

Freeburg Elementary School
Monday, October 28, 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, October 28, 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, Amber Trout, David Stein, and Bill May were in attendance. 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 via telephone. 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 Emily Vasquez. Other attendees included Brandi Ross, Stephanie Combs, Krystin Hobbs, Angelina Newbold, Eric Vasquez, Roger Skaer, Ben Belding, and Logan Thornton. Hans Carpenter of the Freeburg Tribune was also present.

Moved: Bill May

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

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

- MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 23, 2024 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND OCTOBER 22, 2024 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
- INVESTMENT SUMMARY THROUGH OCTOBER 25, 2024
- BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

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

Approval of the Bills

Moved: Amber Trout

Seconded: Jamie Smith

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

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

Reports of Standing Committees

Reports of Special Committees

Petitions/Communications

There were two Freedom of Information Act requests:

1. David Stein sought Student Resource Officer Brittany's last day at the district.
2. Amber Lonsdale sought all complaints filed against Dr. Melanie Brink and Board Member David Stein since July 1, 2021.

All requests have been or will be filled within the applicable timeframe.

Public Participation

The Board welcomed the public to the meeting.

Teachers' Report

Superintendent's Report

Paul Vollmer of Scheffel Boyle was on hand to present the 2023-2024 audit report. For the 18th consecutive year, the district attained "Recognition" status, which is the highest rating given. This rating is derived from five financial indicators including fund balance to revenue ratio, expenditure to revenue ratio, days cash on hand, percent of short-term borrowing remaining, and percent of long-term debt margin remaining. Mr. Vollmer reviewed financial highlights with the Board and thanked administrators for their help during the audit. The complete report can be found in the addenda.

Dr. Brink testified at the ISBE FY26 Budget Hearing Committee to request \$8 million in new state funding for SEL Hubs and REACH programs. These SEL initiatives have been crucial, providing our district with funding to purchase CASEL-aligned curriculum and Class Catalyst for classroom use.

Freeburg High School recently announced changes to its December final exam schedule. Our schedule will not change. The schedule is:

Wednesday, December 18 – 2 pm Dismissal

Thursday, December 19 – 2 pm Dismissal

Friday, December 20 – 11:30 Dismissal

Mr. Scheibel gave an update from the Illinois Association of School Boards. He stated school district elections will be held in April. Nominating petitions are due to the courthouse next month. There are numerous webinars and trainings available on the IASB website. The Triple I

Conference is next month. There are resources available to new board members also on the IASB website.

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

September-October Highlights and Upcoming Events

- **Social Media Awareness Night:** Held on Sept. 24, was a huge success with great participation.
- **End of Quarter 1 & Fall Concert** (Oct. 11): The front lawn concert enjoyed perfect weather.
- **Pep Rally** (Oct. 17): Celebrated Cross Country, Softball, Baseball, and kicked off basketball with support from the band and cheerleaders. GO HORNETS!
- **3rd Grade Field Trip** (Oct. 25): Visited Skate City, supported by PTO.

Upcoming Events:

- **McLimo Reward:** Tomorrow for grades 7-8 students with straight As.
- **Scholar Bowl Tryouts:** Grades 6-8 on Nov. 6.
- **Digital Citizenship Presentation:** Channel 5's Cory Miller will speak to grades 6-8 on Nov. 7.
- **Veteran's Day Breakfast & Early Dismissal:** Nov. 8, with dismissal at 11:30.
- **No School:** Nov. 11 in observance of Veterans Day.

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

October Highlights and Upcoming Events

- **Fire Prevention Week** (Oct. 7-11): PC classes visited the Firehouse, and Mrs. Kolakowski incorporated fire safety activities into PE. Thanks to the Freeburg Fire Department!
- **Pre-K Field Trip:** Pre-K students visited Braeutigam Orchards on Oct. 16, with support from the PTO.
- **Fall Fest:** Held on Oct. 18, and students enjoyed the festivities.
- **Safety Education:** SRO Officer Scott visited K-5 classrooms to discuss trick-or-treating safety, providing take-home materials for families.
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences:** The first session was held last Thursday, with a second session scheduled for tomorrow evening.
- **Kindergarten Data:** KIDS data has been submitted to the State.
- **Staffing Needs:** Looking for substitute teachers and paraprofessionals, with recruitment via social media.

Upcoming Events:

- **Red Ribbon Week:** This week, with themed days announced.
- **Teacher Institute Day** (No School Friday): Brian Mendler, author of *That One Kid*, will speak to staff.
- **Extended Weekend:** No school on Monday or Tuesday.
- **Quarter 2 Midterm:** November 15th.

Director of Student Services Amanda Hargan presented her report.

Quarter One Summary

Quarter one has concluded with significant accomplishments, largely due to a dedicated team. Despite challenges, the team has worked effectively to support student growth and inclusion.

Special Education

The preschool program remains at capacity, and the Early Childhood program continues to expand, especially as new students transition from early intervention. The rise in communication and behavioral needs has led to the hiring of an additional paraprofessional for the Early Childhood classroom. District-wide special education numbers remain stable, with a mid-year report due in December.

504 Plans

No new data, but staff are actively supporting student needs and contributing valuable insights for student success.

Response to Intervention / MTSS

Reading interventions show strong results, particularly among kindergarten students, where all participants have shown measurable growth. First grade has 95% of students progressing toward goals, with one student ready for dismissal. In second grade, 87% are meeting growth targets. Math interventions are similarly successful, with 88% of primary center students demonstrating significant improvement. A review with the elementary RTI team will take place to assess further progress.

Disabilities Awareness Month

October marks Disabilities Awareness Month, and Freeburg is committed to fostering an inclusive environment. The team emphasizes the importance of adapting education to meet diverse needs, with a focus on mutual learning and respect for individual strengths.

Old Business

New Business

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Bill May

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPOINT DAVID STEIN AS THE FREEBURG CCSD #70 DELEGATE AT THE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY AT THE TRIPLE I CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO.

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 5-aye, 1-nay, 1-present.

Motion: Jayson Baker

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

A MOTION WAS MADE MOVE THE DECEMBER BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING FROM DECEMBER 23 TO DECEMBER 17.

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

Motion: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Bill May

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:28 PM TO CONSIDER:

THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES OF THE DISTRICT INCLUDING HEARING TESTIMONY ON A COMPLAINT LODGED AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE. 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1) 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, Baker, Trout, Stein, May, Foppe
Motion Carried

Moved: Jayson Baker

Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION AT 8:12 PM.

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

Motion: Amber Trout

Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY JESSIE JANSSEN AS SCHOLAR BOWL SPONSOR.

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

Moved: Amber Trout

Seconded: Bill May

A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY MIKE JOSEPH AS TRACK COACH.

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

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Bill May

A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY TIFFANIE HUNT AND CAROL DODSON AS PARAPROFESSIONALS.

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

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Amber Trout

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM BOBBIE DUDLEY AS PARAPROFESSIONAL, EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 8, 2024, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).

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

Other Business

Ms. Foppe reminded board members that when they are in the community to always conduct oneself with civility and decorum.

Adjournment

Moved: Jayson Baker

Seconded: Amber Trout

There being no further business to come before this body, **A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:18 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