

Freeburg Elementary School
Monday, March 28, 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, March 28, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room at Freeburg Elementary School.

Call to Order

Mrs. Foppe called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call of the members.

Roll Call

In addition to Mrs. 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, and Ryan Wittenauer and Lindsay Fark and Ryan Wittenauer, Principals.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board and public stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitors

Visitors to the meeting included district staff Natasha Tucker, Brooke Krauss, Scott Schulz, April Nail, Rachael Stehl, Karlie Stehl, Shauna Blair, Sarah Gagen, Leah Beth Black, Darlene Phelps, Maddy Robbs, Alison Jester, Gail Graham, Deb Benson, and Joe McGraw. Also in attendance were Bill May and Hans Carpenter of the Freeburg Tribune.

Moved: Jayson Baker

Seconded: Ben Howes

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

- MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 28, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND MARCH 3, 2022 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
- BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2022

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

Approval of the Bills

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Ron Humphries

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

Mrs. Foppe distributed the new board committee assignments.

Reports of Special Committees

Petitions/Communications

Dr. Brink read a letter from a parent expressing concern about the athletic fee. The parent requested a reexamination of the fee since it can get expensive for those parents with multiple children playing sports. Dr. Brink mentioned the athletic fee was \$25/sport until 2014 when it increased to \$30/sport. In 2018, it increased to \$40/sport, which is what it is now. Mr. Janssen stated the district looks at the fee structure in May the Board can reexamine at that time.

There were no Freedom of Information Act requests.

Public Participation

The Board welcomed the public to the meeting. Teacher Natasha Tucker gave a summary of the Special Education Department for the Board. There are currently 93 students in special education, including 29 in her and Mrs. Krauss's rooms, along with three paraprofessionals. Annual reviews have been ongoing over the past few weeks. They are looking forward to attending the Special Olympics in Columbia later this spring.

Gail Graham expressed gratitude to the Board for the COVID pay, past pay increases, and the paid eLearning Days. In summary, she stated with the ongoing dedication and commitment of the bus drivers to the districts coupled with rising gas prices and high inflation, they are requesting a 15% pay increase this summer. Mr. Janssen thanked the bus drivers for their presentation and stated any increases are a result of collaboration of all three districts. All employees are being squeezed by rising costs and it will certainly be a consideration when determining pay increases this summer. Mr. Lawson also thanked the bus drivers and commented it takes all employees in all departments to make a school great.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Brink gave an enrollment update to the board. Currently, there are 793 students compared to 788 last month.

Dr. Brink reminded the public of the year-end schedule as it stands now. Below is a rundown of some important dates:

- May 5 - Field Day
- May 19 - PTO Carnival- 2 pm Dismissal
- May 20 – 2 pm Dismissal
- May 20 - Graduation 7 pm
- May 23 - Last Day of School - 11:30 Dismissal
- May 24 – Teachers' Institute

Dr. Brink also thanked the staff for all their work over the past few months, particularly for the after-school events. We have had dances at the Primary Center, a Trivia Night, and a Talent Show this Friday. The students have had a great time at all these events and it's because of the dedication of our staff.

Mrs. Fark presented the Principal's Report for the Primary Center. On March 1, the schools held their tornado drills. The Mother-Son and Father-Daughter Dances were held on March 4th and 5th.

Over 200 people were in attendance. Mrs. Fark thanked Mrs. Gagen, Mrs. Ketchum, Mrs. Baker, and Mrs. Black for their work on putting the dances together. Pre-kindergarten screenings were held last week. The Primary Center will be hosting Kindergarten screenings next month. Kindergarten teachers will screen incoming Kindergarten students and give parents and these students a chance to meet the teachers and see the building.

Mr. Wittenauer presented the Principal's Report for the Elementary School. On March 9, fire drills were conducted at both buildings. March 11 was the end of the 3rd quarter. Chief Schuetzenhofer and Chief Mueller were guest speakers for the 5th grade classes. Trivia Night was held last Friday. There were 21 teams with over 150 students in attendance. IAR testing began this week. The Talent Show will take place this Friday, beginning at 6 pm.

Old Business

New Business

Moved: John Lawson

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

A MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE TO A PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSAL TO SELL BONDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,200,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE WORKING CASH FUND OF THE DISTRICT.

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

Mr. Janssen stated the reason for the bond sale is to give the district additional financial flexibility. These bonds will replace a bond that was paid off earlier this year ensuring there will be no impact to the tax rate for taxpayers.

Whereupon Mr. Janssen asked for additional comments from the members of the Board of Education. Additional comments were made by the following:

None

Written testimony concerning the proposed issuance of the Working Cash Fund Bonds was read into the record by the Secretary and is attached hereto as *Exhibit I*.

None

Whereupon Mr. Janssen asked for oral testimony or any public comments concerning the proposed issuance of the Working Cash Fund Bonds. Statements were made by the following:

None

Mr. Janssen then announced that all persons desiring to be heard had been given an opportunity to present oral and written testimony with respect to the proposed issuance of the Working Cash Fund Bonds.

Moved: John Lawson

Seconded: Jayson Baker

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE WORKING CASH BOND HEARING.

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

Moved: Jamie Smith

Seconded: Ben Howes

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE 2022-2023 DISTRICT CALENDAR, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).

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

Moved: John Lawson

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE FIVE-YEAR COPIER AND MAINTENACE BID FROM WATTS COPY SYSTEMS, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).

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

Moved: Jamie Smith

Seconded: Jayson Baker

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:31 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); AND

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).

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

Moved: John Lawson

Seconded: Ron Humphries

A MOTION WAS MADE TO REENTER REGULAR SESSION AT 9:03 PM.

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

Board Member Scheibel excused himself at 8:50 pm.

Moved: John Lawson

Seconded: Ron Humphries

A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY RENEE GRAUL AS TEACHER FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR, AS PRESENTED.

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

Moved: Jayson Baker

Seconded: John Lawson

A MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE LEAH BETH BLACK AS PART-TIME TEACHER TO FULL-TIME TEACHER FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR, AS PRESENTED.

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

Moved: Jamie Smith

Seconded: Ben Howes

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM TEACHER KARI ZIPFEL, EFFECTIVE AT THE END OF THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR.

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

Moved: Jayson Baker

Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM PARAPROFESSIONAL KAREN EICHENLAUB, EFFECTIVE MARCH 9, 2022, AS PRESENTED.

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

Other Business

Adjournment

Moved: John Lawson

Seconded: Ben Howes

There being no further business to come before this body, **A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:05 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