

Freeport School District 145

Board of Education Meeting Highlights

October 21, 2025 – Regular Meeting

This report provides highlights of the Board of Education meeting. It is not intended to serve as the official meeting minutes.

Board Actions & Updates

- **Student Board Members Report**

Student Board Member Gustavo Commarela, reported on various activities and meetings of the LULAC student council and other Department of Language & Culture activities.

Superintendent's Report

- **Recognition**

Dr. Alvarado read a portion of a proclamation from the Governor's Office declaring 10/21 as **IL Principals Day**. This comes as October is **Principal Appreciation Month**. FSD Principals were acknowledged and thanked for all that they do in their roles.

Freeport School District 145 has been named **Best Large Employer (500+) in the 2025 Best of the Region – Community Choice Awards!** After being voted one of the top three finalists, we proudly earned 1st Place, an honor determined by community votes.

Bus Safety Week Special thanks to Dallas Pieper Elzen , Director of Transportation, her office team and all bus drivers and monitors for the work they do to keep our students safe while they are on the school bus.

- **First Day Exclusion Date**

The FSD board members amended the First Day Exclusion Policy by extending the compliance deadline to October 15, 2025, aligning with ISBE guidelines. As a result, this change allowed students and families additional time to meet the requirements without students losing instructional days. This reduced the number of students (171 - immunizations, 208 - physicals) that would have been excluded from the first day of school on August 21 to only 13 - immunizations and 12 - physicals on October 15.

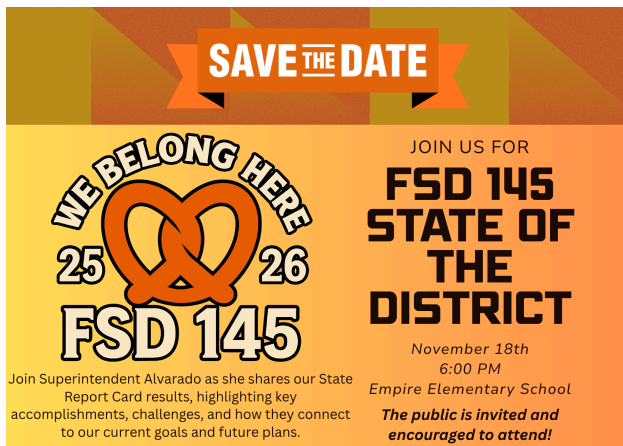
Actions that were implemented to reduce the number of student exclusions:

- ❖ The nurses scheduled in person Community Health Partnership Clinics that came on-site during the school day for 6th and 9th graders.
- ❖ The nurses partnered with FRCs to make parent phone calls and home visits.
- ❖ The nurses helped parents schedule appointments.

Conclusion

The FSD board members amended the First Day Exclusion Policy by extending the compliance deadline to October 15, 2025, aligning with ISBE guidelines. As a result, this change allowed students and families additional time to meet the requirements without students losing instructional days.

- **Letter from the Illinois CPA Society** in cooperation with ISBE will be part of a review of selected school districts' joint agreement annual financial statements.
Purpose of the review: To ensure that quality, standardized reports are being issued. The annual selection is made on a random selection basis and FSD's 2025 financial statements have been selected.
- The **2025 Pretzel Fall Institute** was on Tuesday, October 14. In order to better equip all instructional staff in being able to identify, prevent, and de-escalate crises, 378 staff completed the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) Verbal Interventions workshop during the morning of the Institute. Staff attended a variety of workshops in the afternoon aligned to building and district improvement goals, covering topics such as academic language and literacy, inquiry, curriculum, technology, and support services, as well as a workshop designed for paraeducators. The feedback for this Institute day was overwhelmingly positive.



Information Reports

1. **Monthly Financial Report** was presented by Dr. Jeremy Dotson shared the monthly report for September, which included \$30M in revenues and \$22.5M in expenditures. This will be further detailed in the Board Meeting minutes.
-

Approved Consent Agenda

- Bills for FSD 145 and CareerTEC
 - Personnel Report – October 21, 2025
 - Approval of the annual renewal of service with Johnson Controls for Banks Bergagna, Blackhawk, Center, Empire, Freeport High School, Freeport Middle School, Jones Farrar IB, Lincoln Douglas, and Taylor Park school location
-

Approved Board Action Items


- Freeport School District 145 School Improvement Plans, as submitted.
 - Approve Connecthub.io Coaching Management Platform Contract, as presented.
-

Committee Reports

- **Board Self-Evaluation** - President Furst shared that the board will conduct a board self-evaluation at a special meeting on October 28th.
-

Next Meeting

The next **regular meeting** of the Freeport School District Board of Education will be held:

 **November 4, 2025**

 **6:00 PM**

 FSD Administrative Office, 501 E. South Street

The public is always invited and encouraged to attend.