

Freeburg Elementary School  
Monday, September 22, 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, September 22, 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. Administrators Amanda Hargan, Stacey Sommerfield, and Tiffany Zurliene were also present.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Board and public stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Visitors**

Visitors to the meeting included district teachers Ashley Krakosky, Michelle Freebairn, Jennifer Scheuchner, Ashlyn Birch, and Courtney Heizer.

### **Student Recognition**

Second-grade student Roman Burklow was recognized by Ms. Sommerfield for consistently demonstrating respectful behavior throughout the school year.

### **Consent Agenda**

Moved: Ben Mueth

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

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

- MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 25, 2025 REGULAR BOARD MEETING
- INVESTMENT SUMMARY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 19, 2025
- BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2025

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

### **Approval of the Bills**

Moved: Bill May

Seconded: Ben Howes

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

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

### **Committee Updates**

Mrs. Trout provided an update on the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee meeting held earlier this evening. A parent survey was distributed, and 21 parents expressed interest in serving on the committee.

The Board will select five to seven parents and forward their names to Mrs. Trout, who will compile the list and send invitations.

Dr. Bearley provided an update on the Building & Grounds Committee meeting held earlier this evening. He will research student activity options for the Elementary School, explore ADA-accessible playground equipment for the Primary Center, and investigate temporary fencing for the baseball and softball fields.

### **Petitions/Communications**

Two Freedom of Information Act requests were received. The first, from DataBranch, requested all purchase orders since March 1. The second, from Allium Data, requested the district's property and workers' compensation insurance policies for the current year. Both requests were fulfilled within the applicable timeframe.

### **Public Participation**

The Board welcomed the public to the meeting.

### **Teachers' Report**

Mrs. Ashley Krakosky gave an update on the Response to Intervention program to the Board. She reviewed the details of the benchmarking process and thanked the Board for their support of the program.

### **Superintendent's Report**

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

Dr. Bearley presented the salary compensation report to the Board. Each year, this report must be presented to the Board and posted on the district's website by October 1.

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

#### **Recent Events**

- **Games with Grownups (Grades 3–5):** Students and their guests enjoyed an afternoon of games and quality time together. The event received many compliments and continues to be a favorite for families.
- **8th Grade Technical Career Awareness Day:** 8th grade students participated in this event hosted by the Okaw Regional Vocational System. The day highlighted career and technical education programs available at the Career Center of Southern Illinois as well as technical programs offered through local districts. Students appreciated the opportunity to explore a variety of career pathways.

#### **Upcoming Events**

- **PTO-Sponsored Painting Party:** Hosted by 1020 Artworks Studio, this event will be held Friday, September 3, from 3:10–4:45 p.m. for students in grades 3–8. Reservations are required.
- **End of First Quarter:** Quarter 1 ends on Thursday, October 9. There will be an early dismissal that day. No school will be held on Friday, October 10, or Monday, October 13.

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

#### **Recent Events**

- **Games with Grown-Ups:** We had a wonderful turnout, and families enjoyed spending time together at this event.
- **1st Grade Barn Dance:** As part of their farm unit, first grade students celebrated with a barn dance. It was a fun and memorable experience for both students and staff.
- **Kindergarten Apple-Picking Trip:** Kindergarten classes enjoyed their annual apple-picking field trip, with a strong turnout of parent volunteers.
- **Intruder Drill:** An intruder drill is scheduled for Thursday.

### **Upcoming Events**

- **PTO-Sponsored Painting Party:** Hosted by 1020 Artworks Studio, this event will be held Thursday, October 2, from 3:10–4:45 p.m. for students in grades K–2. Reservations are required.
- **Fire Prevention Week:** During the week of October 6, students will visit the firehouse as part of Fire Prevention Week activities.
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Conferences are scheduled for Thursday, October 23, and Tuesday, October 28.

### **Mrs. Hargan presented the Director of Student Services Report. Special Education/504**

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has completed its review of IL school districts in regards to the provision of special education and related services to students with disabilities. ISBE has determined Freeburg District 70 meets requirements and requires no further action. It is important to acknowledge the work of both special education and general education teachers, paraprofessionals, therapists, our school psychologist and parents in working together to best meet the needs of all of our diverse learners. Well done, team!

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

Intervention services in reading and math began the week of September 2nd and will be ongoing this school year. Teams will meet regularly to review data and ensure student needs in all areas are addressed.

### **Old Business**

### **New Business**

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Erin Shook

### **A MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE INTO A BUDGET HEARING.**

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

Motion: Bill May

Seconded: Ben Howes

### **A MOTION WAS MADE TO RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION.**

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

Moved: Ben Mueth

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

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

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

Moved: Jamie Smith

Seconded: Bill May

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE QUOTE FOR A NEW FERRIS ISX 72" WITH A 38.5 HP KAWASAKI MOTOR LAWN MOWER FROM HARTMANN TURF AND TRACTOR FOR \$15,999, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

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

Moved: Erin Shook

Seconded: Ben Mueth

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE FOOD SERVICE COOK JOB DESCRIPTION, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

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

Motion: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Bill May

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:32 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)**

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

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Jamie Smith

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION AT 8:30 PM.**

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

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Erin Shook

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE LEAVE REQUEST FROM TEACHER REBECA SHORTER FROM SEPTEMBER 10 TO APPROXIMATELY OCTOBER 15, AS PRESENTED.**

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

Moved: Bill May

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM SECRETARY GINA HEILIGENSTEIN, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2025, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

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

Moved: Ben Mueth

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ASSISTANT VOLUNTEER COACHES:  
Boys' Basketball – Russell Lisch, Jason Hendrix, Larry Mueller, and Jim Janssen  
Girls' Basketball – Jenna Breitweiser and Jack Bayers**

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

### **Other Business**

### **Adjournment**

Moved: Bill May

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

There being no further business to come before this body, **A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:36 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