

Freeburg Elementary School

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Education for Freeburg Community Consolidated School District No. 70 was held on Tuesday, May 5, 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, Bill May, Ben Mueth, Ben Howes, and Nicole Schilling were in attendance. Board member Erin Shook was absent. Also in attendance were Dr. Mark Bearley, Superintendent and Mark Janssen, Financial Officer and Recording Secretary. Principals Tiffany Zurliene, Stacey Sommerfield and Director of Student Services Amanda Hargan were also present.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Board and public stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Moment of Silence**

Board President Amber Trout led the Board in a moment of silence in honor of Jozie Kraemer, who recently passed away following a courageous battle with cancer. Jozie faced her illness with remarkable grace and perseverance. Mrs. Trout expressed her sincere appreciation to the staff for the compassion and strength they demonstrated in supporting students during this difficult time. She also recognized the dedicated efforts of Social Workers Mrs. Goscinski and Mrs. Mueth. In addition, Mrs. Trout extended her gratitude to neighboring districts for providing support personnel to assist with student grief services.

### **Visitors**

Visitors to the meeting included district teachers Abbey Payne and Amanda Diefenbach.

### **Recognition**

### **Consent Agenda**

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Ben Mueth

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

- MINUTES OF THE MARCH 23, 2026 REGULAR BOARD MEETING
- INVESTMENT SUMMARY THROUGH APRIL 24, 2026
- BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH MARCH 31, 2026

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

### **Approval of the Bills**

Moved: Nicki Schilling

Seconded: Ben Howes

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

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

Motion Carried

## **Committee Updates**

### **Petitions/Communications**

There were seven Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests received this month, as outlined below:

1. Starbridge Insight requested purchasing records dating back to January 1, 2025.
2. GFI Digital requested copies of contracts and purchasing records related to district copiers and copier maintenance.
3. MetroEast Sun requested all emails referencing Steve Lefko.
4. Michael Henry requested the names of all law firms retained by the district over the past eight years, along with corresponding engagement letters and purchasing records.
5. MetroEast Sun requested all correspondence pertaining to Ramadan.
6. DataBranch requested certain purchasing records from a select group of vendors.
7. DataBranch submitted a second request for certain purchasing records from a select group of vendors.

All requests were fulfilled within the required five-business-day timeframe.

### **Public Participation**

The Board welcomed the public to the meeting.

### **Teachers' Report**

Mrs. Diefenbach gave a brief rundown of activities in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Today, the class visited the St. Louis Arch and Cahokia Mounds to wrap up their westward expansion unit.

### **Administrator's Report**

#### **Elementary School Principal's Report**

Friday, April 10, marked Student Trivia Night for students in grades 5–8. Each team participated with a themed dress-up, creating an enjoyable and engaging evening for both students and staff. Thank you to Mrs. Goscinski for organizing this event.

Several grade levels also participated in field trip experiences. Sixth grade visited the Challenger Learning Center, seventh grade traveled to Skate City, and eighth grade enjoyed a bowling outing. In addition, fourth grade visited Cahokia Mounds. Thank you to the PTO for its continued support in making these opportunities possible for students.

On Friday, April 24, third grade students presented a recorder concert. The performance showcased the students' impressive musical growth and skill development. Thank you to Mrs. Ketchum for her dedication, patience, and hard work in preparing students for this event.

On Wednesday, the Illinois Principals Association hosted a Student Recognition Breakfast honoring students for leadership, character, kindness, and academic achievement. Ashlyn Mayer was selected to represent the Elementary School and is commended as an outstanding student and positive role model.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- Rotary Field Day (Grades 5–8): Tomorrow
- Graduation: Tuesday, May 19

- Last Day of Student Attendance: Wednesday, May 20

### Primary Center Principal's Report

AG Day – Thank you to Freeburg High School for hosting our students.

Field Trips – Students have participated in several field trips this year, including a 2nd grade trip to The Magic House and a kindergarten trip to the Saint Louis Zoo.

IPA Breakfast – Jolee Lengerman was recognized as a recipient of the IPA Student Recognition Award.

Teacher Appreciation Week – Staff members are being celebrated with a circus-themed week.

Appreciation was extended to all staff for their continued dedication and contributions.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- May 6 – Future kindergarten students will visit the Primary Center for a tour
- May 7 – 1st grade field trip to Willoughby Farm
- May 12 & 13 – Kindergarten screenings
- May 14 – Field Day
- May 15 – PTO Carnival

### Director of Student Services Update

Mrs. Hargan shared a video with highlights from the ACE Olympics held at Columbia last month.

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### Enrollment and Suspension Report

Dr. Bearley stated district enrollment is at 719 students up from 716 last month. He also shared the discipline data.

#### District Update

Dr. Bearley expressed his appreciation to the administrative team for their coordination and leadership during the difficult time surrounding Jozie's passing.

Dr. Bearley also thanked Donna Rakers for her assistance in coordinating the dedication of the new playground equipment in memory of Linda Walcher. Approximately 30 individuals were in attendance at the dedication.

In addition, Dr. Bearley extended his gratitude to the district's teachers and wished them a Happy Teacher Appreciation Week.

### **Old Business**

### **New Business**

Moved: Bill May

Seconded: Ben Mueth

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE CONSOLIDATED DISTRICT PLAN FOR FEDERAL GRANTS, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

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

Moved: Nicki Schilling                      Seconded: Ed Scheibel

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO RENEW THE SERIOUS SAFETY HAZARD DETERMINATIONS, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

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

Moved: Ben Howes                      Seconded: Nicki Schilling

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A 2024 77-PASSENGER SCHOOL BUS FOR \$98,377, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

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

Moved: Bill May                      Seconded: Ben Howes

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE 1<sup>ST</sup> READING OF BOARD POLICY REVISIONS, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

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

Moved: Ben Mueth                      Seconded: Ed Scheibel

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE FREEBURG ELEMENTARY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION, AS PRESENTED.**

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

Motion: Nicki Schilling                      Seconded: Bill May

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:26 PM TO CONSIDER:**

**THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES OF THE DISTRICT INCLUDING HEARING TESTIMONY ON A COMPLAINT LODGED AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE. 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1)**

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

Moved: Bill May                      Seconded: Ed Scheibel

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION AT 8:22 PM.**

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

Moved: Nicki Schilling                      Seconded: Bill May

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE LETTER OF RETIREMENT FROM MIKE JOSEPH AS TEACHER, EFFECTIVE AT THE END OF THE 2028-2029 SCHOOL YEAR.**

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

Moved: Ben Mueth                              Seconded: Nicki Schilling

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY CHELSI LLOYD AS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, EFFECTIVE WITH THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR, AS PRESENTED.**

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

Moved: Bill May                                Seconded: Ben Howes

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY CARRIE GREEN AS CROSS COUNTRY COACH, AS PRESENTED.**

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

Moved: Ben Howes                              Seconded: Ben Mueth

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY TRACEY DIEFENBACH AS CROSS COUNTRY COACH, AS PRESENTED.**

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

Motion: Bill May                                Seconded: Ben Mueth

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO TABLE THE EMPLOYMENT OF A HEAD BASEBALL COACH UNTIL THE MAY 18 BOARD MEETING.**

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

Moved: Ed Scheibel                              Seconded: Ben Howes

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THE LEAVE REQUEST FROM TEACHER LEA HAVEL, AS PRESENTED.**

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

Moved: Bill May                                Seconded: Ben Mueth

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM NOON SUPERVISOR JESSICA DONOVON, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, AS PRESENTED.**

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

## **Other Business**

### **Adjournment**

Moved: Ben Howes

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

There being no further business to come before this body, **A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:29 P.M.**

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

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

Bill May, Vice-President  
Board of Education, Dist. # 70