

Freeburg Elementary School  
Monday, November 24, 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, November 24, 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 Stacey Sommerfield and Amanda Hargan were also present.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Board and public stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Visitors**

Visitors district staff Lea Havel, Erin Kassly, Tressa Hill, Michelle Rogers, and Stephanie Ketchum. Other visitors included Jenny Patterson, Nathan Patterson, Ara Patterson, Serafina Patterson, Kendall Maddox, Kara Morrell, Mia Morrell, Stephanie Maddox, Steve Maddox, Marie Goff, David Goff, and Autumn Goff. Hans Carpenter of the Freeburg Tribune was also present.

### **Recognition**

Ms. Sommerfield recognized Landon Dontigney for putting the word, gratitude, into practice.

Five District 70 students were selected to participate in the prestigious ILMEA Honor Music Festival, which draws over 300 auditions from across Southern Illinois. Selected students spend the day rehearsing with a guest conductor and perform in an evening concert. This year's honorees were:

- Arabella Patterson – Honor Band, Piccolo
- Mia Morrell – Honor Band, Trumpet
- Autumn Goff – Honor Band & Honor Jazz Band, Trombone
- Kendall Maddox – Honor Treble Chorus, Alto
- Isabelle Wolfmeier – Honor Treble Chorus, Soprano

### **Consent Agenda**

Moved: Ben Mueth

Seconded: Erin Shook

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

- MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 27, 2025 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND THE OCTOBER 27, 2025 PARENT-TEACHER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
- INVESTMENT SUMMARY THROUGH NOVEMBER 21, 2025
- BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2025

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

## **Approval of the Bills**

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Bill May

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

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

## **Committee Updates**

### **Petitions/Communications**

There were two Freedom of Information Act requests this month. The first, from SmartProcure, requested all purchasing records since August. The second, from Judiciocracy, sought invoices and related documentation dating back to January 1, 2024. Both requests were completed and responded to within the required five-day timeframe.

## **Public Participation**

The Board welcomed the public to the meeting.

## **Teachers' Report**

Third-grade teachers Lea Havel, Michelle Rogers, Tressa Hill, and Erin Kassly provided an update on activities and learning taking place in their classrooms.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Bearley provided an enrollment update, noting that the district currently has 721 students, holding steady from last month. He also reviewed discipline data with the Board, including the total number of in-school and out-of-school suspensions to date.

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

- On Thursday, November 6th Judge Clay and Judge Rudolph presented the Illinois Judges Association program, "Worries of the WWW," to our 5th–8th graders. The students were highly engaged as Judge Clay and Judge Rudolph shared real-life examples from their time over cases, showing the importance of using social media responsibly. Thank you, Judge Clay and Judge Rudolph, for an informative and impactful presentation!
- On Friday, November 7th our 8th grade class proudly recognized local veterans and first responders in honor of Veterans Day. Guests were invited to a heartfelt ceremony and breakfast, followed by a parade through the elementary school halls—where the entire student body showed their appreciation and gratitude. Thank you to all who serve and protect our community and our country!

## **Upcoming Events-**

- Monday, December 15th - Band and Chorus Christmas concert for grades 4-5 at 6:30 & 6-8 is at 7:00

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

The PTO met its \$25,000 fundraiser goal. 224 students earned the SkyZone reward, and 295 qualified for the end-of-year water play day. All District 70 students and staff will receive a DQ Blizzard as a thank-you. The PTO also recognized staff throughout American Education Week with daily treats. The Freeburg Optimist Club is sponsoring a toy drive; donations of new, unwrapped toys will be accepted through December 13.

### **Upcoming Events**

- December 12: Santa's Kottage
- December 16: K-2 Christmas Program, 7:00 p.m. at Freeburg High School

Mrs. Hargan presented the Director of Student Services Report.

### **Special Education / 504**

Communication boards are being installed on all three playgrounds to support students who have difficulty communicating verbally or who use augmentative communication devices that may not be accessible during outdoor play. These boards will help ensure consistent communication supports across settings. The district extends its appreciation to Lauren Donald, Jeanna Antrim, Mike Kennedy, and Tim Havel for their work on this project.

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

Two upcoming parent support opportunities were announced.

- On December 18, the IL SLD Support Project will offer a free online webinar for parents of children who struggle with executive functioning skills such as organization, time management, and following multi-step directions.
- On the evening of January 21, district social workers Theresa and Sarah will host a Mental Health Awareness Fair featuring a presentation on childhood worry and anxiety, along with additional resource tables for families. More information will be shared as the date approaches.

Dr. Bearley provided an update on several items. He summarized the Veterans Day celebration hosted by the eighth-grade students on November 7. He updated the Board on the playground project, noting that the Foundation has generously committed between \$7,000 and \$10,000 and the PTO has agreed to contribute \$2,500. He will reconvene the committee next month to begin narrowing down specific equipment choices.

Dr. Bearley also reported that the Village has installed two new exterior lights on existing electrical poles to improve lighting around the buildings, with plans to add more in the future. He stated that he and five Board members attended the Triple I Conference in Chicago this past weekend. He shared that he attended several informative sessions and appreciated the participation of the Board members who were able to attend.

### **Old Business**

### **New Business**

Moved: Ben Howes

Seconded: Ed Scheibel



