

Freeburg Elementary School
Monday, October 27, 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, October 27, 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, Bill May, Ben Mueth, Erin Shook, and Ben Howes were in attendance. Board member Ed Scheibel was absent. Also in attendance were Dr. Mark Bearley, Superintendent and Mark Janssen, Financial Officer and Recording Secretary. Administrator Stacey Sommerfield was also present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board and public stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitors

Visitors to the meeting included district staff Mike Kennedy, Tim Havel, Lea Havel, Sarah Gagen, Lauren Donald, Megan Cook, Renee Graul, and Ammie Hunt. Paul Vollmer of Scheffel Boyle and Hans Carpenter of the Freeburg Tribune were also present.

Recognition

Dr. Bearley recognized Tim Havel and Mike Kennedy for their outstanding dedication and service. Their hard work, initiative, and consistent “whatever it takes” attitude make a tremendous difference each day. Whether addressing urgent maintenance needs, improving our facilities, or lending a hand wherever help is needed, Tim and Mike continually demonstrate their commitment to creating a safe, welcoming environment for our students and staff. Their efforts truly reflect the spirit of teamwork and excellence that defines our district. Mr. Havel and Mr. Kennedy then posed for a picture with the Board of Education.

Consent Agenda

Moved: Bill May

Seconded: Ben Howes

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

- MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 22, 2025 REGULAR BOARD MEETING, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025 PARENT-TEACHER ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND SEPTEMBER 22, 2025 BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE MEETING.
- INVESTMENT SUMMARY THROUGH OCTOBER 24, 2025
- BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 6-aye, 0-nay.

Approval of the Bills

Moved: Erin Shook

Seconded: Ben Mueth

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

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

Committee Updates

Mrs. Trout explained the Board of Education Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee met earlier this evening to identify key priorities for the committee's focus. Topics of discussion included students' mental health, building security, and bullying prevention. The committee will reconvene in early 2026 to continue its work and review progress on these priorities.

Petitions/Communications

There was one Freedom of Information Act request. The request sought all employees, job titles, job locations, and salary information for all employees. The request was filled within the five-day timeframe.

Public Participation

The Board welcomed the public to the meeting.

Teachers' Report

Teachers Renee Graul and Megan Cook addressed the Board to provide an overview of the projects, activities, and accomplishments their students have been working on in the classroom.

Superintendent's Report

Paul Vollmer of Scheffel Boyle presented the 2024–2025 audit report. For the 19th consecutive year, the District achieved "Recognition" status—the highest rating awarded. This designation is based on five financial indicators: fund balance to revenue ratio, expenditure to revenue ratio, days cash on hand, percent of short-term borrowing remaining, and percent of long-term debt margin remaining. Mr. Vollmer reviewed key financial highlights with the Board and expressed appreciation to the administration for their cooperation during the audit. The complete report is included in the addenda.

Dr. Bearley provided an enrollment update. Currently, there are 721 students compared to 722 last month.

Dr. Bearley reviewed discipline data with the Board. He reviewed the total number of In-School and Out-of School suspensions the district has had so far this year.

Ms. Sommerfield presented the Principal's Report for the Elementary School.

- Thursday, October 9th marked the end of the first quarter of the school year.
- On Friday, October 17th, we had our first pep rally of the year to kick off Girls & Boys Basketball and Cheer season! We also celebrated our awesome Cross Country, Softball, and Baseball teams for their great seasons! A big shoutout to our amazing Band and Color Guard for an awesome performance that brought the energy! And a huge THANK YOU to Joe's Pizza for donating boxes for our "Pizza Knockout" game — it was a blast!
- Today 7th/8th grade students who earned straight As in the first quarter were rewarded with McLimo - Students get to ride in a limo and are treated to a free meal. We had 45 students this quarter!

Upcoming Events-

- Judge Rudolph will present to our middle school students on the world wide web and social media on November 6th.
- On Friday, November 7th we will honor/recognize our Veteran's and First Responders with our breakfast celebration that is hosted by our 8th grade students.

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

- Last Thursday, we had our first round of Parent Teacher Conferences and they were well attended. Thank you to the Foundation for providing dinner for our staff last Thursday! We will finish conferences tomorrow night, 4-7.
- We participated in Fire Prevention week the 1st week in October. A big thank you to Hans Mueller for organizing and accommodating our schools.
- Kindergarten classes dressed up for the 50th day of school.
- Officer Scott has been visiting classrooms K-5 to discuss trick-or-treating safety.

Upcoming Events-

- It's Red Ribbon Week and is highlighting the importance of making good choices.
- No School on Monday, November 10th, and Tuesday in observance of Veterans Day.

Dr. Bearley presented the Director of Student Services Report. Special Education/504

We are officially one quarter into the school year and progress reports have been shared with parents. Many of the students are demonstrating great gains already.

October is Dyslexia, Learning Disabilities and ADHD awareness month. Many of our students are identified as struggling with these disabilities and work extremely hard every day.

I want to give a special shout out to Integra Therapy Services. They have stepped in as our new providers for occupational therapy and physical therapy. We love having Stacy, Gina, Jeni and Morgan as part of the Freeburg family. They have been extremely helpful and supportive.

MTSS/Response to Intervention

Intervention services in reading and math are ongoing. It is impressive to see the growth already this year.

Additionally, student mental health and behavior are topics of discussion and needed support at both buildings. It is extremely helpful to have two social workers, both building based now, helping us navigate student needs in this area as well.

Dr. Bearley provided an update on the work of the Playground Committee, which met last week to discuss potential upgrades to the playgrounds at both schools. Topics included new equipment for activities such as cornhole, volleyball, and pickleball, as well as the possibility of replacing the current wood chip surfacing with rubberized mulch, estimated at approximately \$80,000.

He noted that the Illinois State Police will visit the district to review safety procedures and protocols on November 6.

Dr. Bearley thanked the Foundation for providing a catered dinner to staff on October 23, the first night of parent-teacher conferences.

He also summarized his research regarding the district's possible participation in the SIJHSAA state series for postseason play. While the opportunity offers potential benefits, he outlined several challenges, including gym space limitations, season overlaps, and the need for SIJHSAA-compliant equipment. He also noted that coaching stipends would need to be negotiated if the district proceeds. Following a brief discussion, the Board expressed interest in obtaining cost estimates to compare against other potential initiatives including the addition of non-sport extracurricular opportunities.

Old Business

New Business

Moved: Amber Trout

Seconded: Ben Mueth

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ENTER INTO A PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS THE LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 6-aye, 0-nay.

Moved: Amber Trout

Seconded: Bill May

A MOTION WAS MADE TO RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION.

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 6-aye, 0-nay.

Moved: Bill May

Seconded: Ben Howes

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAIVING THE LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 17-1.5 of the School Code states: "School districts with administrative expenditures per pupil in the 25th percentile and below for all districts of the same type, as defined by the State Board of Education, may waive the limitation imposed under this section for any year with the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the school board of the district," and

WHEREAS, the administrative expenditures per pupil of Freeburg Community Consolidated School District #70 are in or below the 25th percentile for districts of the same type for fiscal year 2024, the most recent year for which such data is available, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on this resolution on October 27, 2025 at Freeburg Elementary School,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Freeburg Community Consolidated School District #70 waives the limitation on administrative costs for FY 2026 as authorized

A MOTION WAS MADE TO RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION AT 8:28 PM.

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 6-aye, 0-nay.

Moved: Bill May

Seconded: Erin Shook

A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY KARI ZIPFEL AS THE HEAD BOYS' VOLLEYBALL COACH.

AYES: Smith, May, Mueth, Shook, Howes, Trout

Motion Carried

Moved: Ben Mueth

Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY MICHAEL SCHILLING AS THE ASSISTANT BOYS' VOLLEYBALL COACH.

AYES: Smith, May, Mueth, Shook, Howes, Trout

Motion Carried

Other Business

Adjournment

Moved: Ben Mueth

Seconded: Ben Howes

There being no further business to come before this body, **A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:32 P.M.**

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 6-aye, 0-nay.

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

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