FSD145
Freeport School District

Board of Education Meeting Highlights

November 4, 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:

Student board member Morgan shared student perspectives regarding last week's walkout, including concerns about transparency. She reported that while the atmosphere at FHS has become calmer, some concerns remain.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Anna Alvarado shared district updates, student achievements, upcoming events, and progress aligned with the District's strategic priorities.

District Celebrations & Announcements

- Veterans Day: Recognized and expressed appreciation for veterans throughout the district and community in advance of November 11.
- Student Achievement: Congratulations to FHS cross country runner Austin Brobst for qualifying for the IHSA State Cross Country Meet in Peoria.
- FHS Performing Arts: Highlighted the upcoming production of Willy Wonka, November 12–14, showcasing the talents of student performers, musicians, and technical crews.



Priority 1: Academic Excellence

- Enrollment: Provided an enrollment update of 3695 students as of October 29, 2026.
- State of the District: Announced the upcoming event scheduled for November 17 at Jones-Farrar.
- Preschool Funding: Reported $566,695 in Preschool for All funding and $315,710 in Preschool for All Expansion funding for the 2026–27 fiscal year. The programs support early childhood education, with expansion funding providing additional full-day programming and comprehensive services for families with greater needs.

Priority 2: Safe and Healthy Learning Environments

District Institute Day: Highlighted professional development opportunities focused on strengthening educator effectiveness. Sessions covered curriculum and instruction, inclusion and student supports, language and culture, technology, family engagement, and other areas supporting staff and student success.

Priority 3: High-Quality Staff and Community Partnerships

- FACE to FACE: Celebrated the success of the District's first FACE to FACE event, which brought families, educators, and community members together for meaningful conversations and stronger connections.
- Mobile Food Pantry: Announced the November 9 food distribution at Lincoln-Douglas Elementary School, from 4:30–6:00 p.m., with additional career and employment resources available through Highland Community College's TRIO program.
- Family Engagement: Recognized the FACE Department's participation in fall festivals at Empire and Lincoln-Douglas elementary schools, strengthening school-family connections.

Priority 4: Fiscal Resourcefulness

- ESSER Funding Review: Shared an overview of the District's $24.2 million in federal ESSER funding and how those resources supported facilities, curriculum and instruction, technology, transportation, student services, and other initiatives.
- Post-ESSER Funding: Highlighted programs and operational expenses the District continued funding after federal relief dollars expired, including student devices, instructional resources, summer learning, transportation, and student support services.

Information Reports:

1. **Proposed Issuance of Up to $30 Million in School Bonds:**

   The Board reviewed the District's need to issue additional bonds to meet financial obligations through the end of the fiscal year. Bond proceeds would reduce reliance on Tax Anticipation Warrants and help maintain District operations. The debt would be repaid over time as part of the District's ongoing financial management efforts.

2. **Authorization to Prepare for a Potential April 2027 Referendum**

   The Board authorized District administration to begin researching and preparing the necessary paperwork for a potential April 6, 2027, referendum and to engage EO Sullivan as consultants. The District is exploring additional local funding to address ongoing operating deficits and restore its fund balance. The proposed referendum amount and potential tax impact are still being evaluated, with a formal recommendation to be presented at a later date.

3. **2026 Tentative Tax Levy**

   The Board was presented with the 2026 Tentative Tax Levy as part of the annual process leading to final approval and submission to the county. The presentation also addressed necessary revisions to the FY27 budget, which must be approved before the final tax levy is adopted.

Approved Consent Agenda

1. Freeport School District & CareerTec Bills
2. Personnel Report, 11/04/26 - *passed following the closed session*
3. Kami Subscription Renewal

Approved Board Action Items

1. Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed $30,000,000 Taxable General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds for the purposes of increasing the Working Cash Fund of and paying claims against the District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof, and authorizing the execution of certain escrow agreements in connection therewith
2. Authorization of administration to do the research and prepare the paperwork for an April 6, 2027 referendum and to engage the services of EO Sullivan as consultants
3. 2026 Tentative Tax Levy

Board Committee Reports

FinanceCommittee: Board Member Jack Sosnowski reported that the committee continues to meet regularly to review district finances, budget planning, and cash flow. He acknowledged the complexity of the approved bond restructuring, refinancing, and reallocation of funds, emphasizing the committee's continued efforts to identify meaningful solutions to the District's financial challenges.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Freeport School District Board of Education will include the State of the District Report by Supt. Alvarado:

📅 November 17, 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.

