

Freeburg Elementary School
Monday, December 17, 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, December 17, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria at Freeburg Elementary School.

Call to Order

Mr. Scheibel called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call of the members.

Roll Call

In addition to Mr. Scheibel, board members Jamie Smith, Jayson Baker, Amber Trout, and Bill May were in attendance. Board members Michelle Foppe and David Stein were absent. Also in attendance was 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 Theresa Goscinski and Emily Vasquez. Also in attendance was Eric Vasquez.

Moved: Amber Trout

Seconded: Jamie Smith

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

- MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 25, 2024 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND NOVEMBER 25, 2024 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
- INVESTMENT SUMMARY THROUGH DECEMBER 13, 2024
- BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2024

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 5-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, Baker, Trout, May, Scheibel
Motion Carried

Reports of Standing Committees

Reports of Special Committees

Petitions/Communications

There were seven Freedom of Information Act requests:

1. Board member David Stein sought a listing of all food service and transportation employees in the last three years.
2. David Stein sought a listing of all transportation employees for October 2024.
3. David Stein sought a copy of a Freedom of Information Act request he sent on November 22, 2024.
4. David Stein sought a copy of an email he sent on December 4, 2024.
5. David Stein sought a copy of another email he sent on December 4, 2024.
6. David Stein sought a copy of an email he sent on December 16, 2024.
7. David Stein sought copies of complaints he sent on December 17, 2024.

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

Public Participation

The Board welcomed the public to the meeting.

Teachers' Report

Mrs. Goscinski complimented the community in the Freeburg area. We have helped about ten families and 31 kids with their Christmas gifts. She is very proud of the generosity showed by the community.

Superintendent's Report

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

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

- Friday, December 13th - Quarter 2 Movie Reward - Thank you to the Communications Committee for organizing and getting popcorn for our students.
- 4th Grade - Gingerbread houses Friday - Thank you to parents/guardians that assisted with this holiday fun!
- Christmas Concert was last night - Thank you to Mrs. Ketchum for working with our students. It was a great performance!
- 4th and 5th Grade Chorus members went to the Freeburg Care Center to sing Christmas Carols to residents. This is a great way to bring holiday cheer to those who don't get to get out and about in the community. Thank you Mrs. Ketchum for making this possible!

Upcoming Events:

- Friday, December 20th - End of Quarter 2
- January 14th - the FCHS FFA will be celebrating Dairy Day with our 4th Grade students.

- On Wednesday, January 15th the 8th Grade will tour the high school in two groups.
- Friday, January 17th - 11:30 Early Dismissal
- No School - Monday, January 20th - in honor of Martin Luther King

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

- Santa's Kottage December 5th - We appreciate the Freeburg Women's Club for organizing it.
- The PC has had all sorts of fun things happening this month: Grinch days, gingerbread house days, and Christmas around the world in 2nd grade.

Upcoming Events:

- Christmas Concert for K-2 - Thursday at the High School-7:00 p.m.

Thank you to Mrs. Ketchum for all of her hard work getting the students geared up for this.

- Early Dismissals on Wednesday and Thursday at 2:00
- Friday's early dismissal is at 11:30
- School resumes - January 6th
- Saturday, January 11th is Freeburg District 70's Trivia Night.

Director of Student Services Amanda Hargan presented her report.

Special Education Overview

Freeburg 70 serves a total of 136 students (18%) in special education, exceeding the state average of 15% (2023). This includes:

- 71 students with IEPs in grades K-8.
- 13 students in specialized programs outside the district.
- 39 speech-only IEPs.
- 13 early childhood students, with one in a specialized program.

The district emphasizes providing the least restrictive environment, allowing students to spend more time in general education settings. This shift has resulted in improved outcomes, as reflected in benchmark assessment growth.

504 Plans

Currently, 33 students (5%) have 504 plans. The number has increased this semester, and teams are refining accommodations to ensure these plans are both effective and manageable.

Response to Intervention / MTSS

Winter benchmarking shows overall improvement in student scores for reading and math, with multiple grade levels meeting the goal of 80% scoring above the 25th percentile:

- **Reading:** 2 grade levels meet the goal, with 5 more close behind.
- **Math:** 7 grade levels already meet the goal.

Progress is monitored using trends across multiple data points to guide curriculum adjustments and interventions, supporting continuous student growth.

Additional Highlights

- Attendance rate remains strong at 95% or higher.
- Behavior referrals have significantly decreased at the Elementary level compared to last year.

Thanks to the dedication of Freeburg 70 staff, students are thriving. Wishing everyone a peaceful and restful holiday break!

Old Business

New Business

Moved: Bill May

Seconded: Jayson Baker

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ENTER INTO A LEVY HEARING.

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 5-aye, 0-nay.

Motion: Jamie Smith

Seconded: Bill May

A MOTION WAS MADE TO RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION.

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 5-aye, 0-nay.

Moved: Amber Trout

Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE 2024 TAX LEVY WITH A TOTAL INCREASE OF 7.54%, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).

AYES: Baker, Trout, May, Scheibel

NAYS: Smith

Motion Carried

Motion: Bill May

Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE 2nd READING OF BOARD POLICY REVISIONS, AS PRESENTED.

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 5-aye, 0-nay.

Motion: Jayson Baker

Seconded: Bill May

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:14 PM TO CONSIDER:

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE RELEASE OF THE FOLLOWING CLOSED SESSION MINUTES AS THE NEED FOR CONFIDENTIALITY NO LONGER EXISTS:

July 9, 2020

August 24, 2020

October 20, 2020

October 26, 2020

November 23, 2020

December 14, 2020

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 5-aye, 0-nay.

Other Business

Adjournment

Moved: Amber Trout

Seconded: Bill May

There being no further business to come before this body, **A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:49 P.M.**

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 5-aye, 0-nay.

Ed Scheibel, Vice-President
Board of Education, Dist. #70

Jamie Smith, Secretary
Board of Education, Dist. # 70