

Freeburg Elementary School
Monday, January 24, 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, January 24, 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 (via Google Meet), Jayson Baker, John Lawson, and Ben Howes. Also in attendance were Dr. Melanie Brink, Superintendent, Mark Janssen, Financial Officer and Recording Secretary, and Lindsay Fark, Principal.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board and public stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitors

Visitors to the meeting included district teachers Brooke Krauss, Natasha Tucker, Marc Derwort, Jared Timmermann, Leah Black, and Sarah Gagen. Also in attendance were Tom Crabtree of Stifel Nicholas, Bill May, and Hans Carpenter of the Freeburg Tribune.

Moved: Jayson Baker

Seconded: John Lawson

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

- MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 13, 2021 REGULAR BOARD MEETING, DECEMBER 13, 2021 SPECIAL PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING, AND JANUARY 18, 2022 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
- BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021

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

Approval of the Bills

Moved: Jamie Smith

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

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 was one Freedom of Information Act request. The request came from the Illinois Retired Teachers' Association, and they sought the names and email addresses of any teachers retiring at the end of this year. The request was filled within the five-day time frame.

Public Participation

The Board welcomed the public to the meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Brink gave an enrollment update to the board. Currently, there are 783 students compared to 783 last month.

Mr. Janssen invited Tom Crabtree from Stifel Nicholas to present to the Board a few options regarding issuing Working Cash bonds later this year. This opportunity has presented itself by virtue of the district paying off a bond from 2015. The district could issue theoretically any amount as it currently has a relatively low debt obligation in the long-term. Another factor is that interest rates are currently at very attractive rates. This bond issue would have no impact on the district's tax rate this year or in the future.

Dr. Brink reviewed with the Board the eLearning Plan that was approved in September. This Plan is a product after consultation with the teachers and a public hearing. Mr. Lawson expressed concerns regarding the execution of the plan centering on the eLearning day not being rigorous enough to replace a full school day. He stated it may be preferred to make up the days at the end of the year where a full day of instruction could be had. He also inquired if administration has reviewed the plan recently. He also asked if the previous use of any eLearning plan was a baseline for future years. He also asked what measures will be used by administration to gauge its effectiveness. Mr. Baker agreed the plan should be reevaluated on an ongoing basis and treated like a "living document." Dr. Brink replied this plan was a product of consultation and negotiation with the teachers. Any reevaluation of the plan would need to be done with their consultation. Dr. Brink added the teachers have been working hard this year and expressed confidence any lessons pushed out would be relevant and aimed to keep the students' learning moving forward.

Dr. Brink informed the Board there have been challenges with the Primary Center parent pickup. Many parents park at the Carpenter's Hall, which is fine. However, some parents are parking at the Freeburg Tribune in their customer parking spots and/or blocking the path for cars to move in the lot. As a result, they have had instances when their employees have been unable to leave because they were blocked in. A few solutions were to remind parents to not park in those spaces closest to their business. The district will also purchase signs for that same purpose. Dr. Brink also mentioned the Transportation Committee will meet to discuss solutions.

Mrs. Fark presented the Principal's Report for the Elementary School and Primary Center. At the Elementary School, the district had a Teachers' Institute on January 3 where truancy was discussed and teachers met on grade level development. The second quarter ended on January 7. On January 14, a movie reward day was held in conjunction with our PBIS initiative. Mrs. Fark

