

Freeburg Elementary School
Monday, January 26, 2026
7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Education for Freeburg Community Consolidated School District No. 70 was held on Monday, January 26, 2026, 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 Ed Scheibel, Ben Mueth, Erin Shook, Ben Howes, and Nicole Schilling were in attendance. Board member Bill May was absent. Also in attendance were Dr. Mark Bearley, Superintendent and Mark Janssen, Financial Officer and Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board and public stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitors

Visitors to the meeting included teacher Leah Beth Black and Hans Carpenter of the Freeburg Tribune.

Recognition

Consent Agenda

Moved: Erin Shook

Seconded: Nicki Schilling

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

- MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 17, 2025 REGULAR BOARD MEETING
- INVESTMENT SUMMARY THROUGH JANUARY 23, 2026
- BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025

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

Approval of the Bills

Moved: Ben Howes

Seconded: Ben Mueth

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

AYES: Scheibel, Mueth, Shook, Howes, Schilling, Trout
Motion Carried

Committee Updates

The Building and Grounds Committee met at 6:30 p.m. and discussed a proposal to upgrade the playground, which will be presented to the Board for consideration later in the meeting. The committee also discussed the application for the School Maintenance Project Grant, which will likewise be brought before the Board for consideration later in the meeting.

Petitions/Communications

There were no Freedom of Information Act requests.

Public Participation

The Board welcomed the public to the meeting.

Teachers' Report

Superintendent's Report

Enrollment and Suspension Report

Dr. Bearley reported that current district enrollment is 717 students. He also updated the Board on recent discipline and suspension data.

2026–2027 District Calendar Update

Dr. Bearley stated that he has met with superintendents from neighboring districts to discuss the 2026–2027 school calendar. A draft calendar has been developed, and he anticipates presenting a more finalized version to the Board next month.

Elementary School Principal's Report

Dr. Bearley shared highlights from the Elementary School:

- Dr. Bearley thanked parents, guardians, staff, and community members who attended the Anxiety Informational Night held on Wednesday. He noted the event was well attended and successful. Appreciation was extended to Amy Maus for presenting, as well as to Brightpoint, Heartlinks, Hoyleton Youth and Family Services, Chestnut Counseling Associates of Southern Illinois, and school counselor Julie Weber for their support of families.
- Dr. Bearley noted that the district celebrated the 100th day of school. Elementary students wrote notes expressing why they enjoy attending Freeburg Elementary. A video highlighting student reflections was shared with staff and posted on social media.

Primary Center Principal's Report

Dr. Bearley provided updates from the Primary Center:

- Staff and students have been focused on reestablishing routines and procedures following the start of the new year.
- Students will celebrate milestone school days upon returning, including the 100th day for Kindergarten, the 101st day for first grade, and the 102nd day for second grade.

Upcoming Events

- February 13 – Valentine’s Day Parties
- February 13 – Early Dismissal
- February 16 – President’s Day (No School)

District Update

Dr. Bearley thanked the Village of Freeburg for its assistance with snow removal over the past several days. He also expressed appreciation to the Transportation and Maintenance Departments for their efforts in preparing buses and facilities to ensure school operations resumed as scheduled.

Old Business

New Business

Moved: Ben Mueth

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE SCHOOL MAINTENANCE PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).

AYES: Scheibel, Mueth, Shook, Howes, Schilling, Trout
Motion Carried

Moved: Nicki Schilling

Seconded: Ben Howes

A MOTION WAS MADE TO PURCHASE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FROM HUTCHINSON RECREATION & DESIGN FOR \$25,970, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).

AYES: Scheibel, Mueth, Shook, Howes, Schilling, Trout
Motion Carried

Moved: Erin Shook

Seconded: Ben Mueth

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE LEAVE REQUEST FROM TEACHER JORDAN LISZEWSKI FROM APPROXIMATELY FEBRUARY 19, 2026 TO APPROXIMATELY MAY 7, 2026, AS PRESENTED.

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

Moved: Ben Howes

Seconded: Nicki Schilling

A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY JANE RANGE AS TRACK COACH, AS PRESENTED.

AYES: Scheibel, Mueth, Shook, Howes, Schilling, Trout

Motion Carried

Other Business

Adjournment

Moved: Ben Mueth

Seconded: Erin Shook

There being no further business to come before this body, **A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:23 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