

Board of Education Meeting Highlights

August 18, 2026 – Regular Meeting

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

Superintendent's Report

- The district welcomed students back for the first day of school on August 20 and shared current enrollment information.
 - Plans were announced for Freeport High School's Centennial Celebration on September 12.
 - FACE distributed 440 backpacks and meals to families while expanding community partnerships and family outreach.
 - Thirty-two seniors participated in the new parking space painting tradition at FHS.
 - The district expanded Crisis Prevention Institute training, preparing 64 Crisis Response Team members and providing verbal intervention training for all staff.
 - Nineteen new teachers completed New Pretzel Academy, supported by district leaders and 20 veteran mentors.
 - The district welcomed the new officers and leadership of the Freeport Community Public School Fund.
 - Grant applications, amendments and required reports are ahead of schedule, supporting faster implementation, reimbursement and improved cash flow.
 - FHS applied for a \$42,215 grant to develop an Integrated Technical Theatre Learning Lab.
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Information Reports

Financial Report: Interim Executive Director of Business and Finance Mark Bertolozzi presented the financial report, highlighting district revenues and expenditures and providing an overview of measures being taken to strengthen the district's financial stability.

Spirit of a Freeport Educator: Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Dr. Kendra Asbury presented a proposed student recognition and scholarship initiative designed to develop a more diverse pipeline of future educators. Funding is expected to come from community partners rather than the district's general fund.

Unpaid Student Fees & Fines: The Board discussed the growing balance of unpaid student fees and fines, including charges for lost or damaged instructional materials, technology and uniforms. Because state law limits collection options and prohibits withholding diplomas or transcripts, the district is reviewing ways to strengthen debt-recovery procedures and reduce the loss of financial and instructional resources.

IB Teacher Professional Learning for Jones-Farrar: The Board was asked to approve up to \$14,000 in International Baccalaureate professional learning for Jones-Farrar teachers during the 2026–2027 school year. The training, funded through carried-over Title I grant funds, will support required instructional practices and help maintain the school’s IB authorization.

Press Issue 122: The Superintendent reviewed PRESS Issue 122 with the Board, highlighting policy updates related to the Equal Access Act, required five-year policy reviews and other recent legal developments.

Zero Health: The Board reviewed Zero Health as a potential cost-saving option for the district’s self-insured health plan, which is experiencing a growing deficit. The service could reduce healthcare costs for both the district and employees by providing access to lower-cost medical providers. Savings will depend on employee participation and utilization.

Approved Consent Agenda

1. Freeport School District & CareerTec Bills
2. Personnel Report & Addendum, 8/18/26 - ***This item was pulled from the consent agenda for discussion in and consideration after closed session.***
3. Screen Castify Renewal 2026-27
4. IXL Subscription for Rising Pretzels Academy
5. Toddle Subscription for Jones-Farrar School
6. Administrative Assistant Job Description Updates
- 7.

Approved Board Action Items

1. Board Meeting Schedule 2026-2027
 2. Revised 2026-2027 School Year Calendar
 3. IB Teacher Professional Training for Jones-Farrar
 4. Fiscal Year 2027 CareerTec Budget
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Committee Reports

President Furst reported for the **Finance Committee** but indicated the Mr. Bertolozzi covered everything in his report.

Member Williams reported for the **Education Committee**. In their last meeting they discussed the following: Science 5th & 6th grade proficiency ratings on the IL school report card; Strategic plan update and feedback from principals on proposed action items; School Report Card framework training to be held for principals to learn how designations are calculated; Adding additional AVID elective 6-12 sections has been paused; Will review Fall MAP data for 2026 summer school students and use it to begin planning for 2027.

Member Green reported for the **Buildings & Grounds Committee** indicating that about 90-95% of our summer projects have been completed.

Next Meeting

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



September 22, 2026



6:00 PM

Early Childhood Center - 1386 S. Kiwanis Dr.

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