

Board of Education Meeting Highlights

June 16, 2026 – Regular Meeting

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

Student & Staff Recognition

The Board recognizes students and staff whose achievements reflect the excellence and dedication found throughout Freeport School District 145.

Students were recognized for achievements at the state level in the following areas:

- Boys Tennis
 - Boys Track & Field
 - Girls Track & Field
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Superintendent's Report

Staff Recognition

Communications Specialist Paulette Williams-Thomas was recognized for an Award of Excellence from the National School Public Relations Association for the district's Superintendent Newsletter.

Enrollment Update

- Enrollment has increased 5% since 2022. The 2025–2026 school year ended with 3,658 students enrolled in PreK–12.
- New student registration for 2026–2027 is slightly ahead of last year, with 123 registrations compared to 110 at this time last year
- During the 2025–2026 school year, most students who left Freeport School District 145 transferred to another Illinois school district.
 - • 28% transferred to another Illinois school district
 - • 17% moved out of Illinois
 - • 9% transitioned to homeschooling
 - • Six students relocated outside of the United States .
- 2026-2027 enrollment is projected to be 3,700 PK-12 students.

Summer School Update

- Grades K-5 at Jones Farrar Building: 274 students, 18 teachers, 18 paras
- Grades 6–8 Mentoring and Academic Support Program at FHS: 66 students registered
- Credit Recovery at FHS: 77 students

ALOP Approval

The district received a letter from the IL State Board of Education approving the application for Rising Pretzels Academy to continue as an Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (ALOP). This approval will be in effect until June 30, 2027. To continue operating the program, the district must submit an annual continuation application to the Illinois State Board of Education.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Renewed Through 2030

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has approved Freeport School District 145's Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) renewal application, allowing the district to continue providing free breakfast and lunch to all enrolled students through June 30, 2030.

Based on April 2026 student data, the district qualified for a reimbursement rate of 99.01% free claiming and 0.99% paid claiming. While the reimbursement rate is slightly below the threshold for full federal reimbursement, the renewal ensures all enrolled students will continue to receive free breakfast and lunch through June 30, 2030.

Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) Training

The Board reviewed a proposed agreement with the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) to provide trauma-informed de-escalation training for district staff through a train-the-trainer model. The agreement includes on-site training for district staff, reducing travel costs while strengthening school safety efforts and staff preparedness when responding to escalated student behaviors.

Information Reports

- **Enrollment and Transportation Update** presented by ETC director Dallas Pieper. A key highlight was the district's strong transportation safety record and the excellent performance of its drivers.
- **Monthly Financial report** presented by Dr. Jeremy Dotson, Asst. Supt. of Business & Finance
- **Consolidated District Plan (CDP)**: Presented by Dr. Rocio Del Castillo. The CDP allows districts to answer one set of planning questions to meet requirements for federal formula grants included in the plan. All districts that intend to submit an application for one of the federal grants included in the CDP must have a state approved CDP with ISBE before submitting any of the grant applications.

Approved Consent Agenda

- Freeport School District and CareerTEC Bills
- Personnel Report (including addendum) – June 16, 2026
- NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) Contract
- AVID Membership for Blackhawk School
- Resolution abating the District's Working Cash Fund
- Basic Treasurer Surety for the School Year FY27
- Menard Consultant Agreement for FY26 through FY29
- Resolution to Appoint a Treasurer for FY27
- Approval of Resolution authorizing the issuance of \$9,000,000 Taxable Tax Anticipation Warrants of the District in anticipation of the collection of taxes levied for the year 2025 for educational purposes and authorizing the sale of said warrants to U.S. Bank National Association. *(This item was removed from the Consent Agenda to be voted on following the Closed Session.)*
- Property & Casualty and Workers Compensation for FY27
- Annual CollegeNOW Agreement.

Approved Board Action Items

- PRESS Issue 121 (Spring Policy Updates), published by the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB)
- Consolidated District Plan FY 2027

Committee Reports


The Finance Committee has met and their discussions have been presented in tonight's reports.


The Building & Grounds Committee is scheduled to meet on June 17. Dr. Alvarado did provide a summary of the progress on summer construction projects.


IASB Conference in Naperville for board presidents that President Furst and Member Williams attended.

Next Meeting

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

 July 21, 2026

 6:00 PM

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

Community members are encouraged to attend Board of Education meetings and stay informed about district initiatives, programs, and student achievements.