

Freeburg Elementary School  
Monday, August 25, 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, August 25, 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, Bill May, Ben Mueth, Erin Shook, and Ben Howes were in attendance. Also in attendance were Dr. Mark Bearley, Superintendent and Mark Janssen, Financial Officer and Recording Secretary.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Board and public stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Visitors**

Hans Carpenter of the Freeburg Tribune was present.

Moved: Erin Shook

Seconded: Ben Mueth

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

- MINUTES OF THE JULY 28, 2025 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND AUGUST 7, 2025 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
- INVESTMENT SUMMARY THROUGH AUGUST 22, 2025
- BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH JULY 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, Howes, Trout  
Motion Carried

### **Committee Updates**

Dr. Bearley revisited the committee discussion from the special meeting earlier this month and asked if board members had any questions or additional thoughts. Mr. May suggested incorporating the Student Resource Officer when appropriate. Dr. Bearley agreed and encouraged board members to share any further input with him directly.

Mrs. Trout presented a survey she and Ms. Shook developed to gauge parent interest in joining the Parent Advisory Committee, which is intended to strengthen collaboration between the school and families.

Parents will first complete a brief one-page survey to indicate interest. Those who respond positively will then receive a more detailed follow-up survey.

### **Petitions/Communications**

Two Freedom of Information Act requests were received. The first, from SmartProcure, requested all purchasing data since May 12, 2025. The second, from Starjump, requested purchasing data dating back to 2022. Both requests were fulfilled within the required five-day timeframe.

### **Public Participation**

The Board welcomed the public to the meeting. Mrs. Trout commended the Custodial and Maintenance staff for their hard work over the summer. She also thanked Mr. Foster for preparing the district's technology for the new school year, including providing new devices for teachers. In addition, she recognized Mrs. Green for her efforts in her new role as Athletic Director.

### **Teachers' Report**

#### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Bearley expressed his thanks to the custodial and maintenance staff for their work this summer in getting our buildings ready for the school year. He thanked Mr. Foster and Mr. Holcomb for all they did this summer, as well. He thanked the other administrators for their work while he got acclimated to the district.

Dr. Bearley provided an enrollment update. Currently, there are 722 students.

#### **Mrs. Zurliene presented the Principal's Report for the Elementary School.**

We successfully kicked off the school year with Open House, which provided a great opportunity for families to connect with teachers and staff. During the first week at the Elementary building, we established clear expectations through our student Boot Camp to ensure a positive and structured start to the school year. We completed our bus evacuation drills and first fire drill of the year. Our SRO, Officer Scott, presented to grades 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th on Friday on bullying and cyberbullying. Overall, it has been a smooth and productive start to the school year.

#### **Upcoming Events-**

We're excited to host Games with Grownups on Friday, September 12th for grades 3, 4, and 5.

#### **Ms. Sommerfield presented the Principal's Report for the Primary Center.**

-Open House was held on August 11th.

-First Day-Thanks to Freeburg cheerleaders for showing school spirit on the first day to our students.

-Bootcamp-We held bootcamp for the students to see how to Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Ready.

-Fire Drill-We held our first practice drill on Thursday, August 21st. Our students did a great job on their first drill.

## Upcoming Events-

- Wednesday, August 27th-PTO Back to School Picnic
- Early Dismissal this Friday at 11:30 & No School on Monday
- Picture day: Tuesday, September 4, 2025
- Games with Grownups - PC- September 12th - for grade K-2

## Mrs. Hargan presented the Director of Student Services Report.

### **Special Education/504**

Welcome to our new special education staff members; Michelle Gray, Lauren Donald and Sarah Mueth. We are so fortunate that such incredible educators joined our Freeburg family. I also want to acknowledge and give a special thank you to all the teachers and related service staff who create and tweak schedules to make sure that the individual needs of all of our students are met.

### **MTSS/Response to Intervention**

Fall benchmarking is completed and students who qualify for some extra academic support will begin receiving interventions next week. Thank you to everyone who supported the school wide screening.

### **Old Business**

### **New Business**

Moved: Bill May

Seconded: Ben Howes

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE FY26 TENTATIVE BUDGET, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

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

Moved: Erin Shook

Seconded: Ben Mueth

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE 2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF BOARD POLICY REVISIONS, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

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

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Jamie Smith

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT WITH BELLEVILLE AREA SPECIAL SERVICES COOPERATIVE REGARDING STUDENT MEAL REIMBURSEMENTS.**

AYES: Smith, Scheibel, May, Mueth, Shook, Howes, Trout  
Motion Carried

Motion: Bill May

Seconded: Ben Howes

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:26 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**

**COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS BETWEEN THE DISTRICT AND ITS EMPLOYEES OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, OR DELIBERATIONS CONCERNING SALARY SCHEDULES FOR ONE OR MORE CLASSES OF EMPLOYEES. 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(2).**

AYES: Smith, Scheibel, May, Mueth, Shook, Howes, Trout  
Motion Carried

Moved: Erin Shook

Seconded: Jamie Smith

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION AT 8:15 PM.**

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

Moved: Bill May

Seconded: Ben Mueth

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY HILARY WAGER AS PART-TIME TEACHER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.**

AYES: Smith, Scheibel, May, Mueth, Shook, Howes, Trout  
Motion Carried

Moved: Bill May

Seconded: Erin Shook

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY KEVIN LISCH AS ASSISTANT BOYS' BASKETBALL COACH AND DENNIS THOMA AS HEAD BOYS' BASKETBALL COACH.**

AYES: Smith, Scheibel, May, Mueth, Shook, Howes, Trout  
Motion Carried

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Ben Howes

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM ASSISTANT TRACK COACH JIM JANSSEN.**

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

Moved: Erin Shook

Seconded: Jamie Smith

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE ADDENDUM B TO THE CURRENT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE FREEBURG ELEMENTARY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

AYES: Smith, Scheibel, May, Mueth, Shook, Howes, Trout  
Motion Carried

## **Other Business**

### **Adjournment**

Moved: Bill May

Seconded: Ben Mueth

There being no further business to come before this body, **A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:24 P.M.**

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

Amber Trout, President  
Board of Education, Dist. #70

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