

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2024

The regular meeting of the Freeport Area School District Board of School Directors scheduled for 7:00 pm in the Auditorium of the Freeport Area High School, 625 South Pike Road, Sarver, Pennsylvania, was called to order by Mr. Gary Risch, Jr., Board President, at 7:05 p.m.

Roll call:

Ms. Davies	Present
Mr. DiGiacobbe	Present
Mr. Haven	Present
Mr. Huth	Present
Ms. Maxwell	Present
Mr. Risch	Present
Mr. Ritter	Present
Mr. Selinger	Absent
Ms. Zembrzuski	Present

Student School board members:

Sylvia A. Crytzer	Present
Lucia A. Danko	Absent
Dawson J. Gaillot	Absent
Himani Harrell	Absent
Aven J. Heavner	Present
Mario P. Lesko	Absent
Peyton A. Los	Absent
Emma G. Michelini	Absent

Administrators present were Mr. Magness, Superintendent; Mr. Robb, Program Director; and Mr. Walker, Director of Finance and Operations. Also participating was District solicitor Mr. Matthew Hoffman.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr. Risch welcomed members of the public and asked for comments on any agenda item. No public comments were offered.

Reports

1. It was moved by Mr. Haven, and seconded by Mr. DiGiacobbe, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on October 2, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.
2. It was moved by Mr. Huth, and seconded by Mr. Haven, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 9, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

3. The Board Secretary reported that the Board met as follows since the last report to the Board at the Regular Meeting on October 9, 2024: The Athletics Committee held an informational session on November 6, 2024. The Board met in Executive Session on November 6, 2024, to discuss Safety and Security, Personnel, and Real Estate Matters. The Board held a Committee Meeting on November 6, 2024. The Board met in Executive Session on November 13, 2024, to discuss Personnel and Real Estate Matters.
4. Mr. Robb presented his annual report on student achievement data at the Board's November 6, 2024, Committee Meeting. Mr. Risch thanked him for an excellent presentation.
5. Regan Cordier of the FASD Foundation reported on the Foundation's 2024-2025 Classroom Grants.
6. Cassandra Mielke, School Nutrition Program Supervisor, and Kelly Valmassoni, Regional Manager, presented Nutrition Inc.'s report on the District's school nutrition program.
7. Mr. Risch noted that the Board had instructed the Director of Finance & Operations to move forward with gathering the necessary information for the Board to make a decision in the next several months with regard to building projects intended to support the District's staff and students.
8. Mr. Huth reported that Lenape Technical School's Joint Operating Committee would meet the following week.
9. Mr. DiGiacobbe reported that the Armstrong Indiana Intermediate Unit (ARIN) Joint Operating Committee met on October 14, 2024, with discussion focused on the search for an executive director.
10. Ms. Davies provided the report of the Athletics Committee.
11. Mr. DiGiacobbe provided the report of the Safety Committee.
12. Mr. Haven provided the report of the Building Committee.
13. Ms. Maxwell reported for the Legislative Committee on the Pennsylvania School Boards Association Delegate Assembly held on November 2, 2024.
14. The Student School Board Members presented their reports on student activities and events.

Personnel

It was moved by Mr. DiGiacobbe, and seconded by Ms. Zembrzuski,

- a. To accept the attached resignation from Jamie S. Bacon, Educational Assistant, effective October 25, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Huth, and seconded by Mr. Haven,

- b. To approve the request of Employee No. 3666 for Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave.
- c. To approve the request of Employee No. 1093 for Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave.
- d. To approve the request of Employee No. 1828 for Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. DiGiacobbe, and seconded by Ms. Maxwell,

- e. To approve the one-time payment to Nicole M. Stell for services rendered as a Substitute Custodian for two (2) events worked at an overtime rate of \$21 per hour for the dates of September 20, 2024 and September 27, 2024.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Haven, and seconded by Ms. Zembrzuski,

- f. To approve the employment of Erica A. Schweiger as an Educational Assistant for the 2024-2025 school year, at an hourly wage rate of \$13.00, effective November 14, 2024, and contingent on satisfactory completion of all pre-employment requirements.
- g. To approve the employment of Cynthia D. Ishman as a part-time Cafeteria Worker, at an hourly wage rate of \$12.75, effective November 14, 2024, and contingent on satisfactory completion of all pre-employment requirements.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Huth, and seconded by Ms. Davies,

- h. To approve the employment of the paid and volunteer individuals listed on the attachment for the District's 2024-2025 Athletics Programs, with salaries in accordance with contracted terms of remuneration approved by the Board

and contingent on satisfactory completion of all pre-employment requirements.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Haven, and seconded by Mr. Huth,

- i. To approve the granting of professional status to Monica M. Goodman and Mallorie D. Wynkoop, who have each met the requirements for tenure as outlined in the Pennsylvania School Code.

Motion carried unanimously.

Athletics and Activities

It was moved by Ms. Davies, and seconded by Ms. Maxwell,

- a. To approve a High School student field trip described on the attachment, to participate in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 3 Chorus Festival in Blairsville, Pennsylvania, from February 5 to February 7, 2025.
- b. To approve a High School student field trip described on the attachment, to Costa Rica, from February 13 to February 22, 2025 (with dates subject to change due to flight schedules), at no cost to the District other than the cost of three substitute teachers for up to six days.
- c. To approve the granting of pre-approval of a High School student field trip to New York City in November, 2025, as described on the attachment.
- d. To approve the granting of pre-approval of a High School student field trip to France and Switzerland in June, 2026, as described on the attachment.

Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

It was moved by Mr. Haven, and seconded by Mr. Huth,

- a. To approve the attached proposal from Shelby Stewman for a demographic study to be completed by March 31, 2025, at a cost of \$17,000.

Roll call vote requested:

Ms. Davies	No
Mr. DiGiacobbe	Yes
Mr. Haven	Yes
Mr. Huth	Yes
Ms. Maxwell	No

Mr. Ritter	No
Mr. Selinger	<i>Absent</i>
Ms. Zembrzuski	Yes
Mr. Risch	Yes

Motion carried on a vote of five (5) to three (3).

It was moved by Mr. Haven, and seconded by Ms. Zembrzuski,

- b. To approve an agreement with Pennsylvania State Education Association Health & Welfare Fund for participation in a Voluntary Vision Program as described on the attachment, from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.
- c. To approve the attached Change Order GC 1 to Contract No. 1 - General Construction, with Fred L. Burns, Inc., dated October 14, 2022, for the Freeport Area High School Boiler and Electrical Projects, for a decreased cost in the contract sum of \$3,000.
- d. To approve the attached Full Time Special Education Placement Agreement with Hope Academy, for education services to be provided during the 2024-2025 school year, at a cost of \$5,500 per month for each placement plus \$3,850 per month for any 1:1 aide services, and for educational services to be provided during an extended school year, at a cost of \$8,250 for each placement plus \$4,950 for any 1:1 aide services.
- e. To approve the attached letter agreement with The Watson Institute for education services to be provided to a resident student during the 2024-2025 school year, at an annual rate of \$59,827, prorated for an October 30, 2024, start date.
- f. To approve the attached letter agreement with EI US, LLC, dba LearnWell, for education services to be provided to a resident student beginning October 29, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$49.50.
- g. To approve the attached proposal from O.Z. Enterprises, LLC, for repairs to the Buffalo Elementary School HVAC system described in the proposal for Air Handling Unit (AHU) Retro Commissioning, at a cost of \$7,500 to be paid from capital account funds.
- h. To approve the attached proposal from O.Z. Enterprises, LLC, for repairs to the Buffalo Elementary School HVAC system described in the proposal for Cafeteria Unit Vent Failed Actuator Replacement, at a cost of \$9,500 to be paid from capital account funds.
- i. To approve the attached proposal from O.Z. Enterprises, LLC, for repairs to the Buffalo Elementary School HVAC system described in the proposal for

Fan Coil Failed Hot Water Valve (HWV) Actuator Replacement, at a cost of \$8,750 to be paid from capital account funds.

- j. To approve the attached proposal from O.Z. Enterprises, LLC, for repairs to the Buffalo Elementary School HVAC system described in the proposal for Terminal Box Failed Hot Water Valve (HWV) Actuator Replacement, at a cost of \$10,000 to be paid from capital account funds.
- k. To approve the attached Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) Maintenance Contract Renewal with Gemini Power Systems, Inc., for maintenance and testing services to be provided to equipment at the Freeport Area Middle School.
- l. To approve the attached proposal from Fayer Family Accessibility Solutions LLC, for installation of an indoor commercial ramp at the Freeport Area High School, at a cost of \$8,344.02, to be paid from capital account funds.
- m. To approve the attached proposal from Combustion Service & Equipment Co., for repair and preventative maintenance services described on the attachment to heating equipment at the Buffalo Elementary School, at a cost of \$21,750, to be paid from capital account funds.
- n. To accept the donation of \$100 from Rebecca Simmer Fullerton and Daniel L. Fullerton, Sr., for the Buffalo Elementary School STEM Program.
- o. To accept the donation of \$5,000 from Rachel Kittenbrink and William Knepp for the District's 2024 Autism Conference.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Huth, and seconded by Mr. DiGiacobbe,

- p. To accept the 2024-2025 classroom grants listed on the attachment from the Freeport Area School District Foundation, in the total amount of \$31,172.21.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Ms. Maxwell, and seconded by Mr. Haven,

- q. To accept the DonorsChoose.org donation for the South Buffalo Elementary School Project: "South Buffalo Classroom Calming Corners" described on the attachment (Total Project Cost \$472.48).

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Huth, and seconded by Ms. Davies,

- r. To set the organization meeting of the Freeport Area School District Board of School Directors for December 4, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Freeport Area High School.

Motion carried unanimously.

Finance

Mr. Walker provided an overview of the attached Finance Report.

It was moved by Mr. Haven, and seconded by Mr. Huth,

- a. To approve the attached October 2024 financial reports.
- b. To approve the October 2024 payments listed on the attachments.
- c. To approve the attached list of budgetary transfers.
- d. To approving the authorization of Administration to enter into joint purchasing agreements with other school districts or intermediate units in Pennsylvania for purchases for the 2024-2025 school year and to approve the attached resolution authorizing Administration to enter into the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's joint purchasing program for 2025-2026.
- e. To approve the use of ACCESS funds to cover the cost of the equipment listed on the attachment, for the Buffalo Elementary School autism support program.
- f. To approve the attached Accelerated Budget Opt Out Resolution Certifying Tax Rate Within Inflation Index (and No Need to Comply with Act 1 Accelerated Budget Procedures) for the 2025-2026 School Year.

Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meetings

Mr. Risch announced that the Board would hold an Organization Meeting and Committee Meeting on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 7:00 pm and a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 7:00 pm, in the High School Audion.

Comments from Board Members

Mr. Haven requested that the members of the Building Committee plan to meet to discuss recommendations for moving forward.

Comments from the Public

Amy Arnold of Buffalo Township commented on football game attendance and ticket revenue.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. DiGiacobbe, and seconded by Ms. Davies, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Risch declared the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

/s/ Gary L. Risch, Jr.

Board President

/s/ Mary Dobransky

Board Secretary