

Freeburg Elementary School

Monday, May 18, 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, May 18, 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, Erin Shook, Ben Howes, and Nicole Schilling were in attendance. Also in attendance were Dr. Mark Bearley, Superintendent and Mark Janssen, Financial Officer and Recording Secretary. Director of Student Services Amanda Hargan was also present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board and public stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitors

Visitors to the meeting included David Wathen, Stephanie Wathen, Sophia Zipfel, Cara Brown, and Devan Nussbaumer. Also in attendance was Coach Kari Zipfel and the Freeburg Boys' Volleyball team.

Recognition

Dr. Bearley recognized the Freeburg Boys' Volleyball team, led by Coach Kari Zipfel, for completing its inaugural season. He noted the team's growth throughout the season, as well as its exemplary performance and sportsmanship. Coach Zipfel thanked the Board for its support and for approving the establishment of the boys' volleyball program.

Dr. Bearley thanked the PTO for organizing another successful Carnival held last Friday. He noted the event was very well organized and provided a fun and enjoyable experience for the students.

Board Member May recognized and thanked Mr. Lawrence for hosting "A Night at the Museum" last week. He noted the event was enjoyable for the students and provided a fun experience for the students.

Consent Agenda

Moved: Bill May

Seconded: Ben Howes

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

- MINUTES OF THE MAY 5, 2026 REGULAR BOARD MEETING
- INVESTMENT SUMMARY THROUGH MAY 15, 2026
- BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH APRIL 30, 2026

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 7-aye, 0-nay.

Approval of the Bills

Moved: Erin Shook

Seconded: Nicki Schilling

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

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

Committee Updates

Petitions/Communications

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

1. Data Branch requested purchasing data related to certain educational subscriptions.
2. SmartProcure requested all purchasing records dating back to February 6.

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

Public Participation

The Board welcomed the public to the meeting.

Teachers' Report

Administrator's Report

None

Superintendent's Report

Enrollment and Suspension Report

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

District Update

Dr. Bearley updated the Board on Kindergarten registration. To date, 57 students have registered for Kindergarten for the upcoming school year. Dr. Bearley noted he will continue to monitor enrollment and keep the Board apprised of any changes, as a decision may need to be made regarding the addition of another Kindergarten section should enrollment increase. Dr. Bearley further noted there is no specific enrollment number that would automatically trigger the addition of another section. The Board will continue to balance the financial considerations of the district with the educational and developmental needs of students, particularly as an increasing number of Kindergarten students are entering school with greater academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs.

Dr. Bearley expressed his sincere appreciation and gratitude to the district's Transportation Department, Food Service Department, Custodial and Maintenance Department, and Office Staff for their hard work, dedication, and countless contributions throughout the school year. He noted their efforts play an essential role in the daily success and operation of the district.

Old Business

New Business

Moved: Ben Mueth

Seconded: Erin Shook

Motion: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Nicki Schilling

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:40 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, Shook, Howes, Schilling, Trout
Motion Carried

Moved: Bill May

Seconded: Ben Howes

A MOTION WAS MADE TO RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION AT 8:38 PM.

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 7-aye, 0-nay.

Other Business

Adjournment

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Ben Mueth

There being no further business to come before this body, **A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:42 P.M.**

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 7-aye, 0-nay.

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

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