

Board of Education Meeting Highlights

October 6, 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 Board Members:

Gustavo presented and indicated that he and Morgan met with Principal Haksen and with this year's Student Advisory Board. They discussed AI, last year's RIF, student attendance and ways for them to improve the school.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Alvarado recognized the Annual Appreciation Day for Coaches, and the month of appreciation for Principals.

PRIORITY 1 | ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Fall MAP & LEA Determination

The Board received updates on Fall MAP assessment results and the district's LEA determination.

PRIORITY 2 | SAFE & HEALTHY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Student Health Requirements

Families are reminded that required student physicals and vaccinations are due **October 15**. The Board also received information regarding updated state timelines for student health data reporting.

Proposed School Resource Officer/Therapy Dog Partnership

Freeport Police Chief Matt Fausto presented a proposal for a partnership between FSD 145 and the Freeport Police Department that would expand School Resource Officer support and establish a therapy dog program serving schools and the community. The proposal includes potential district participation in initial and ongoing program costs. Board members were asked to provide feedback as discussions regarding funding, grants and community partnerships continue.

FHS LULAC "World Cup"

FHS LULAC will conclude Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations with a multicultural "World Cup"

soccer event on **Saturday, October 24, at 11 a.m. at FHS**. The event will bring students, families, staff and community members together through soccer, music, cultural performances and school pride.

PRIORITY 3 | HIGH-QUALITY STAFF & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

FACE: Strengthening School & Family Connections

FACE continues to expand opportunities for families and school staff to engage directly through its **FACE to FACE** discussion series. Empire and Lincoln-Douglas will participate in the first-quarter conversation, with Center and Blackhawk scheduled for January. Upcoming discussions will focus on family voice, goal-setting and strengthening school-family partnerships.

Community Resources for Families

On **November 9 at Lincoln-Douglas**, FACE will partner with the TRIO/Educational Opportunity Center for a **Mobile Food Pantry and Family Resource Opportunity**. Families will have access to food assistance along with GED, college readiness, employment, job-skills and other community resources.

PRIORITY 4 | FISCAL RESOURCEFULNESS

Financial Sustainability Committee

The next meeting of the Financial Sustainability Committee is scheduled for **October 19** as the district continues identifying strategies to address its financial challenges and strengthen long-term sustainability.

POINT OF PRIDE

ECC Gets Statewide Recognition!

Illinois State Superintendent Dr. Tony Sanders featured an FSD 145 Early Childhood Center T-shirt as part of his “T-Shirt Tuesday” campaign highlighting schools across Illinois. We’re proud to see the **ECC Hive** represented statewide!



Information Reports:

Beginning of Year School Improvement Updates:

Led by Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction Dr. Susan Fumo, principals Danielle Summers (Empire Elementary), Don Rundall (Freeport Middle School), and Sarah Hasken (Freeport High School) presented beginning-of-year updates on their School Improvement Plans. Each principal shared their school's goals, key actions, and strategies for continuous improvement, with student attendance serving as a shared focus across all three schools. Efforts include family outreach, student supports, attendance incentives and recognition, and strategies to strengthen academic achievement and graduation outcomes.

Fall Overnight Fieldtrips

The Board received information regarding potential Fall 2026 overnight student trips for FHS students participating in athletics, activities and educational experiences. To streamline the approval process, potential overnight trips will be presented to the Board seasonally rather than individually.

Three potential fall trips were identified:

- Girls State Tennis – Oct. 22–24: One FHS student is expected to qualify for the state competition in the Chicago suburbs.
- FFA National Convention – Oct. 20–23: FFA officers may attend the National Convention in Indianapolis, with expenses covered through FFA activity funds.
- North American International Livestock Exposition – Nov. 12–20: One FFA student and chaperone may attend the event in Louisville, Kentucky, as part of the student's Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), with expenses covered through FFA activity funds.

These opportunities allow students to represent FHS while developing leadership, communication, athletic and career-readiness skills. Trips will occur only if students qualify or are accepted, with cost-saving measures utilized whenever possible.

FY 2027 School Maintenance Project Grant

The Board received information on a state matching grant for school maintenance projects, which will provide \$50,000 in state funding matched by \$50,000 in district funds.

Proposed improvements include replacing obsolete fire department dialers at several schools that generate recurring fault/alarm calls and completing needed HVAC sensor and valve replacements at FHS. The projects are expected to improve facility operations, increase HVAC efficiency and reduce unnecessary maintenance staff overtime.

Approved Consent Agenda

1. Freeport School District & CareerTec Bills
2. Personnel Report, 10/06/26 - the athletic trainer

Approved Board Action Items

1. JEA Conference Itinerary for JEA Convention
2. Fall Overnight Field Trips
3. FY 2027 School Maintenance Project Grant

Board Committee Reports

Buildings & Grounds: Member Alan Greene reported that the committee continues to review facility needs across occupied and unoccupied district properties.

Finance: Member Jack Sosnowski reported that the committee continues to review cash flow, the budget and anticipated funding gaps. The Deficit Reduction Task Force also continues to identify opportunities to reduce spending.

Next Meeting

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

 October 20, 2026
 6:00 PM
 Administration Building - 501 E. South St

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