

Freeburg Elementary School
Monday, July 27, 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, July 27, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room at Freeburg Elementary School.

Call to Order

Mr. May called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call of the members.

Roll Call

In addition to Mr. May, board members Ed Scheibel, Ben Mueth, Erin Shook, Ben Howes, and Nicole Schilling were in attendance. Board member Amber Trout 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

Visitors to the meeting included Meghan Bearley and Kim Scheibel. Also in attendance was Hans Carpenter of the Freeburg Tribune.

Recognition

Consent Agenda

Moved: Nicki Schilling

Seconded: Ben Howes

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

- MINUTES OF THE JUNE 22, 2026 REGULAR BOARD MEETING
- INVESTMENT SUMMARY THROUGH JULY 24, 2026
- BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026

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

Approval of the Bills

Moved: Erin Shook

Seconded: Ben Mueth

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

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

Committee Updates

Petitions/Communications

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

1. DataBranch sent eight separate requests seeking purchasing data from a select group of vendors.
2. David Stein sought emails between a staff member and another parent.

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

Current district enrollment is 687 students, compared with 719 students at the conclusion of the previous school year.

District Update

Dr. Bearley thanked the custodial and maintenance staff for their hard work throughout the summer. Staff remained ahead of schedule, with only a few areas of the buildings left to complete before the start of school.

He also thanked Mrs. Ketchum and Mrs. Kuhn for their work with students over the summer. Mrs. Ketchum organized a summer band camp that concluded with a performance of approximately seven songs. Mrs. Kuhn held a cheerleading camp that concluded with a performance for parents on Friday.

Dr. Bearley provided an update on projects completed during the past month and shared photographs of the new classroom doors, exterior door, and windows at the Primary Center. These improvements were funded through the School Maintenance Project Grant.

Finally, Dr. Bearley reviewed options for new baseball and softball outfield fences. He explained that temporary fences would have a lower initial cost but could require a greater long-term financial commitment due to ongoing maintenance. A permanent fence for the baseball field would cost approximately \$15,000, with the softball field expected to cost less. Dr. Bearley will confirm whether Coach Cooper is interested in having a permanent fence installed. If not, the District may consider replacing the softball scoreboard, as the current scoreboard is outdated.

Old Business

New Business

Moved: Erin Shook

Seconded: Bill May

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE 10-POINT (90%, 80%, 70%, 60%) DISTRICT GRADING SCALE, AS PRESENTED.

AYES: Shook, Howes, Schilling, May

NAYS: Scheibel, Mueth

Motion Carried

Moved: Ben Mueth

Seconded: Nicki Schilling

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE STUDENT HANDBOOK FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR, AS PRESENTED.

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

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Erin Shook

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE INCREASE IN STUDENT AND ADULT MEALS BY \$0.10 FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR.

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

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Ben Howes

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE FOUR-YEAR INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE VILLAGE OF FREEBURG FOR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER SERVICES, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).

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

Moved: Nicki Schilling

Seconded: Ben Howes

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

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

Moved: Ben Howes

Seconded: Ben Mueth

A MOTION WAS MADE TO CHANGE THE START TIME OF REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS FROM 7:00 PM TO 6:00 PM, EFFECTIVE WITH THE AUGUST 2026 MEETING.

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

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Erin Shook

A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY MORGAN CRABTREE AS A TEACHER FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL SUBJECT TO BACKGROUND CHECKS, AS PRESENTED.

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

Moved: Ben Howes

Seconded: Ben Mueth

A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY ANGIE COOPER AS ASSISTANT GIRLS' BASKETBALL COACH, AS PRESENTED.

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

Moved: Ed Scheibel Seconded: Nicki Schilling

A MOTION WAS MADE TO RESCIND THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT FOR THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, AS PRESENTED.

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

Motion: Ben Mueth Seconded: Ben Howes

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE REVISED THREE-YEAR EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT FOR ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL, CARA BROWN, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).

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

Motion: Bill May Seconded: Erin Shook

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ASSISTANT VOLUNTEER COACHES:

Softball – Bryan Blomenkamp, Scott Hansen, Ben Howes, Jeff Kettler, Courtney Heizer, and Becky Mueth

Baseball – Scott Schulz, Ben Howes, and Steve Smith

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

Moved: Bill May Seconded: Ed Scheibel

A MOTION WAS MADE TO RELEASE THE FOLLOWING CLOSED SESSION MINUTES AS THE NEED FOR CONFIDENTIALITY NO LONGER EXISTS:

January 18, 2022	March 28, 2022
February 28, 2022	May 23, 2022

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

Motion: Bill May Seconded: Nicki Schilling

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:58 pm TO CONSIDER:

SECURITY PROCEDURES AND THE USE OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT TO RESPOND TO AN ACTUAL, A THREATENED, OR A REASONABLY POTENTIAL DANGER TO THE SAFETY OF EMPLOYEES, STUDENTS, STAFF, THE PUBLIC, OR PUBLIC PROPERTY. 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(8).

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

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Bill May

A MOTION WAS MADE TO RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION AT 7:03 PM.

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

Other Business

Adjournment

Moved: Ben Mueth

Seconded: Nicki Schilling

There being no further business to come before this body, **A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:04 P.M.**

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

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

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