

Freeburg Elementary School
Monday, August 22, 2022
7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Education for Freeburg Community Consolidated School District No. 70 was held on Monday, August 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room 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.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board and public stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitors

Visitors to the meeting included district staff Jennifer Hopfinger, Leah Beth Black, Christina Kaemmerer, Lauren Baker, Theresa Goscinski, Sarah Gagen, Rachael Stehl, Natasha Tucker, and Scott Schulz. Also in attendance were Danita Duecker, Bill May, Susan Carpenter, and Hans Carpenter of the Freeburg Tribune.

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Ben Howes

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

- MINUTES OF THE JULY 25, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND THE AUGUST 4, 2022 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
- INVESTMENT SUMMARY THROUGH AUGUST 19, 2022
- BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH JULY 31, 2022

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

Approval of the Bills

Moved: Ron Humphries

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 no Freedom of Information Act requests.

Public Participation

The Board welcomed the public to the meeting. Danita Duecker asked the Board when the COVID policy changed last year. She wondered why since the policy had changed were parents not contacted. She also inquired what the policy is this year. Dr. Brink responded by stating the district follows the CDC guidelines and cannot compel students to wear a mask or quarantine. Ms. Duecker also stated according to the student handbook, a student's parents will be contacted if he/she misses more than five days. She inquired if a student misses more than five days due to COVID and the student cannot obtain a doctor's note in that time, will the student be referred to truancy. The Board thanked her for her comments.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Brink gave an update on enrollment. Currently, our enrollment sits at 800 students. We ended last year with 797.

Mr. Janssen informed the Board the district's medical insurance carrier; the Egyptian Trust Cooperative is in financial distress. He and Dr. Brink attended a meeting this morning. It is projected the Trust has enough cash to sustain operations for two months. Dr. Brink and Mr. Janssen are investigating alternatives including forming a Cooperative with other local districts who are also in the Trust. In addition, Mr. Janssen is investigating the open market by retaining a broker and soliciting prices. He also stated any plan will have to consider the withdrawal penalty of leaving the Trust. The penalty is currently approximately \$2000 per covered employee. It will be important to keep the same level of coverages as outlined in the collective bargaining agreement. Mr. Janssen stated he will keep the Board apprised of any developments.

Mrs. Fark presented the Principal's Report for the Primary Center. The Primary Center held two days of Open House on August 15 & 16. Feedback was very positive, and they had over 97% participation from parents. She stated they may consider an evening option. She thanked the cheerleaders and Coach Birch for the welcome back fanfare for students as they came in for the first day. Picture day is tomorrow, August 23. The Primary Center will be having their boot camp tomorrow and Wednesday with the theme being "Respect for Rules." The PTO Back to School Picnic will be held this Thursday.

Mr. Wittenauer presented the Principal's Report for the Elementary School. The 3rd and 4th grades had Open Houses on August 15 & 16. Feedback was also positive at the Elementary School. There were boot camps around the building to reacclimate students to rules and expectations in various parts of the building. The district had a welcome back breakfast for all staff on August 12. Picture Day is tomorrow, as well.

Old Business

New Business

Moved: John Lawson

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FY23, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).

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

Moved: Jayson Baker

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:35 PM TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:

THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES OF THE DISTRICT OR LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE DISTRICT, INCLUDING HEARING TESTIMONY ON A COMPLAINT LODGED AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE OR AGAINST LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE DISTRICT TO DETERMINE ITS VALIDITY. 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1);

COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS BETWEEN THE DISTRICT AND ITS EMPLOYEES OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, OR DELIBERATIONS CONCERNING SALARY SCHEDULES FOR ONE OR MORE CLASSES OF EMPLOYEES. 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(2); AND

LITIGATION, WHEN AN ACTION AGAINST, AFFECTING OR ON BEHALF OF THE PARTICULAR DISTRICT HAS BEEN FILED AND IS PENDING BEFORE A COURT OR WHEN THE DISTRICT FINDS THAT AN ACTION IS PROBABLE OR IMMINENT. 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(11).

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

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION AT 8:49 PM.

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

Moved: John Lawson

Seconded: Jayson Baker

A MOTION WAS MADE TO RATIFY THE NEW FIVE-YEAR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE FREEBURG ELEMENTARY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION, BEGINNING IN 2023-2024 THROUGH 2027-2028.

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

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: John Lawson

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR TEACHER CAITLIN KIRBY FROM APPROXIMATELY OCTOBER 31, 2022 UNTIL APPROXIMATELY FEBRUARY 14, 2023, AS PRESENTED.

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

Other Business

Adjournment

Moved: John Lawson

Seconded: Ron Humphries

There being no further business to come before this body, **A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:51 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