

Regular meeting of the Freeport School District Board of Education

February 18, 2025

This report provides highlights of the board meeting and are not the official meeting minutes.

RECOGNITION

FSD Staff Members were recognized for the following:

Center Elementary School & Principal Amanda Hayes was recognized for being named a U.S. News & World Report Best Elementary School, ranking in the top 40% of all elementary schools in the state of Illinois.

Jena Kleindl teacher at Freeport High School was recognized for being named the 2025 Early Career Educator (less than 5 years of classroom experience) for the State of Illinois by the IL State Board of Education (ISBE).

In addition the following district staff were also recognized by ISBE. Awards of Excellence are being presented to Stacey Kleindl (principal at Blackhawk School) and Ben Skippor (teacher at Freeport High School). Awards of Special Recognition are being presented to Madison Hoffman (teacher at Lincoln Douglas School), Candace Rodriguez (teacher at Blackhawk School), Meredith Schoonhoven (teacher at Freeport Middle School) and Lindsey Thomas (Family Resource Coordinator at Lincoln Douglas).

The Board of Education:

Received Numerous Reports that will be further detailed in the Board Meeting Minutes:

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Superintendent Alvarado acknowledged Black History Month. Dr. Shalonda Randall shared some perspectives about the history and meaning of BHM.

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Pursuant to State law and Board policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, the Board monitors this policy every two years by conducting a review and

re-evaluation of this policy to make any necessary and appropriate revisions. Dr. Shalonda Randle brought forward some highlights from the policy as required to be presented to the board by the ISBE.

SUMMER LEARNING

Dr. Julia Cloat provided an update on the plans for Summer Learning 2025. She reported that due to extensive projects that will be happening at some of the schools, the locations and the length of the summer program have been changed.

PRESCHOOL EXPANSION PLAN UPDATE

Dr. Alvarado gave the board an update on Phase 1 of the Preschool Expansion Program as it affects schools throughout the district, identifying some of the tasks assigned and progress to date. Sara Latimer, the Director of Early Childhood Education gave an update on the preschool side of the planning for the opening of the Early Childhood Center.

INFORMATION REPORTS

School Improvement Plans

The following schools provided mid-year progress reports on their School Improvement Plans: Jones-Farrar, Blackhawk, Center, Empire and FHS.

Monthly Financial Report

Present by Dr. Jeremy Dotson, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance
Dr. Dotson provided reports/updates on the financials for the month of January as well as the summation of annual audit presented by Lindsey Fish a partner at Sikich CPA LLC.

S&P Global Credit Highlights in Connection with Bond Issuances

Freeport School District (FSD) 145 met with bond investors, bond counsel, bond underwriter, and S&P Global to obtain a bond rating on the bond 2025A, 2025B, and 2025C issuance, providing the past and current financial information to bond investors. Upon reviewing the 2024 financial data including audit, budget, economic metrics, gross income, generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), population, etc., FSD 145 received a bond rating of A.

Credit Rating Scales by Agency, Long-Term

Moody's	S&P	Fitch	
Aaa	AAA	AAA	Prime
Aa1	AA+	AA+	High grade
Aa2	AA	AA	
Aa3	AA-	AA-	
A1	A+	A+	Upper medium grade
A2	A	A	
A3	A-	A-	
Baa1	BBB+	BBB+	Lower medium grade
Baa2	BBB	BBB	
Baa3	BBB-	BBB-	
Ba1	BB+	BB+	Non-investment grade speculative
Ba2	BB	BB	
Ba3	BB-	BB-	
B1	B+	B+	Highly speculative
B2	B	B	
B3	B-	B-	
Caa1	CCC+	CCC	Substantial risk
Caa2	CCC		Extremely speculative
Caa3	CCC-		Default imminent with little prospect for recovery
Ca	CC	CC	
C	C	C	
/	D	D	In default
/			



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Freeport Alternative High School (ROE #8)

An agreement between Freeport School District 145 and the Regional Office of Education (ROE) was reviewed. The agreement is to provide employee benefits (Health, Retirement, Sick, Board Pay, etc.) to ROE paid educators. The FSD 145 has provided benefits to ROE #8 educators for many years without a formal agreement. ROE educators are servicing FSD 145 students and are paid a salary through the ROE's payroll system. The Freeport Alternative High School (ROE# 8) MOU captures both parties' business conduct through a formalized written agreement.

Job Description Fine Arts Coordinator

A proposal to establish a Fine Arts Coordinator position to provide comprehensive leadership for our performing arts programs was presented.

Approved the Consent Agenda:

- 8.1 - Freeport School District and CareerTEC Bills
- 8.2 - Personnel Report - February 18, 2025
- 8.3 - 2025 Envelope Improvements at Freeport Middle School and Blackhawk Elementary School as part of the Health Life Safety Work
- 8.4 - 2025 Alluvit Transportation Job Bulletin
- 8.5 - 2025 Visible Outdoor Kindergarten Registration Ads
- 8.6 - Insightz Research Project
- 8.7 - Annual Service Agreement with BR Bleachers for the 25-26 school year
- 8.8 - Annual Service Agreement with Dave Demeester Landscaping & Lawn Service for 2025 sports season
- 8.9 - Hazardous Walking Areas

8.10 - REMOVED*

8.11 - 2025 Helm Blackhawk Elementary School Furnish (HVAC) Equipment Proposal

8.12 - 2025 Kroll LLC Inventory Appraisal Service

****Under consent, Item 8.10 Raymond Owens Contract was pulled from the Consent Agenda.***

Took Action in Favor of the Following Previously Presented Items:

A. Dakota Transportation Services Agreement, Jul 1, 2025 - June 30, 2028

B. Pearl City Transportation Services Agreement, Jul 1, 2025 - June 30, 2028

C. Revision of the 2025-2026 School Year Calendar, per ISBE submission

D. 2025-2026 School Year Calendar

Board Member Committee Reports

Member Alan Greene for Buildings & Grounds Committee

President Sosnowski for Finance Committee

The public is always invited and encouraged to attend Freeport School District Board of Education meetings. The next scheduled regular meeting will be held on March 4, 2025, at 6:00 PM. Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at the FSD Administrative Office at 501 E South Street.