

Freeburg Elementary School
Monday, October 27, 2025
5:30 p.m.

A special meeting of the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee of the Board of Education for Freeburg Community Consolidated School District No. 70 was held on Monday, October 27, 2025, at 5:30 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, committee members Jamie Smith and Bill May were in attendance. Also in attendance were Dr. Mark Bearley, Superintendent and Mark Janssen, Financial Officer and Recording Secretary (5:54).

Also in attendance were committee members Kacey Hawkins, Michelle Rogers, Kayla Polacek, Shauna Blair, Melissa Kettler, Abbey Payne, Chelsea Bergmann, Sara Fishbein, Jay Hubert, Lori Kociemba, Nicki Schilling, and Josh Wemhoener.

Visitors

There were no visitors.

Public Participation

None

Welcome & Introductions

Mrs. Trout facilitated introductions of all attendees.

Purpose & Goals of the Committee

Mrs. Trout reviewed Board Policy 2:150 and reminded members of the importance of maintaining student confidentiality, noting that no identifying information should be shared in this setting.

Review of Top Priority Areas from Committee Survey

Mrs. Trout invited discussion regarding the purpose and goals of the committee. Committee members emphasized the importance of supporting students' mental health, noting that parents today are raising an increasingly anxious generation and that the district has a responsibility to educate the whole child. Suggestions included incorporating additional social-emotional learning opportunities, utilizing Class Catalyst—an app designed to support teachers in the classroom—and implementing lessons focused on student well-being, such as “How Are You Doing?” Members also discussed the possibility of reinstating past initiatives like *Spark* and *Families* to make school more engaging and enjoyable. Additionally, activities such as “Games with Grownups” were cited as positive examples, with a recommendation to expand similar programs. Additionally, committee members mentioned the curriculum may need updates. Dr. Bearley stated the district is planning on engaging with administration and teachers to explore curriculum upgrades. A member also expressed concern about the grading scale. A desire to have it like the high school's would be preferable. Dr. Bearley stated the grading scale will be evaluated in the spring, along with the student handbook.

Next Steps & Logistics

Mrs. Trout stated the Board is accountable to the committee. She recommended the committee meet again in early 2026 to further explore ideas on the topics mentioned.

Open Discussion

None

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this committee, Mrs. Trout adjourned the meeting at 6:46 pm.

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

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