

Freeburg Elementary School
Monday, January 26, 2026
6:30 p.m.

A special meeting of the Building & Grounds Committee of the Board of Education for Freeburg Community Consolidated School District No. 70 was held on Monday, January 26, 2026, at 6:30 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 Ed Scheibel and Ben Howes were in attendance. Board members Ben Mueth, Erin Shook (6:40), and Nicki Schilling (6:48) were also in attendance. Also in attendance were Dr. Mark Bearley, Superintendent and Mark Janssen, Financial Officer and Recording Secretary.

Visitors

There were no visitors.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Dr. Bearley thanked the committee members, which included staff, teachers, and administrators, for their work and participation. He recommended Hutchinson Recreation and Design for the proposed playground improvements. Hutchinson previously installed the equipment located between the Primary Center and the Elementary School.

The proposed additions include an ADA-accessible swing, a "Ten Spin" piece of equipment designed to safely accommodate up to ten students, individual saddle seats, and a climbing wall capable of accommodating six to seven students at one time.

Dr. Bearley also noted that a section of the existing playground equipment is beginning to rust and will need to be replaced. Hutchinson is the manufacturer of the existing equipment, and the district will contact them to coordinate the necessary repairs.

The total cost for the proposed equipment and repairs is \$25,970.

Dr. Bearley reported that \$2,500 has been raised through the PTO and that additional funding between \$7,500 and \$10,000 has been secured through the Freeburg Foundation. Additional playground improvements were discussed for both the Pre-K and Elementary School playgrounds. This includes a new piece of equipment for the Pre-K playground at an

estimated cost of \$1,000, as well as smaller enhancements at the Elementary playground, such as a volleyball net and designated storage areas for lunchboxes and water bottles. Following discussion, the committee approved forwarding the proposal to the full Board for consideration at the regular meeting.

Dr. Bearley also provided an overview of the projects included in the School Maintenance Project Grant, a state matching grant of up to \$50,000. The projects include replacement of malfunctioning exhaust fans, installation of additional smoke detectors in select storage areas, replacement of the deteriorating door beneath the Primary Center canopy, replacement of eleven exterior windows in the Primary Center library, installation of two push-button locking doors in Primary Center classrooms, roof replacement for the baseball shed, tuckpointing at the Primary Center, and installation of diamond plate flooring in the Primary Center kitchen.

The total cost of the grant-related projects is \$107,524. If approved, the district's share would be \$57,524. Following a short discussion, the committee agreed to bring it to the full Board for its consideration at the regular meeting.

Adjournment

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Ben Howes

There being no further business to come before this body, **A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:58 P.M.**

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

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

Erin Shook, Secretary
Board of Education, Dist. # 70