MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 13, 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.

It was moved by Mr. Selinger, and seconded by Ms. Davies, to appoint Bradley Walker and Larry Robb to serve as temporary Board Secretary for this Regular Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Roll call:

Ms. Davies	Present
Mr. DiGiacobbe	Absent
Mr. Haven	Present
Mr. Huth	Present
Ms. Maxwell	Absent
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. Selinger, and seconded by Mr. Huth, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 11, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

2. The Temporary Board Secretary reported that the Board met as follows since the last report to the Board at the Regular Meeting on June 11, 2025: The Board met in Executive Session on August 6, 2025, to discuss Personnel and Contracts and Negotiations Matters. The Board held a Special Meeting for general business purposes on August 6, 2025. The Board held a Committee Meeting on August 6, 2025. The Board met in Executive Session following the August 6 Committee Meeting, to discuss Personnel Matters. The Board met in Executive Session on August 13, 2025, to discuss *[Personnel Matters]*.

3. Administration reported on the status of the High School Project and an AI Initiative to be implemented at all schools.

4. Mr. Risch welcomed staff and students back for the start of school. He commended the Marching Band on its recent preview performance.

5. Mr. Selinger reported that the Lenape Technical School Joint Operating Committee would meet the following week.

6. Mr. Selinger reported for the Athletics Committee that fall sports season had started.

7. Mr. Haven's reported that his legislative report was on hold pending moving on the Pennsylvania state budget.

8. Ms. Zembrzuski reported that the Freeport Area School District Foundation held its annual golf outing and she was waiting to learn the results of that fundraiser.

Personnel

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

a. To approve the request of Employee No. 2373 for Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

b. To approve an unpaid leave of absence of up to one year as per contract for Employee No. 1472.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board took **no action** on *Personnel* agenda items *3.c.* and *3.d.*:

c. *To approve the employment of Shona R. Clark as a School Nurse Assistant, at an hourly wage rate of $24.00, effective August 14, 2025, and contingent on satisfactory completion of all pre-employment requirements.*

d. *To approve the employment of _____ as an Educational Assistant for the 2025-2026 school year, at an hourly wage rate of $13.00, effective August 14, 2025, and contingent on satisfactory completion of all pre-employment requirements.*

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

e. To approve the attached list of Educational Assistants and School Nurse Assistants for the 2025-2026 school year.

f. To approve the attached list of bus drivers for the 2025-2026 school year as recommended by the State Auditors.

g. To approve the attached Memorandum of Agreement with the Freeport Education Association regarding a 2025-2026 day-to-day substitute teacher assignment.

h. To approve the attached Memorandum of Agreement with the Freeport Education Association regarding a 2025-2026 Middle School substitute teacher assignment.

i. To approve the attached Memorandum of Agreement with the Freeport Education Association regarding a 2025-2026 Buffalo Elementary School substitute teacher assignment.

j. 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. Davies, and seconded by Ms. Zembrzuski,

a. To approve the implementation of a study described on the attachment, to be conducted during the 2025-2026 school year and in accordance with all applicable Board policies, to explore and understand how teachers assess, critique, and provide feedback on elementary student writing.

b. To approve the attached College in the High School Agreement with Westmoreland County Community College, for a term beginning on July 1, 2025 and ending on July 1, 2028, at no cost to the District.

Motion carried unanimously.

Athletics and Activities

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

a. To approve the student public performances listed on the attached 2025-2026 Music Department Calendar.

b. To approve the participation of Jodi S. Crytzer, Reading Specialist, at a conference on dyslexia and literacy described on the attachment, on

October 29-30, 2025, in Wheeling, West Virginia, at a cost to the District of $307.90.

c. To approve a High School student field trip to New York, New York, from November 21 to November 24, 2025, at no cost to the District other than the cost of four substitute teachers for one day.

d. To grant pre-approval for a High School Marching Band trip to Cleveland, Ohio, in the spring of 2026.

Motion carried unanimously.

Policy

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

a. To approve the adoption of revised School Board Policy No. 626 (Federal Fiscal Compliance).

b. To approve the adoption of revised School Board Policy No. 626.1 (Travel Reimbursement - Federal Programs).

c. To approve the adoption of revised School Board Policy No. 827 (Conflict of Interest).

Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

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

a. To approve the adoption of the attached bond resolution, as prepared and presented by bond counsel, to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of $12,000,000, to fund the initial phase of the School District's announced school construction project.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

b. To approve the termination of the SPO service agreement with M. Todd Veselicky, effective September 12, 2025, for convenience and authorize the Board Secretary to issue the attached 30-day notice of such termination in accordance with the service agreement.

c. To approve the attached addenda to the agreements with the individual or limited liability company listed for School Police Officer services, to provide for an hourly fee of $33.00, effective August 2, 2025.

d. To approve the participation of a resident student in The Watson Institute/Friendship Academy's extended school year program, in accordance with the student's IEP, from June 18 through July 17, 2025, at a cost not to exceed $3,570.

e. To approve the attached contract for educational services with Armstrong School District for the 2025-2026 school year.

f. To approve the attached contract for special education learning support services with Armstrong School District for the 2025-2026 school year.

g. To approve the District's membership in the Armstrong-Indiana Intermediate Unit's Pennsylvania Institute for Instructional Coaching (PIIC) Consortium, at a cost of $625 for the 2025-2026 school year.

h. To approve the attached Title I Non-Public School Agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, for Title I instructional services to be provided to resident students attending a non-public school, for a term beginning on July 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2026, at a cost of $5,502.42.

i. To approve the attached Educational Services Agreement with Catapult Learning, LLC, for Title I instructional services to be provided to resident students attending a non-public school during the 2025-2026 school year, at a cost not to exceed $3,668.28.

j. To approve the attached Nonpublic Title I Services Agreement with Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV, for Title I instructional services to be provided to resident students attending a non-public school during the 2025 2026 school year, at a cost of $3,668.28.

k. To approve the District's membership in the STEAM Lending Library Consortium of the Armstrong Indiana (ARIN) Intermediate Unit during the 2025-2026 school year, at a cost to the District of $175.

l. To approve the attached agreement with Armstrong-Indiana-Clarion Drug and Alcohol Commission for services in connection with the Student Assistance Program (SAP) Initiative for the 2025-2026 school year, at no cost to the District.

m. To approve the attached letter of agreement with the Armstrong-Indiana Behavioral and Developmental Health Program for the provision of mental health liaison services under the District's Student Assistance Program (SAP) through the Family Counseling Center of Armstrong County during the 2025-2026 school year, at no cost to the District.

n. To approve the attached Agreement with Wesley Family Services for Child/Adolescent Partial Hospital Program services, which may be provided

to District resident students during the 2025-2026 school year, at an hourly rate not to exceed $36.25.

o. To approve the attached Program Placement Agreement with Butler Area School District for the potential placement of students in the Center Avenue Community School during the 2025-2026 school year, at a cost of $166.04 per day for the Emotion Support Program, $208.35 per day for the Autistic Support, Life Skills Support, and Multi-Disability Programs, and $1,000 annually for the Extended School Year Program.

p. To approve the attached Day Student Education Agreement with Glade Run Lutheran Services, dba St. Stephens Lutheran Academy and St. Stephens Academy Utica, for educational services to be provided during the 2025-2026 school year, at the rates listed on Attachment A to the Agreement.

q. To approve the District's 2025-2026 membership in The Forum for Western Pennsylvania School Superintendents, at a cost of $1,800.

r. To approve the attached proposal from Virtru, Inc., for a 3-year license to the Virtru Business Package solution at a cost of $18,961.30

s. To accept the attached proposal from Lexia Learning Systems LLC for a one-year subscription to Lexia's Core5 Reading/PowerUp Literacy and English Student, at a cost of $302.

t. To accept the attached Riverside Insights quote for a one-year subscription for 150 users to the easyCBM web-based benchmark and progress monitoring reporting service and approving the attached EasyCBM Subscriber Agreement, at a cost of $1,125.

u. To accept the attached proposal from HMH Education Company for a one-year subscription to Read 180 ED, at a cost of $9,309.18.

v. To accept the attached proposal from HMH Education Company for a one-year subscription to the Amira Suite Student (40 licenses) and Amira Suite Teacher (1 license), at a cost of $800.

w. To accept the attached proposal from HMH Education Company for the purchase of Amira Suite implementation support services, at a cost of $1,200.

x. To accept the attached proposal from IEPWriter.com for a one-year subscription to IEPWriter, at a cost of $7,280.

y. To accept a $322.03 donation from Pittsburgh Three Rivers Marathon for Buffalo Elementary School's Kids of Steel Program.

z. To accept a $100 donation from Beverly Campbell to be used for the High School Music programs.

aa. To accept a $50 donation from Jody Weaver and Rebecca Weaver to be used for the High School Music programs.

bb. To accept a $6,500 donation from the Buffalo Elementary School PTO to be deposited into the Buffalo Elementary School Playground Project account.

cc. To accept the DonorsChoose.org donation for the Buffalo Elementary School Project: "Bringing Cardboard Creations to Life" described on the attachment (Total Project Cost $920.03).

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 June 2025 financial reports.

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

c. To approve the attached July 2025 financial reports.

d. To approve the July 2025 payments listed on the attachments.

e. To adopt the attached Free and Reduced Lunch Policy and Guidelines as established by the Department of Education to be included in district policy for the 2025 2026 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meetings

Mr. Risch announced that the Board would hold a Special Meeting / Committee Meeting on Wednesday, September 3, at 7:00 pm, and a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 7:00 pm, in the High School Audion.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Ms. Davies, and seconded by Ms. Zembrzuski, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Risch declared the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

/s/ Gary L. Risch, Jr.
Board President

/s/ Larry P. Robb
Temporary Board Secretary

/s/ Bradley T. Walker
Temporary Board Secretary