

## **Board of Education Meeting Highlights**

May 19, 2026 – Regular Meeting

*This report provides highlights of the Board of Education meeting and is not intended to serve as the official meeting minutes.*

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## **Student & Staff Recognition**

Students were recognized for achievements at the state and national levels in the following areas:

- Illinois High School Association Bowling (FMS/JF)
- All-State Girls Basketball
- IHSA Short Film Festival
- Illinois High School Association Journalism
- Illinois Student Assistance Commission State Scholars
- National Honor Society

Six staff members were recognized for receiving Those Who Excel Awards from the IL State Board of Education.

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## **Student Board Member Report**

Student Board Member Gustavo reported that, on the last day of school for seniors, the National Honor Society hosted a “Fuzzy Soda” fundraiser. Proceeds were donated to organizations in the Lena community as residents continue to recover from a recent tornado.

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## **Superintendent’s Report**

### **Graduation Congratulations**

Dr. Anna Alvarado extended warm congratulations to the Freeport High School Class of 2026. She also expressed sincere appreciation to everyone whose hard work helped make this milestone memorable for graduates and their families.

### **Grow Your Own College Graduates**

Dr. Alvarado congratulated the district's Grow Your Own participants who have officially joined the Class of 2026 college graduates. Their dedication to advancing their careers and commitment to shaping the future of our classrooms is a source of great pride for the district.

### **8th Grade Promotion**

Freeport Middle School will hold its 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony on Friday, May 29, at Pretzel Stadium. Congratulations to the Class of 2030. May 29 will also be the last day of student attendance for all schools.

### **Early Childhood Center “Moving On” Event**

The Early Childhood Center hosted a special event recognizing prekindergarten students who will transition to kindergarten next year. Families enjoyed an evening of celebration and information, with representatives from each elementary school available to share important details for incoming kindergarten students.

### **ACCESS Preliminary Test Results**

Preliminary ACCESS for ELLs results indicate that English Learner students are making strong progress in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, including newcomers and Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education (SLIFE).

A key indicator of success is the increase in students exiting English Learner status:

- 2023–24: 8 students
- 2024–25: 5 students
- 2025–26: 20 students

This achievement reflects the effectiveness of co-teaching, targeted instruction, and strong collaboration between ESL/Bilingual and general education teachers.

### **Smooth Moves**

Freeport Middle School hosted “Smooth Moves Days” on May 19 and 20 to help 5th-grade students transition to middle school. Students from Empire and Lincoln-Douglas schools visited on the first day, followed by students from Center and Blackhawk schools on the second day.

### **Early Childhood Block Grant**

The Early Childhood Block Grant funds:

- Five half-day Preschool for All classrooms (10 sections)
- Two full-day Preschool for All classrooms

- Two full-day Preschool Expansion classrooms
- Additional bilingual half-day classrooms funded separately

While this grant continues to support essential early childhood programming, flat funding combined with rising costs for salaries, services, and supplies presents ongoing budget challenges.

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## Information Reports

- The **Enrollment and Transportation Update** originally scheduled for this meeting has been rescheduled for June.
  - Dr. Dotson presented the **April financial report**, including a contingency plan for July payroll due to the timing of county fund disbursements.
  - The Illinois State Board of Education is redesigning the **state accountability report card** to a “Profile of Performance” model that uses fixed benchmarks and multiple indicators of success. The presentation was given by Dr. Maurice Davis.
  - Dr. Sue Waughon presented proposed updates to the **Student Code of Conduct** aimed at reducing disciplinary variability and addressing disproportionality across schools. These revisions align with the Strategic Plan and support equitable implementation of MTSS. The presentation also included discussion of a revised cell phone policy for Freeport High School.
  - The Board reviewed quarterly **policy updates from the Illinois Association of School Boards PRESS service**, which reflect recent legislative and administrative changes. Dr. Alvarado provided a brief overview of the updates.
  - The district is exploring an **online subscription service** to streamline policy updates in Diligent Community, improving efficiency and ensuring timely public access to current district policies.
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## Approved Consent Agenda

- Freeport School District and CareerTEC Bills
  - Personnel Report (including addendum) – May 19, 2026  
*(This item was removed from the Consent Agenda and will be voted on following Closed Session.)*
  - ROE 8 Regional Alternative Program Agreement
  - AVID Renewal 2026–27
  - Cebrin Goodman Teen Institute Invoice
  - CareerTEC Joint Use Agreement for FY 2027
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## Approved Board Action Items

- Illinois Association of School Boards School Board Policies Online (SBPOL) Service Agreement
  - USW Contract Rollover
  - Family and Community Engagement Specialist Job Description
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## **Committee Reports**

### **Finance**

Board Member Sosnowski further emphasized Dr. Dotson’s presentation regarding the district’s need to prepare for July payroll until county funds are received.

### **Safety & Security**

The committee is continuing work on the district’s Emergency Response Plan and is scheduling Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) and ALICE training for staff.

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## **Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Freeport School District Board of Education will be held on:



June 16, 2026



6:00 PM



Administrative Office – 501 E. South Street, Freeport, Illinois

The public is always invited and encouraged to attend.