meeting in the cafeteria live streamed on Zoom. The public can make comments in the chat on Zoom, which is read aloud, provided they are not anonymous. The meeting can also be posted the next day; and
5. Have the meeting in the cafeteria and record it only. There would be no live stream, and it would be posted the next day.

After discussion, the Board decided to have the meetings in the cafeteria, record them, and post it to the website the next day.

Moved: John Lawson

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE BID FROM JARRELL CONSTRUCTION FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THREE (3) HVAC UNITS AT THE PRIMARY CENTER FOR \$211,506.32, AS PRESENTED.**

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

Motion: Jayson Baker

Seconded: John Lawson

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO LIQUIDATE THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE WORKING CASH CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT AT CITIZENS COMMUNITY BANK AS PRESENTED.**

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

Moved: John Lawson

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO INVEST THE APPROXIMATELY \$1,151,200 OF WORKING CASH INTO AN 18-MONTH FEDERAL TREASURY NOTE AT AN INTEREST RATE OF 4.5% WITH THE PMA FINANCIAL NETWORK.**

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

Moved: John Lawson

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

