FSD145
Freeport School District

Board of Education Meeting Highlights

October 20, 2026 – Regular Meeting

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

The board held a Public Hearing concerning the intent of the Board to sell $5,000,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the District's Working Cash Fund, and $25,000,000 Funding Bonds for the purpose of paying claims against the District. One member of the public spoke during this time. The hearing was adjourned.

Student Board Members:

Student Board Member Gustavo Commarela shared that students have been discussing the self-assessment rubric, which allows them to evaluate their performance in various areas and identify opportunities for improvement. He noted that students find the process engaging and helpful. Student Board Member Morgan Bunker highlighted attendance incentives that allow students to earn rewards for positive attendance. She also shared that students in grades 9–11 will participate in practice ACT testing next week.

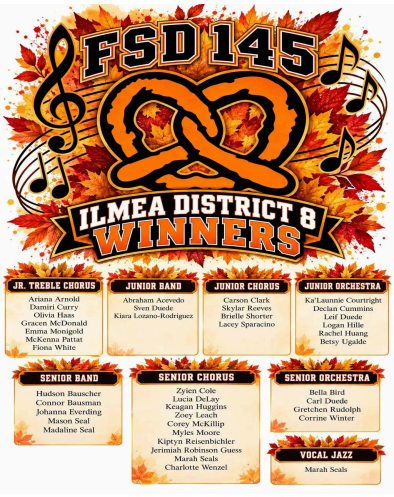
Superintendent's Report:

Student & Staff Recognition

National Principal Appreciation Day: Friday, October 23

The FHS Varsity Football Team qualified for the first round of playoffs. The first round of playoffs will be played against Belvidere North this weekend at Belvidere North.

Sophomore Angelina Sala, will represent FHS in the singles tournament in Class 1A Girls State Tennis. She won the Belvidere North sectional, being the only sophomore to win a sectional.



We are excited to announce our 2026 ILMEA District 8 selected musicians! These talented 7-12th grade students have earned spots in the ILMEA District 8 ensembles, representing our district in band, choir, orchestra, and vocal jazz! *See Names Here*

Superintendent Alvarado provided updates aligned with the district's strategic priorities, including academic excellence, safe and healthy learning environments, family and community engagement, and fiscal responsibility.

Priority 1 – Academic Excellence

The report included districtwide student attendance data as of October 16, 2026, including absences by school and reason, along with an update on Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) interventions designed to address student needs.

Priority 2 – Safe and Healthy Learning Environments

The district's Office of Family and Community Engagement (FACE) is preparing for its first *FACE to FACE* Talk Show on October 29, an initiative designed to encourage meaningful conversations and strengthen relationships with families and the community. A Mobile Food Pantry is also scheduled for November 9 at Lincoln-Douglas Elementary School to support families experiencing food insecurity.

The Superintendent also reviewed September exclusionary discipline data, which reflected 53 incidents across seven schools. The report highlighted trends by school, grade level, and student demographics to help inform ongoing efforts to support positive student behavior and learning environments.

Priority 4 – Fiscal Resourcefulness

Dr. Alvarado outlined the district's continued efforts to address its financial challenges while minimizing the impact on classroom instruction. Over the past 12 months, FSD 145 has implemented approximately **$6.75 million in budget reductions** across multiple departments.

These reductions include staffing adjustments, elimination of positions, reduced transportation expenses, cancellation of software licenses and programs, and deferred facility and technology expenditures. The district remains focused on long-term financial sustainability while protecting educational opportunities for students.

Information Reports:

Monthly Financial Report

Mark Bertolozzi, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance presented the monthly financial report for September 2026.

Sale of District Vans

Mark Bertolozzi reported that the district has three underutilized vans that are no longer essential to operations. Selling these vehicles would provide a financial benefit to the district without impacting operational needs.

Approved Consent Agenda

1. Freeport School District & CareerTec Bills
2. Personnel Report, 10/20/26

Approved Board Action Items

1. Sale of District Vans

Board Committee Reports

Finance: Member Jack Sosnowski reported that the committee continues to meet regularly to review and discuss finances, budget planning, and cashflow. Also looking at insurance expenses that continue to rise, this is not unique to Freeport. The Sustainability & Deficit Reduction task force continues working on our deficit reduction plan that was required by ISBE.

Safety & Security: Member Kacey Seal stated the committee is still working on the huge task of updating the district crisis plan and appendices for individual schools. Supt. Alvarado mentioned that the committee is proceeding with a sense of urgency to complete this task.

Next Meeting

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

📅 November 3, 2026
🕕 6:00 PM
📍 Jones-Farrar School - 1717 W. Eby St

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