

Freeburg Elementary School
Monday, June 22, 2026
6:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Education for Freeburg Community Consolidated School District No. 70 was held on Monday, June 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room 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

Hans Carpenter of the Freeburg Tribune was the lone visitor.

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 MAY 18, 2026 REGULAR BOARD MEETING
- INVESTMENT SUMMARY THROUGH JUNE 19, 2026
- BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH MAY 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, Mueth, Shook, Howes, Schilling, Trout
Motion Carried

Committee Updates

Petitions/Communications

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

1. Employee Research Data requested employee information such as employee names, job titles, and department.
2. DataBranch sent five separate requests seeking purchasing data 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

Superintendent's Report

Enrollment and Suspension Report

Dr. Bearley reviewed district enrollment trends over the past seven school years. He noted that enrollment has experienced a gradual decline since the 2019–2020 school year. Based on current registration figures for the upcoming school year, enrollment is projected to decrease by approximately 20 students. If those projections hold, total district enrollment would fall below 700 students for the first time in recent memory. Dr. Bearley discussed the importance of monitoring enrollment trends, as they can have long-term implications for district planning, staffing, programming, and future revenue.

District Update

Dr. Bearley provided an update on summer cleaning and maintenance activities throughout the district. He expressed his appreciation to the custodial and maintenance staff for their hard work and noted that summer cleaning remains on schedule.

Dr. Bearley also thanked Mr. Foster for preparing student Chromebooks for the upcoming school year and for installing additional security cameras to improve coverage in certain areas of the buildings.

In addition, he recognized Mr. Havel and Mr. Kennedy for their efforts in rehabilitating the Prekindergarten playground and removing deteriorated picnic tables and benches located near the pavilion at the Elementary School.

Old Business

New Business

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Ben Mueth

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ENTER A BUDGET HEARING TO DISCUSS THE FY26 BUDGET AMENDMENTS.

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

Moved: Ben Mueth

Seconded: Nicki Schilling

A MOTION WAS MADE TO REENTER REGULAR SESSION.

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

Moved: Ben Howes

Seconded: Erin Shook

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE FY26 BUDGET AMENDMENTS, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).

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

Moved: Ben Mueth

Seconded: Nicki Schilling

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE TECHNOLOGY LEASE PARAMETERS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$101,000 WITH CITIZENS COMMUNITY BANK AT A SIMPLE INTEREST RATE OF 4.5%.

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

Moved: Ben Howes

Seconded: Ben Mueth

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A TIRE CHANGER AND BALANCER FROM MOHAWK LIFTS FOR \$22,301.89, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).

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

Moved: Nicki Schilling

Seconded: Erin Shook

A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY JORDAN LISZEWSKI AS HEAD GIRLS' BASKETBALL COACH, AS PRESENTED.

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

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Nicki Schilling

A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY TRICIA SCHWIND AND ALLISON SCHMIDT AS A PARAPROFESSIONAL, AS PRESENTED.

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

Moved: Erin Shook

Seconded: Ben Howes

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT LETTERS OF RESIGNATION FROM PARAPROFESSIONALS TIFFANIE HUNT AND ANNA LANNERT, AS PRESENTED.

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

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Ben Mueth

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE FY27 NON-CERTIFIED PAY INCREASES, AS PRESENTED.

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

Motion Carried

Motion: Nicki Schilling

Seconded: Ben Howes

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:25 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) AND

LITIGATION, WHEN AN ACTION AGAINST, AFFECTING OR ON BEHALF OF THE PARTICULAR DISTRICT HAS BEEN FILED AND IS PENDING BEFORE A COURT OR WHEN THE DISTRICT FINDS THAT AN ACTION IS PROBABLE OR IMMINENT. 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(11)

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

Motion Carried

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Ben Mueth

A MOTION WAS MADE TO RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION AT 6:58 PM.

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

Other Business

Adjournment

Moved: Ben Mueth

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

There being no further business to come before this body, **A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:59 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