

Freeburg Elementary School  
Monday, September 23, 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, September 23, 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, Jayson Baker, David Stein, and Bill May were in attendance. Board member Amber Trout 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 Jennifer Scheuchner, Ashley Krakosky, Rachael Stehl, Lauren Baker, Emily Vasquez, and Michelle Freebairn. Also in attendance were Sheila Tewell, Benjamin Mueth, Amber Lonsdale, Eric Vasquez, and Patrick Smoker.

Moved: Bill May

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

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

- MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 26, 2024 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND SEPTEMBER 4, 2024 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
- INVESTMENT SUMMARY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 20, 2024
- BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2024

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

### **Approval of the Bills**

Moved: Dave Stein

Seconded: Jamie Smith

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

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

## **Reports of Standing Committees**

## **Reports of Special Committees**

## **Petitions/Communications**

There were eight Freedom of Information Act requests:

1. The Metro East Sun sought a listing of all student activities and sponsor name.
2. The Belleville News-Democrat sought the Board's recommendation to the St. Clair County Regional Office of Education regarding Board Member Jayson Baker's removal from the Board.
3. The Metro East Sun sought the district's school calendar.
4. The Metro East Sun sought the district's enrollment.
5. Board Member Jayson Baker sought all electronic communications between administrators and the Freeburg Elementary Teachers' Union.
6. Mr. Baker sought all investigative reports and supporting documents provided to the Freeburg Elementary Teachers' Union.
7. Mr. Baker sought all Freedom of Information Act requests since January 1, 2024.
8. The Metro East Sun sought an electronic copy of our evacuation plan in the event of an active shooter.

All requests except for the request for our evacuation plan were filled within the five-day timeframe.

## **Public Participation**

The Board welcomed the public to the meeting.

Amber Lonsdale addressed the Board regarding the past actions of Mr. Stein.

## **Teachers' Report**

Teacher Jennifer Scheuchner gave a Response to Intervention update to the Board.

## **Superintendent's Report**

The district is celebrating the hard work of teachers and students during the 2023-2024 school year. There has been notable improvement in test scores, with ELA scores increasing by 6.7% (59.1% of students meeting or exceeding expectations) and Math scores rising by 5% (47% meeting or exceeding expectations). Though Science scores decreased by 3.9%, with 74.8% of students meeting or exceeding expectations, the district remains a top performer in the area. The district also maintained a "COMMENDABLE" rating from the ISBE. The DLT and BLT are working on goals to further improve performance using IAR and FastBridge data. Congratulations were extended to students, staff, teachers, and parents for a successful year.

Additionally, the district is hosting a Social Media Awareness Night for families, with 162 families registered. The event will address social media's impact on mental health, cyberbullying, and

current laws, while encouraging dialogue between families and the school district. Several notable judges and officials, including Illinois State Senator Christopher Belt and possibly Illinois Supreme Court Justice David K. Overstreet, will be present to share insights.

The district's enrollment stands at 737, which is a decrease of two from last month.

There was no update from the Illinois Association of School Boards.

Mr. Janssen presented the salary compensation report. This report must be presented to the Board of Education each year and then posted on the district website by October 1.

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

- Games with Grownups was a huge success!
- Midterm of Quarter 1 was September 13th
- Baseball Season/Softball Season Report

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- Social Media Awareness Night - Tomorrow Night!
- Friday, October 4th - 3:10-4:45 - Grade 5th-8th PTO is hosting a drawing class at Elementary Cafe
- Fall Concert - October 11th at 10 am
- Fall Fest - October 18th
- 6th Grade Girls Tryouts are September 30 and October 1st from 3:30 to 6:00
- 7th and 8th Grade Girls Tryouts are October 7th and 8th from 3:30 to 5:00
- 6th Grade Boys Tryouts are October 2nd and 3rd from 3:25 to 5:00
- 7th and 8th Grade Boys Tryouts are October 14th from 10:00 to 12:00 and October 15th from 3:25 to 5:00

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

- Games with Grownups was well attended and fun was had by all!
- 1st Grade finished their farm unit and had a Barn Dance! It was a lot of fun watching the first grade students have fun at their barn dance.
- Kindergarten went on their apple picking field trip. We had a great parent turnout for the trip.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- Thursday, October 3 - 3:10-4:45 - K- 4th Paint Party put on by the PTO in the Primary Center Cafeteria
- Week of October 7th-Firehouse visits
- Early Dismissal on October 11th at 11:30
- No School - October 14th
- Parent Teacher conferences - Thursday, October 24th and Tuesday, October 29th

Director of Student Services Amanda Hargan presented her report.

The success of the Freeburg 70 team is rooted in their ability to reflect, adjust, and take action. The staff are working hard to ensure all students' needs are met, with strong support from committed parents. Special education meetings have been positive and solution-focused, with parents actively contributing. For 504 plans, staff are continuing to address student needs effectively.

In Response to Intervention (RTI) and MTSS, fall screenings identified students needing support in reading and math, and intervention plans are in place. Upcoming meetings will align support for academic and behavioral goals. The school recently hosted a successful "Games with Grown Ups" event, fostering meaningful connections between students and their special adults, especially grandparents.

## **Old Business**

## **New Business**

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Dave Stein

### **A MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE INTO A BUDGET HEARING.**

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

Motion: Jayson Baker

Seconded: Jamie Smith

### **A MOTION WAS MADE TO RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION.**

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

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Jamie Smith

### **A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE FY25 BUDGET, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

AYES: Smith, Scheibel, Baker, Stein, May, Foppe

Motion Carried

Motion: Bill May

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

### **A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS TO THE DISTRICT'S RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

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

Moved: Dave Stein

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF BOARD POLICY REVISIONS, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

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 SCOTT SCHULZ AS SCHOLAR BOWL SPONSOR, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

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

Moved: Bill May                              Seconded: Ed Scheibel

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM PARAPROFESSIONAL DONNA SMOKER, AS PRESENTED.**

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

Moved: Bill May                              Seconded: Dave Stein

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT COACHES:  
Boys' Basketball – Larry Mueller and Kevin Lisch  
Girls' Basketball – Jordan Liszewski, Jenna Breitweiser, and Abbey Payne**

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

**Other Business**

**Adjournment**

Moved: Ed Scheibel                              Seconded: Dave Stein

There being no further business to come before this body, **A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:29 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