

Board of Education Meeting Highlights

February 17, 2026 – 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

Superintendent's Report

Student Recognition & Achievements

Middle School Dance

Congratulations to the Middle School Dance Team for taking 2nd Place in JH Hip Hop at the 2026 IDTA State Finals!

FHS Speech Team

The FHS Speech Team placed 3rd out of 27 teams at the Freeport Sectional Tournament. The following five events have officially advanced to the State Tournament:

- Maddie Seal: 1st Place, Poetry Reading (Sectional Champion)
- Lucas Viveros: 2nd Place, Informative Speaking & 2nd Place, Special Occasion Speaking
- Naomi Sdao: 2nd Place, Oratorical Declamation & 3rd Place, Humorous Interpretation

FHS Wrestling

Three team members have advanced from Sectionals to the State competition:

- Treyden Diduch: Sectional Champion
- Najehay Wallace: 2nd Place
- Thomas Olson: 4th Place

Freeport FFA

Chapter President Dylan Colberg has been selected as the IL FFA Section 1 Star Farmer. Dylan will compete at Districts in March in both the Star Farmer and Beef

Entrepreneurship categories, with the potential to advance to state-level judging in both areas.

FMS Musical Production: Finding Nemo Jr.

You are cordially invited to see what FMS Drama has to offer! Come celebrate the incredible hard work and talent of our students.

Performance Schedule:

- Thursday: 10:00 AM (Elementary Performance) & 7:00 PM
- Friday: 7:00 PM
- Saturday: 2:00 PM

The 2026 **Pretzel Winter Institute** was held February 13 under the theme, “The Answer Is Us,” continuing our focus on belonging. The day featured a keynote performance by the Black Student Union and Affinity Group, staff reflections, and more than 75 breakout sessions led by 50 presenters—most of them district employees. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 75% of staff reporting the sessions would enhance student learning and support their professional growth.

5Essentials Survey Update: Current response rates are 38% for students (50% required), 36% for teachers (50% required per school), and 6% for parents (20% required per school). The Communications Team is working with schools to increase awareness and participation through events, staff meetings, and targeted outreach. The survey window closes March 13, 2026.

Governor JB Pritzker signed **Senate Bill 0243 (P.A. 104-0438)**, effective January 1, 2026, amending the Illinois Open Meetings Act to prohibit public meetings on election days. Because the general primary election is March 17, 2026, the Board’s regular meeting scheduled for that date must be rescheduled or cancelled. Special or emergency meetings are also not permitted on that day. This meeting will be rescheduled for FSD.

Information Reports

School Improvement Plans: Principals Melissa Sago (Lincoln-Douglas), Danielle Summers (Empire), and Sarah Lewis (Rising Pretzels Academy) presented updates on progress toward their respective School Improvement Plans.

Overnight Field Trip Request: FHS Assistant Principal Rosemarie Brubaker presented a request for an overnight field trip to Dixon Springs, May 7–9. The trip will provide students with hands-on learning experiences to support and enhance the Freeport Student Garden.

Monthly Financial Report: Assistant Superintendent Jeremy Dotson presented the January 2026 financial report, noting that revenues and expenditures remained stable for the month.

Approved Consent Agenda

- Bills for FSD 145 and CareerTEC
 - Personnel Report – February 17, 2026
 - FHS track resurfacing and pole vaulting repair work for FY 2026
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Approved Board Action Items

- NONE FOR THIS MEETING
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Committee Reports

Safety & Security: Member Kacey Seal reported that vape sensors are fully installed and operational at FHS, FMS, and Jones-Farrar. A vendor will present upcoming safety assessment results at a future meeting. Installation of building pull stations, funded through a grant, is currently in progress.

Finance: Member Jack Sosnowski shared that the committee reviewed the 2027 financial forecast and preliminary budget, as well as the 2026 audit, which will be presented to the full Board at a future meeting.

Next Meeting

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

 **March 3, 2026**

 **6:00 PM**

 Administrative Office - 501 E South St

The public is always invited and encouraged to attend.