

Freeburg Elementary School  
Monday, April 28, 2025  
7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Education for Freeburg Community Consolidated School District No. 70 was held on Monday, April 28, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria at Freeburg Elementary School.

### **Call to Order**

Mrs. Trout called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call of the members.

### **Roll Call**

In addition to Mrs. Trout, board members Jamie Smith, Ed Scheibel, David Stein (via Google Meet), Bill May, Ben Mueth, and Erin Shook were in attendance. Also in attendance was Mark Janssen, Interim Superintendent, Financial Officer, and Recording Secretary. Principals Tiffany Zurliene and Stacey Sommerfield, along with Student Services Director Amanda Hargan were also present. Board attorney Heidi Eckert from Blitz, Bardgett, and Deutsch was also present.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Board and public stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Visitors**

Visitors to the meeting included district staff Paula Mullins, Jenny Hummert, Angie Cooper, Caitlin Kirby, Abbey Payne, and Kathleen Woods. Also in attendance were Roger Skaer and Hans Carpenter of the Freeburg Tribune.

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Bill May

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

- MINUTES OF THE MARCH 24, 2025 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND APRIL 7, 2025 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
- INVESTMENT SUMMARY THROUGH APRIL 25, 2025
- BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH MARCH 31, 2025

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

### **Approval of the Bills**

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Jamie Smith

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

AYES: Smith, Scheibel, May, Mueth, Shook, Trout

Present: Stein

Motion Carried

## **Reports of Standing Committees**

## **Reports of Special Committees**

### **Petitions/Communications**

There were three Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests received. The first was from Mr. Stein, requesting information on outstanding meal balances. The second came from the Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties, seeking data related to corporal punishment. The third request, submitted by the Data Branch, pertained to purchasing data. All requests were fulfilled within the applicable timeframe.

### **Public Participation**

The Board welcomed the public to the meeting.

### **Teachers' Report**

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Janssen warmly welcomed three retiring teachers—Paula Mullins, Jenny Hummert, and Kathleen Woods—to be recognized for their outstanding years of service. All three will be retiring at the end of the school year. Mrs. Mullins concludes her career with 31 years of dedicated service, Mrs. Hummert with 28 years, and Mrs. Woods with 24 years. Mr. Janssen and the Board expressed their gratitude for the teachers' unwavering commitment and selfless dedication to our students throughout the years.

Mr. Janssen provided a year-end schedule of notable activities. Those dates and activities are:

- May 6 - PC Field Day
- May 8 - Elementary School Field Day
- May 9 & 10 - Spring Musical
- May 13 & 14 - Kindergarten Screenings
- May 21 - 11:30 Dismissal
- May 21 - Graduation - 7 pm
- May 22 - Teachers' Institute

Mr. Janssen provided an update on the outstanding meal balances, noting a decrease from approximately \$16,600 last month to under \$12,600 this month.

Mr. Janssen gave an update on the softball field. Mr. Janssen provided an update on the softball field. Last fall, the infield was treated to prevent weed growth; however, an unexpected four-inch rain—originally forecasted as a brief shower—caused the treatment to wash into right field, resulting in damage to the grass. Mr. Janssen and Mr. Havel are currently exploring options for repairing the area. While recent wet weather has slowed progress, the goal remains to have the field repaired or significantly improved in time for the start of the softball season in August. Mr. Stein contended the district applied the chemical incorrectly. Mr. Smith disputed this notion

stating the chemical was applied correctly, but the weather played a factor in the chemical killing the grass in the outfield. Mr. Stein asked for periodic updates on this issue. Mrs. Trout stated updates will be given as they are warranted.

Mr. Stein raised the issue of how Board member email addresses are displayed on the website. Currently, a single email address is listed, which routes messages to the entire Board. Mr. Janssen clarified that the use of a centralized email address was implemented following an incident where a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request was sent to only one Board member. Fortunately, that request was read and forwarded within the required five-day timeframe. He explained that the centralized system was adopted to ensure timely responses to FOIA requests and maintain compliance. Mr. Janssen noted that he has no strong preference regarding the email listing format but emphasized that, should individual addresses be posted, Board members must regularly check their emails and promptly forward any FOIA requests to him to ensure compliance with statutory deadlines. Following discussion, the Board agreed to list individual email addresses on the website, with members committing to checking their emails regularly. Additionally, Mr. Janssen will post his email with a reminder that all FOIA requests should be directed to him.

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

- IAR Testing took place from April 1–9.
- Art and Tech Night was held on April 10th for grades 3–8 with a strong turnout.
- Student Trivia Night for grades 5–8 was held on April 11th.
- 6th grade attended a field trip to the Challenger Learning Center on April 14–15.
- McLimo Event on April 15th recognized 63 students (22 8th graders, 41 7th graders) for earning Straight A's.
- 3rd Grade Recorder Concert was held on April 17th showcasing student progress.
- Earth Day (April 22): Student Council provided Earth Day snacks for all students.
- Illinois Science Assessment completed by 5th and 8th graders; final makeup tests underway.

Upcoming Events:

- 7th Grade Field Trip to Skate City and Spring Band/Chorus Concert tomorrow (April 29).
- Illinois Principals Association Student Recognition Breakfast on April 30; Braydon Mueth selected to represent the Elementary School.
- Rotary Field Day hosted by Freeburg District 70 on May 8th.
- PTO Painting Party for grades 3–8 on May 9th.
- Spring Musical – Beauty and the Beast Jr. performances on May 9th (7:00 PM) and May 10th (5:00 PM).
- School Carnival on May 15th (3rd grade: 8:30 AM–12:30 PM; 4th–8th grades: 10:30 AM–2:30 PM).
- Regular dismissal on May 19th and 20th; early dismissal at 11:30 AM on May 21st (last day of school).
- Graduation Ceremony on May 21st at 7:00 PM.

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

- School registration is open until May 16th.
- Students attended Ag Day at Freeburg High School.
- Kindergarten had a field trip on April 24th.
- 2nd grade visited the Magic House; Pre-K went to Blossom Play Cafe today.
- April 30th: Students recognized at the Illinois Principals Association breakfast; Levi Zipfel will represent the district.
- May 6th: Field Day.
- May 7th: Area preschool students visit Freeburg Primary Center.
- May 8th: PTO Painting Party for K-2nd grade, 3:10–4:45 PM.
- May 9th: 1st-grade field trip to the Zoo.
- May 13–14th: Kindergarten screening for 2025–26 school year.
- May 15th: School Carnival for Pre-K–2nd grade.
- May 16th: Pre-K Graduation at 9:30 AM.

Director of Student Services Amanda Hargan presented her report.

Last Friday, nine students participated in the ACE Olympics, a noncompetitive sports event in Columbia, IL. Staff, volunteers, and the Freeburg PTO, who provided team shirts, all contributed to the inclusive event, with a student-designed shirt selected by Kailynn Rose. Additionally, some students and staff will attend a dance in Dupo, providing opportunities to practice communication and social-emotional skills.

The Special Education department is finalizing meetings and planning for next year, celebrating student progress with data to be shared soon. For students with 504 plans, staff are ensuring supports are in place, especially for 8th graders transitioning to high school. Schoolwide benchmark assessments in reading and math will occur in May to track student growth and guide interventions. Preschool screenings are complete, and families will soon learn if their children qualify for the grant-funded program.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Stein posed a series of questions regarding the implementation of the Risk Management Plan. He asserted that the Plan does not authorize Mr. Janssen to post journal entries to account for Tort expenditures at the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Janssen responded that the process is conducted in consultation with the district auditor and in compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

Mr. Stein also inquired about the status of hiring two additional employees in the Food Service Department. He asked why the Board had not been informed about these hires. Mr. Janssen responded that he was following the Board's directive, which granted him discretion to hire part-time employees in the Food Service and Transportation Departments.

### **New Business**

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Bill May

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE DISTRICT CONSOLIDATED PLAN, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

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

Motion: Jamie Smith                      Seconded: Ed Scheibel

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO RENEW THE SERIOUS SAFETY HAZARD DETERMINATIONS, WITH ONE CLARIFICATION (SEE ADDENDA).**

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

Moved: Ed Scheibel                      Seconded: Jamie Smith

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO DECLARE BUS #43 A 2007 84-PASSENGER INTERNATIONAL BUS AS SURPLUS PROPERTY, AS PRESENTED.**

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

Moved: Ben Mueth                      Seconded: Ed Scheibel

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A 2026 77-PASSENGER BLUEBIRD BUS FOR \$146,680, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

AYES: Smith, Scheibel, May, Mueth, Shook, Trout

NAYS: Stein

Motion Carried

Moved: Ed Scheibel                      Seconded: Bill May

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE 1<sup>ST</sup> READING OF BOARD POLICY REVISIONS, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

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

Motion: Ed Scheibel                      Seconded: Erin Shook

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:48 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 ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL, OR WHEN THE DISTRICT FINDS THAT AN ACTION IS PROBABLE OR IMMINENT,**



