

Freeburg Elementary School
Monday, August 26, 2024
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 26, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria 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, Amber Trout, David Stein, and Bill May were in attendance. Board member Jayson Baker was absent. Also in attendance were Dr. Melanie Brink, Superintendent and Mark Janssen, Financial Officer and Recording Secretary. Also in attendance was Attorney Heidi Eckert of Blitz, Bardgett, and Deutsch. Principals Tiffany Zurliene and Stacey Sommerfield, along with Student Services Director Amanda Hargan were also present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board and public stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitors

Visitors to the meeting included district staff Rachael Stehl, Mike Joseph, Becky Howard, Melissa Kolakowski, Jodi Goodnight, Jennifer Scheuchner, Ashley Krakosky, Angie Cooper, Amanda Diefenbach, Carrie Green, Jennifer Hopfinger, Chelsi Lloyd, Jenny Hummert, Kaitlin Becker, Leah Havel, Tim Havel, Michelle Rogers, Jim Janssen, Shannon Petty, Jekyel Schulz, Paula Mullins, Nicole Mueller, Scott Schulz, Courtney Maisel, Ammie Hunt, Reagan Birkner, Ben Junge, Marc Derwort, Allison Schanz, Darren Pierce, Cory Lawrence, Michelle Freebairn, Kathleen Woods, Dustin Thompson, and Amanda Braun. Also in attendance were Brad Goodnight, Tami Henning, Mike Blaies, Derreck Green, Eric Scott, John Lawson, Sheila Tewell, Ben Mueth, Derek Albrecht, Erik Freebairn, and Kelly Smits.

Moved: Amber Trout

Seconded: Bill May

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

- MINUTES OF THE JULY 22, 2024 REGULAR BOARD MEETING
- INVESTMENT SUMMARY THROUGH AUGUST 23, 2024
- BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH JULY 31, 2024

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

Approval of the Bills

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Amber Trout

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

AYES: Smith, Scheibel, Trout, Stein, May, Foppe
Motion Carried

Reports of Standing Committees

Reports of Special Committees

Petitions/Communications

There were three Freedom of Information Act requests. The first was from SmartProcure, which sought all purchasing information from May 15, 2024 to the present. The second was from a reporter from the Metro East Sun who sought information regarding all staff names, school name where he or she works, job title, and salary. The third was also from the Metro East Sun who sought information for all new and retiring staff this school year. All three requests were filled within the five-day timeframe.

Public Participation

The Board welcomed the public to the meeting.

Representatives from the Freeburg Elementary Teachers' Association addressed the Board regarding the actions of Board Member Baker. A report from an impartial investigator found Mr. Baker created an uncomfortable working environment. The Teachers' Association called on the Board to take action in light of this.

John Lawson from the local VFW addressed the Board regarding the Patriot's Pen essay contest and Teacher of the Year nominations.

A citizen addressed the Board regarding a student issue.

Superintendent's Report

The district has prioritized the safety and wellbeing of students and staff by conducting comprehensive crisis training during the first two days of school, led by the Freeburg Fire and Police Departments. Training included Stop the Bleed, fire alarm protocols, and the 4 E's model (educate, evade, escape, and engage) for effective crisis management. Students also participated in fire and bus evacuation drills, with a lockdown intruder drill scheduled for September 5th.

The district acknowledges the support of local community leaders and businesses, including help with school signage. An annual meeting with high school administrators and first responders to review crisis and reunification plans is scheduled for next week.

Upcoming events include a Back to School Picnic on August 29th and a Social Media Awareness Community Event on September 24th, featuring discussions on cyberbullying, online harassment, and mental health awareness, with notable guest speakers in attendance.

Dr. Brink gave an enrollment update to the Board. Currently, there are 739 students enrolled. This is down from 783 last year.

Dr. Brink reviewed the bullying policy with the Board. The policy can be found in the addenda. This policy is in the board policy manual and will be distributed to students and parents in the student handbook.

Mr. Scheibel gave an update from the Illinois Association of School Boards. There are legislative events scheduled for this fall. More information is forthcoming on those.

Mr. Janssen gave an update on the progress of the summer projects. The exterior door replacement is completed. Both buildings were ready for the start of school. Mr. Janssen thanked the Maintenance and Custodial staff for their hard work over the summer.

Principal Tiffany Zurliene presented the Elementary School Principal's Report.

- Open House was a great evening and we had a great turn out. We would like to give a shout out to Madelyn Benner and her team for creating the balloon arches at the Elementary and Primary Center.
- August 15, 16, and 19th. Each grade level went through bootcamp which is a refresh on how to be respectful, responsible and ready at Freeburg Elementary. Stations included the office, cafeteria, main entrance, technology, nurse, and bus evacuation.
- Our SRO officer Scott presented to each grade level on August 21st. Scott educated students on safety, respect and standing-up against bullying.
- We had our first fire drill on Thursday, August 22nd. Thanks to Hans and the fire department for assisting with the drill.

Upcoming Events:

- Games with Grownups - Elementary - September 13th - for grade 3-5
- Active Shooter Drill - September 5th - Dr. Brink sent out a district wide email informing parents/guardians about the drill.
- Support the PTO on September 10th - Dine out for Freeburg PTO Spirit Night at Chik-fil-A
- 8th Grade will have a Career Day Field Trip on Friday, September 20th.
- Freeburg District 70 along with the PTO, and Illinois Judges Association will host a Social Media Awareness Night on Tuesday, September 24 from 6-8pm.

Principal Stacey Sommerfield presented the Primary Center Principal's Report.

- Open House was a huge success. We had a balloon arch for pictures. PTO had a table set up to encourage parents to join in. It was great to meet the students and families!

- First Day was great! It was a nice gesture having the cheerleaders greet students as students arrived.
- Bootcamp: The students attended the stations to reinforce our character words: “Be Respectful, Be Responsible & Be Ready” on August 15th and 16th. It was nice that my office was a station so that students could meet me!
- Fire Drill-We had our first fire drill on 8/22. The staff and students did a great job!
- A Boy Scout representative talked with the PC students about joining Boy scouts.
- Jozie Kraemer-Wearing Pink on Friday!

Upcoming Events:

- August 26th-Informational Meeting for Boy Scouts
- August 29th-Back to School Picnic -PTO -5:00-7:00
- Early Dismissal this Friday at 11:30 & No School on Monday
- Picture day: Tuesday, September 3rd
- Games with Grownups - PC- September 13th - for grade K-2

Director of Student Services Amanda Hargan presented her report.

The 24-25 school year has had an extremely impressive start. Staff are working so hard to meet student individual needs while adhering to schedule expectations and limitations, prescribed minutes and various factors that can be incredibly complicated. Staff have worked many hours off the clock, in the summer and on weekends, to put together an organized plan always focusing on doing what is best for kids. Staff have been working together and joining forces all for the sake of student excellence.

Special Education

Currently Freeburg 70 serves 85 students with IEPs between the primary center and the elementary buildings; 14 students are served in specialized programs outside of their home school; and there are 40 speech only IEPs for a total of approximately 139 IEPs from early childhood to 8th grade. Needs are quite varied across the board and teachers, aides and related service staff are continuously seeking improved methods for success across the board academically, behaviorally and emotionally. Currently Freeburg’s special education population is 18% which is above the state average of 15%(2023). The special education team will meet monthly to review student needs, data and educational programming, setting goals for overall student growth academically and behaviorally.

504

Currently Freeburg 70 serves 28 students with 504 plans for a percentage of 4%. These needs are varied as well. Meetings are held annually. We are working to clarify accommodations to ensure they are effective and manageable.

Response to Intervention / MTSS (Multi-tiered Systems of Support)

