

Regular meeting of the Freeport School District Board of Education

June 16, 2024

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

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

Superintendent Report

Enrollment Update: snapshot of where we are today versus previous years.

Returning

22-23= 1475 registrations completed

23-24= 1494 registrations completed

24-25 =1594 registrations completed, **100 over this day last year***

New

22-23 =72

23-24= 165

24-25= 156

We also have enrolled 26 students from Aquin. We are starting to import the information from the enrollment software into Skyward. Enrollment will begin giving accurate counts by next week.

End of Summer Learning Updates

We began a pilot this year with each elementary building hosting their own summer learning program. We were excited to see our summer enrollment increase to 500 students in grades K-6, along with about 275 students attending classes at BBEC, FMS, FAHS, and BBEC, for a total of nearly 775 students, representing just under 25% of our total student population enrolled. Average weekly attendance for summer learning was 75%.



Principals, teachers, and camp counselors are being surveyed to provide feedback on their experiences with this new approach.

The culmination of the elementary summer camp program was a trip to the Milwaukee Zoo on July 2. Many students shared that they had never been to a zoo before and were enthralled by the many different animals they saw.

FHS summer school credit recovery ends on Wednesday, July 17.

Building Principals were surveyed and overwhelmingly saw this year's Summer Learning model as positive and want to continue it going forward, with more focus and enrollment method and attendance.

Teacher Vacancy Grant Renewal

The Illinois State Board of Education informed FSD 145 that we have been selected to receive a Teacher Vacancy Grant in the amount of 390,241.10. This is a slight increase in the amount over last year. The Teacher Vacancy Grant is in year two of a proposed three-year pilot program aimed at addressing chronic shortages by providing the state's most understaffed districts with resources to attract, hire, support, and retain teachers. The grant allows districts maximum flexibility to use allocated funds in innovative, creative, and evidenced-based ways, such as signing bonuses, housing stipends, down-payment assistance, or loan repayments; to pay tuition and fees or providing residencies or apprenticeships; and to sustain employment of current teachers by providing materials, supplies, coaching, and school culture supports.

Information Reports:

The **monthly financial report** was provided by Dr. Jeremy Dotson, Asst. Supt. for Business & Finance.

American Reading Company, presented by Dr. Julia Cloat, Associate Superintendent for C&I

Proposing the approval and purchase of the American Reading Company 100 Book Challenge at-home reading program for Empire Elementary School. It consists of rotating libraries for students to take one book to read at home. The program encourages parents 1) to turn off all screens in their homes and provide a quiet space for their children to read for about 30 minutes. 2) read with/to their children or supervise their reading. The program included incentives and classrooms can exchange libraries to increase the variety of books available.

Emergency Day E-Learning Plan Renewal, presented by Dr. Julia Cloat, Associate Superintendent for C&I

ISBE requires that Emergency Day E-Learning Plans be renewed every 3 years. The original E-Learning Plan was approved by the Freeport School District and the Illinois School Board of Education in 2020. Dr. Cloat outlined the steps on the e-Learning Program Verification Form, which must be completed as a part of the renewal process.

School Resource Officer Agreement, presented by Supt. Dr. Anna Alvarado
For many years now, FSD has not been able to secure an SRO for FHS/FMS due to the staffing shortage at the Freeport Police Department. We have had this partnership with the FPD for many years and would like to be able to bring back this service. Having an SRO helps in how our district is addressing the safety and security of the high school and middle school students and staff.

Differential Request, presented by A.D. Brad Pemberton

Eighteen applications were submitted to the differential committee. Following the process established to consider any changes, the committee met, reviewed the requests, and respectfully requested that the listed 15 recommendations be considered for approval for the 2024-25 school year

New Floater Cook Position, presented by Dr. Dotson

Excessive FMLA leaves within the NDS department have made it difficult to have consistent staffing across all meal preparation sites. A floater cook position, similar to the existing floater custodian position, will provide more staffing stability.

PPS Coordinator Positions, presented by Dr. Sue Waughon, Asst. Supt. of Pupil Personnel Services

The existing organizational structure of the PPS Department limits the scope and type of supports for schools, creating the need to assess the efficacy of it. Based on feedback from varied stakeholders, more direct supports are needed in schools to provide consistency across schools. The outcome of the new organizational structure of the PPS Department replaces the Assistant Director and Department Chairs with four additional PPS Coordinators. The four additional PPS Coordinators will be funded through the IDEA Grant.

Home Hospital Instruction, presented by Dr. Waughon

Section 14-13.01(a) of the School Code provides that home hospital instruction be delivered to students who are unable to attend school due to a medical condition. To qualify for home hospital instruction, a parent must submit a statement by a licensed Physician, Advanced Practice Nurse, or Physician Assistant identifying the student's medical condition. Administrative Procedures have been written to reflect how district Policy 6:150 Home and Hospital Instruction will be implemented.

2025 Minimum Wage Increase, presented by Dr. Dotson

Minimum wage will be increased to \$15/ hour for the 2024-25 school year for lunchroom supervisors, playground supervisors, crossing guards, and bus driver trainees. The financial impact for the 24-25 school year is approximately \$15K.

Expulsion in Abeyance - Stay of Expulsion Agreement, presented by Dr. Waughon

Board policy 7:210 E1 provides notification of recommendations to parents made by the School Board to expel their child. After consideration of the Administration's recommendation along with other facts, the Board of Education may find it appropriate and in the best interest of the student to provide them with a last chance opportunity, holding the student's expulsion in abeyance. A Stay of Expulsion Agreement, in draft form, is being reviewed by our legal counsel for use when the Board of Education holds the student's expulsion in abeyance.

Approved the Consent Agenda

- A. Freeport School District and CareerTEC Bills
- B. Personnel Report July 16, 2024
- C. Closed Session Minutes Disclosure
- D. Destruction of Recordings of Closed Session Minutes, prior to 11/2022
- E. NIA Executive Ballot
- F. Resolution Approving Surety Bond of & Appointment of Treasurer - Jennifer Heiden
- G. Resolution to Prepare the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2025
- H. ~~Purchase / Buy-out of 9 Lease Buses~~ - *this item was removed from the consent agenda for further information and will be brought back at the next meeting*

Took Action in Favor of the Following Previously Presented Items

- A. American Reading Company

- B. Expansion of the Panorama Contract
- C. LTC Contract
- D. Updated Job Description - Athletic Director
- E. Curriculum & Instruction Job Descriptions
- F. FHS Report Card
- G. New Position - Bilingual Family Liaison
- H. Rosecrance Agreement
- I. School Resource Officer Agreement
- J. 2025 Minimum Wage Increase
- K. PPS Coordinator Positions (4)

Board Member Committee Reports

None were provided

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 August 20, 2024, at 6:00 PM. Meetings are held at the FSD administrative office, located at 500 E. South St, and can be accessed virtually, (unless otherwise communicated). Information on joining the meetings can be found [here](#).