MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JUNE 11, 2025

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 7:00 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	Present
Ms. Zembrzuski	Present*

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 items. No public comments on any agenda items were offered.

Reports

1. It was moved by Mr. Haven, and seconded by Mr. Selinger, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on May 7, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

2. It was moved by Mr. DiGiacobbe, and seconded by Ms. Maxwell, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 14, 2025. 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 May 14, 2025: The Board met in Executive Session on June 4, 2025, to discuss Safety and Security, Personnel, Contracts and Negotiations Matters, and Confidential Student Matters. The Board held a Committee Meeting on June 4, 2025. The Board met in Executive Session on June 11, 2025, to discuss Safety and Security and Personnel Matters.

4. At the Board's June 4, 2025, Committee Meeting, Mr. Walker presented a 2025-2026 Budget Update.

**Ms. Zembrzuski participated by telephone conference call.*

5. Mr. Risch thanked the community, district administration and the board for everyone's hard work in deciding how to move forward with the High School project. He noted he believed that the district had left no stone unturned in exploring options for the project.

6. Mr. Selinger reported that the meeting agenda included an item for approval of a treasurer for the Lenape Technical School Joint Operating Committee for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

7. Mr. DiGiacobbe reported on actions taken at the May 20, 2025, meeting of the Armstrong Indiana (ARIN) Intermediate Unit board.

8. Mr. DiGiacobbe reported for the Safety Committee that the Buffalo Elementary School traffic lights were in place.

9. Ms. Maxwell reported that she participated in the Pennsylvania School Boards Association "Day on the Hill," in May and met with Senator Pittman, Representative Mustello, and Senator Hutchinson. Ms. Maxwell also reported that she would be in Harrisburg again later that month to talk with state representatives about school district funding.

Mr. Risch asked for motions on *Other Business* item 7.a. and *Finance* items 8.m. 8.n., and 8.o., out of agenda order:

Other Business

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

a. To approve the identification of the High School Project to be the High School Renovation-in-place Project (Option 4 as presented in the feasibility study) and the authorization and direction of Administration to consult with HHSDR Architects Engineers and PFM Financial Advisors LLC regarding next steps requiring Board consideration and action.

Roll call vote requested:

Ms. Davies	Yes
Mr. DiGiacobbe	No
Mr. Haven	No
Mr. Huth	Yes
Ms. Maxwell	No
Mr. Ritter	No
Mr. Selinger	Yes
Ms. Zembrzuski	Yes
Mr. Risch	Yes

Motion carried on a vote of five (5) to four (4).

Finance

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

m. To approve the adoption of the proposed Final Budget of the School District for the 2025-2026 fiscal year on form PDE 2028 as presented to the School Board as a Final Budget for the School District General Fund in the amount of $39,709,259 (5.29% and 65.10 mills for Armstrong County and 4.92% and 185.91 mills for Butler County).

Roll call vote requested:

Ms. Davies	Yes
Mr. DiGiacobbe	No
Mr. Haven	No
Mr. Huth	Yes
Ms. Maxwell	No
Mr. Ritter	No
Mr. Selinger	Yes
Ms. Zembrzuski	Yes
Mr. Risch	Yes

Motion carried on a vote of five (5) to four (4).

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

n. To approve the adoption of the attached Annual Tax Levy Resolution providing for the levy of taxes for school purposes for the school year beginning July 1, 2025, subject to the provisions of the Local Tax Collection Law and in accordance with the tax rates approved on Form PDE-2028.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

o. To approve the authorization of a homestead and farmstead real estate tax assessment exclusion for the school year beginning July 1, 2025, under the provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006), in accordance with the attached resolution and the tax rates approved on Form PDE-2028.

Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel

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

a. To accept the retirement resignation of Michael J. McGrath, Teacher, effective June 2, 2025.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

b. To accept the resignation of Deborah A. Boroski, Educational Assistant, effective May 30, 2025.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

c. To approve the request of Employee No. 4233 for Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave.

d. To approve the request of Employee No. 2407 for Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave.

e. To approve the request of Employee No. 4165 for Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave.

f. To approve the request of Employee No. 1472 for Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave.

g. To approve the request of Employee No. 1188 for Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

h. To approve the employment of the individuals listed on the attachment as Substitute Custodians, from June 13, 2025, through August 16, 2025, at the rates provided on the attachment.

i. To approve the employment of the individuals listed on the attachment as Professional Learning Mentors and New-teacher Mentors for the 2025-2026 school year, with salaries in accordance with contracted terms of remuneration approved by the Board.

j. To approve the attached Addendum to Compensation Plan for Administrative Support Employees of the Freeport Area School District, effective July 1, 2025.

k. To approve the employment of the paid and volunteer individuals listed on the attachment for the District's 2025-2026 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.

Curriculum and Technology

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

a. To approve the attached student handbooks/codes of conduct for the 2025-2026 school year.

b. To approve the attached assessment schedule for the 2025-2026 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

Athletics and Activities

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

a. To approve the participation of Renee Bogan, Assistant Grade 6-12 Principal, at the National Schools to Watch Conference in Washington, DC, on June 26-28, 2025, at a cost to the District of $1,797.67.

b. To approve the participation of Timothy Walters, Grade 6-12 Principal, and Nicole Pearson, Teacher, in the Schools to Watch Site Visits Training in State College, Pennsylvania, on July 13-14, 2025, at a cost to the District of $429.

c. To approve a performance by the District's Marching Band at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, on August 13, 2025.

d. To approve the participation of High School students in the Foundation Cross Country Invitational to be held on September 19-20, 2025, in Hershey, Pennsylvania, as described on the attachment, at no cost to the District.

Motion carried unanimously.

Policy

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

a. To approve the adoption of revised School Board Policy No. 317 (Conduct/Disciplinary Procedures).

b. To approve the adoption of revised School Board Policy No. 320 (Freedom of Speech by Employees).

c. To approve the adoption of revised School Board Policy No. 718 (Service Animals in Schools).

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Zembrzuski ended her telephone conference participation in the meeting.

Other Business

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

b. To approve the appointment of Mylie A. Atkinson, Lainey M. Blattenberger, Lucia A. Danka, Cathryn Deacon, Dawson J. Gaillot, Himani Harrell, Mario P. Lesko, Peyton A. Los, and Natalie L. Wallisch as Student School Board Members for the 2025-2026 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

c. To approve the appointment of the firm of Tucker Arensberg, P.C. as school board solicitor for the 2025-2026 school year as per the firm's attached proposal dated May 30, 2025.

d. To approve the election of Tracy Bowser as the Lenape Joint Operating Committee and Armstrong County Area Vocational-Technical School Board Treasurer for a one-year term expiring on June 30, 2026.

e. To approve the attached Mutual Aid Memorandum of Understanding for Emergency Management with the other districts and vocational technical schools in Armstrong and Indiana counties.

f. To approve the attached memoranda of understanding with Armstrong Indiana (ARIN) Intermediate Unit for school psychologist services to be provided during the 2025-2026 school year, at a projected cost of $168,840.

g. To approve the attached Student Assistance Program Agreement with Butler County Human Services Center for Community Resources for the 2025-2026 school year.

h. To approve the attached College Now Partnership Agreement with Butler County Community College (BC3) for participation of District students in BC3's dual credit program during the 2025-2026 school year, at no cost to the District.

i. To approve the attached Agreement to Sell or Purchase Meals from Sponsor to Sponsor, with Butler County Children's Center, Inc., dba Early Learning Connections (Pre-K Counts), from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

j. To approve the attached Agreement with Buffalo Township for police officer traffic control services to be provided during the 2025-2026 school year, at an hourly rate per officer of $115.

k. To approve the attached Change Order No. EC 2 to Contract No. 3 - Electrical Construction, with Right Electric, Inc., dated October 14, 2022, for the Freeport Area High School Boiler and Electrical Projects, for a decreased cost in the contract sum of $16,576.60.

l. To approve the attached final payment application from Right Electric, Inc. (Contract No. 3 - Electrical Construction) for the Freeport Area High School Boiler and Electrical Projects.

m. To approve the attached proposals from Union Electric Construction LLC for purchase and installation of equipment to refeed the High School kitchen walk-in cooler and freezer to the District's backup generator channels, at a cost not to exceed $21,754 to be paid from the District's Capital Fund Account.

n. To approve the attached proposal from Allegheny Roofing & Sheet Metal Co., Inc., in coordination with Florida Consulting, for roofing repairs to the High School Science Wing Roof [rooms facing track] at a cost of $12,500 to be paid from the District's Capital Fund Account.

o. To approve the attached proposal from Allegheny Roofing & Sheet Metal Co., Inc., in coordination with Florida Consulting, for roofing repairs to the High School Science Wing Roof [rooms facing woods] at a cost of $12,500 to be paid from the District's Capital Fund Account.

p. To approve the authorization of Florida Consulting LLC to prepare bid specifications for replacement of the High School Library Roof and to authorize the advertisement for solicitation of bids.

q. To approve the attached proposal from Florida Consulting, LLC, for a district-wide roof assessment, at a cost of $6,000.

r. To approve the attached proposal from Pittsburgh Stage, Inc., for upgrades to stage lighting equipment and controls in the High School auditorium and up to two hours of end user training, at a cost not to exceed $69,589 to be paid from the District's Capital Fund Account, under the CoStars State Contract Number 034-E22-151; CoStars Vendor ID # 323072.

s. To accept the attached proposal from School Health Corporation, for automated external defibrillator (AED) service, maintenance, and inspection services, from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, at a cost of $3,420.

t. To approve the renewal of the District's device damage protection program for 2025-2025 through Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. Risk Management, as described on the attachment, at no cost to the District.

u. To approve the attached Agreement with MHY Family Services for services which may be provided to resident students at its Licensed Private Academic School during the 2025-2026 school year, at a daily rate per student of $199 for general education, $211 for Special Education, and $293 for Life Skills/Autistic Support, and/or during an extended school year in 2026, at a daily rate per student of $211 for Special Education and $293 for Life Skills/Autistic Support.

v. To approve the attached Educational Services Agreement with McGuire Memorial for educational services to be provided to District resident students in accordance with the students' IEPs, during the 2025-2026 school year from August 20, 2025, through June 15, 2026, at an annual cost per student of $67,862 (prorated for days enrolled) and any one-on-one aide services provided at a daily rate per student of $245, and during an extended school year (ESY) from June 29, 2026, through July 10, 2026, at a daily rate per student of $331, and any one-to-one aide services provided at a daily rate per student of $192.

w. To approve the attached Addendum #8 to the Contractual Agreement with Pressley Ridge for Special Education Services to be provided during the 2025-2026 school year at a rate of $29,500 per semester and $3,900 for extended school year services, with any one-on-one aid services to be provided at an additional rate of $25,125 per semester and $4,150 during an extended school year.

x. To approve the attached Clinical Support Tuition Service Agreement with Pittsburgh Behavioral Services, Inc., for services to be provided to a resident student in accordance with the student's IEP during the 2025-2026 school year, at a cost of $30,750.

y. To approve the attached proposal from Magic School, Inc., for license to its MagicSchool Enterprise AI platform during the 2025-2026 school year, at a cost of $9,299.

z. To approve the attached proposal from Edulink, Inc., for license to use its COMPLY Software / Act 48 Module solution during the 2025-2026 school year, at a total cost of $4,195.

aa. To approve the attached proposal from Edulink, Inc., for license to use its PA-ETEP electronic teacher evaluation portal during the 2025-2026 school year, at a total cost of $ 9,012.

bb. To approve the attached proposal from Harris Education Solutions/OnHand Schools, Inc., for a license to its edInsight Data Management System, edInsight Curriculum Management System, and edInsight RTI/MTSS Solution during the 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and 2027-2028 school years, and including five hours of professional development coaching, at a total cost of $44,763.59.

cc. To approve the attached Records Storage and Services Agreement with Best Records Management, for offsite records storage from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030, at a rate of $0.25 per cubic foot of file storage or a minimum of $100 per month, and any additional services at the fees listed on Schedule A to the Agreement.

dd. To approve the attached Customer Confirmation Agreement with UGI Energy Services, LLC (UGIES), for UGIES' obligation to deliver and sell and the District's obligation to accept and purchase a contract quantity of natural gas, from September 2025 through August 2028 at the rates listed on the Agreement.

ee. To approve the attached Memorandum of Understanding with the South Buffalo Township Police Department for school years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027.

ff. To approve the attached Memoranda of Understanding with the Buffalo Township Police Department for school years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027.

gg. To approve an online survey of District students (the Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS)) as described on the attachment, to be conducted from September 2, 2025, through December 22, 2025, at no cost to the District.

hh. To accept the attached revised Band Uniform Bid from Stanbury Uniforms, LLC, for the marching band uniform items listed on the attachment, at a reduced cost of $90,026.70.

ii. To accept a $500 donation from Riverview Intermediate Unit for Buffalo Elementary School's Remake Learning Days event.

jj. To accept a $200 donation from Central Electric Cooperative, Inc., in memory of Cherie Smith, for the High School Music Program.

kk. Action on accepting a $10,488.63 donation from the Buffalo Elementary School PTO to be deposited into the Buffalo Elementary School Playground Project account.

Motion carried unanimously.

Finance

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

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

a. To approve the attached May 2025 financial reports.

b. To approve the May 2025 payments listed on the attachments.

c. To approve the attached list of budgetary transfers.

d. To approve the transfer of $400,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Fund.

e. To approve the authorization of the Director of Finance and Operations to make final year-end 2024-2025 budgetary transfers, which will be reported to the Board for approval in September 2025, as recommended by the state auditor.

f. To approve the student activity accounts listed on the attachment for the 2025-2026 school year.

g. To approve the award of workmen's compensation insurance coverage for the 2025-2026 school year to UPMC WorkPartners for the premium amount of $45,702, through Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

h. To approve the award of property and casualty insurance coverage for the 2025-2026 school year to Utica Mutual Insurance Company for the premium amount of $103,947, through Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

i. To approve the award of auto liability insurance coverage for the 2025-2026 school year to Utica Mutual Insurance Company for the premium amount of $3,912, through Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

j. To approve the award of umbrella liability insurance coverage for the 2025-2026 school year to Utica/Graphic Arts Mutual Insurance Company for the premium amount of $12,630, through Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

k. To approve the award of liability insurance coverage for the 2025-2026 school year to PAIU, through Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., for the premium amount of $11,200.

l. To approve the award of environmental liability insurance coverage for the 2025-2026 school year to Ironshore Specialty Insurance Co. for the premium amount of $13,571.71, through Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meetings

Mr. Risch announced that the Board would hold a Special Meeting / Committee Meeting on Wednesday, August 6, at 7:00 pm, and a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at 7:00 pm, in the High School Audion. He also reported that there were no meetings scheduled in July.

Concerns or Comments from Board Members

Ms. Davies commented that the Board's action taken regarding the High School project was an investment in the community, and that the Board ultimately had to vote in the best interests of the district's students.

Mr. DiGiacobbe and Mr. Haven commented that their votes on the High School project were based on their duty to consider the interests of the district's senior citizens.

Mr. Risch commented that the District would be able to prioritize needed projects and that he was proud of the work the Board had done in exploring lower cost options for the High School project.

Ms. Maxwell commented that her vote on the High School project was based on her understanding of legislators' opinions and a state and federal funding pause.

Mr. Ritter commented that some improvements had to be made but increasing taxes was going to be tough.

Concerns or Comments from the Public

Jim Swartz of Freeport Borough commented on the High School project and the 2025-2026 budget.

Laraine McCrea of Buffalo Township commented on the High School project.

Melanie Bollinger commented on the Middle School's ranking in the Schools to Watch Program.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Selinger, and seconded by Ms. Davies, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Risch declared the meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

/s/ Gary L. Risch, Jr.	/s/ Mary Dobransky
Board President	Board Secretary