

Freeburg Elementary School
Monday, November 25, 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, November 25, 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, and Bill May were in attendance. Board member David Stein was absent. Also in attendance were Dr. Melanie Brink, Superintendent and Mark Janssen, Financial Officer and Recording Secretary. 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 Renee Graul, Megan Cook, Emily Vasquez, Kathleen Woods, and Lauren Baker. Also in attendance were Benjamin Mueth, Erin Shook, Angelina Newbold, Leland Snyder, Amber Lonsdale, Tara Lauf, Mike Blaies, Eric Vasquez, Stephanie Combs, Benjamin Belding, and Roger Skaer. Hans Carpenter of the Freeburg Tribune was also present.

Moved: Amber Trout

Seconded: Jamie Smith

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

- MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 28, 2024 REGULAR BOARD MEETING
- INVESTMENT SUMMARY THROUGH NOVEMBER 22, 2024
- BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2024

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

Approval of the Bills

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Bill May

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

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

Reports of Standing Committees

Dr. Brink stated she will call a Personnel Committee meeting in January.

Reports of Special Committees

Petitions/Communications

There were two Freedom of Information Act requests:

1. SmartProcure sought all purchasing records from August 15, 2024.
2. Amber Lonsdale sought all complaints from the Office of the Executive Inspector General since October 1, 2023.
3. Amber Lonsdale sought a copy of the complaint sent by a former staff member from 2022.
4. Amber Lonsdale sought copies of emails sent by Mrs. Foppe in April of this year.
5. Amber Lonsdale sought copies of any contracts the district has entered into with any background check companies.
6. David Stein sought a form of new hires sent to the ROE in March of this year.
7. David Stein sought a letter from Dr. Rob Hawkins recommending Mark Janssen as Superintendent.

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

Public Participation

The Board welcomed the public to the meeting.

Teachers' Report

Teachers Renee Graul, Megan Cook, and Kathleen Woods gave brief presentations on what was happening in their classrooms.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Brink presented the Superintendent's Report.

Officer Scott has updated safety protocols, including revising colored tags for different groups in the building (e.g., Laugh and Learn, Student Volunteers), which will be added to the Crisis Plan. The Health and Safety team is also revisiting areas district-wide to enhance safety.

Aligned with the district's Strategic Planning Committee goals, the DLT has reviewed data and set three goals for improvement. Grade-level teams will use this data to create specific goals, to be discussed in meetings and shared with building administrators.

In partnership with AIR®, ISBE conducted a survey to assess post-pandemic support for staff and students. Based on the lowest-rated student responses, Tier I supports are being focused in these areas, alongside improvements identified through IAR scores and other data.

The PTO showed immense appreciation for teachers and staff during Education Week, organizing events with the theme *In Our Appreciation Era*. Special thanks were extended to custodial staff—Greg, Sherri, Casey, Kent, and Donna—for their support during the events.

Mr. Scheibel gave an update from the Illinois Association of School Boards. He stated school district elections will be held in April. The Triple I Conference was held last weekend in Chicago. There were many good conferences with many topics discussed.

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

Highlights and Events

- **McLimo Celebration:** On October 29th, 7th and 8th-grade students with straight As were rewarded with a McLimo ride.
- **Digital Footprint Presentation:** Corey Miller, a Channel 5 News journalist and Freeburg District 70 graduate, spoke to 6th-8th graders on November 7th about managing their digital footprint.
- **Veterans Day Breakfast:** Hosted by 8th-grade students to honor veterans and first responders, featuring guest speakers Mr. and Mrs. Davis. Gratitude extended to all for their service.
- **Holiday with the Hornets:** The National Junior Honor Society held its first vendor event on November 16th, which was a great success. Thanks to Kaitlin Becker, Carrie Green, and all volunteers for their efforts.

Upcoming Events

- **Winter Dance:** Grades 6-8 on Saturday, December 7th.
- **4th Grade Christmas Craft Extravaganza:** Friday, December 13th.
- **Elementary Christmas Concert:** Monday, December 16th.
- **Christmas Break Schedule:** Early dismissal at 2:00 PM on December 18th and 19th, and at 11:30 AM on December 20th. Classes resume on January 6th.

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

Highlights and Updates

- **Parent-Teacher Conference:** The second session took place on Tuesday, October 29th.
- **Professional Development:** Teachers attended a session with Brian Mendler, author of *That One Kid*, on November 1st.
- **Quarter 2 Midterm:** Marked on Friday, November 15th.

PTO Achievements

- Reached their \$25,000 fundraiser goal.
- Rewarded 300 students who met personal goals with a trip to Skyzone.
- Treated all students and staff to Dairy Queen blizzards as a thank-you.
- Spoiled staff with daily treats during American Education Week.

Community & Giving

- Freeburg Optimist Club is hosting a toy drive until December 13th for new, unwrapped toys.

Director of Student Services Amanda Hargan presented her report.

Special Education Summary

Teams continue collaborating to meet the needs of students with identified disabilities. Two new aides—one in Early Childhood and one replacing a resignation in Special Education at the Primary Center—have already made a significant positive impact. The district-wide paraprofessionals are highly valued for their essential role in supporting teachers and contributing to student growth. Positive teamwork meetings focus on celebrating successes and addressing challenges collectively. A mid-year review with updated numbers and percentages will be presented during the December board meeting.

Section 504

No new data is available, but staff continue effectively supporting student needs and providing valuable insights for planning student success.

Response to Intervention (RTI) / MTSS

Recent What I Need (WIN) meetings at both the Primary Center and Elementary School reflect the effectiveness of current supports, as fewer than 5% of students have required referral to the WIN team.

- Primary Center: Students show progress in reading and math, though challenges like stamina and attention span remain a focus.
- Elementary School: Intervention data is positive, addressing both academic and behavioral needs.

Winter benchmarking in December will assess all students' growth in reading and math, providing data to adjust intervention supports if necessary and evaluate curriculum alignment with district academic goals.

Old Business

New Business

Moved: Bill May

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

A MOTION WAS MADE TO CENSURE BOARD MEMBER DAVID STEIN.

AYES: Smith, Scheibel, Trout, May, Foppe

ABSTAIN: Baker

Motion Carried

Motion: Amber Trout

Seconded: Bill May

A MOTION WAS MADE TO RECOMMEND TO THE ST. CLAIR COUNTY REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION BOARD MEMBER DAVID STEIN BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE.

