

**Regular meeting of the Freeport School District Board of Education**

**October 01, 2024**

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

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

**Superintendent Report**

**Custodian Appreciation Day, Wednesday, October 2 was recognized!**

It's a day to recognize the hard work of custodians who keep workplaces clean and sanitary. We are grateful for our custodians who are "Here for the Kids."

**Average Daily Attendance for September**

<b>School</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Blackhawk	93.1%
Center Elementary	95%
Empire	92.3%
Jones Farrar IB	95.7%
Lincoln Douglas	94.8%
Carl Sandburg MS	92.7%
FMS	92.8%
FHS	88.5%
<b>Districtwide Average</b>	<b>92.1%</b>

## **ISBE's New Guidelines for DCFS Reporting**

As mandated reporters all FSD employees are responsible to immediately report suspected child abuse or neglect to DCFS. In July a new evidence-based model, called the Safety Assessment Family Evaluation (SAFE) Model was successfully launched and incorporated into the first phase of a multi-year program called **IllinoisConnect**. Some of the questions that will be asked when an employee makes a report of suspected child abuse or neglect have changed. Asking more in-depth questions will help the agency understand much more about the family at the onset; allowing Hotline staff and investigators to make more informed decisions when screening intakes and visiting homes; and ultimately lead to stronger families and more timely permanency for our youth.

## **COPS School Violence Prevention Program Grant (Three Year Grant)**

FSD is the recipient of \$500,000 in funding coming from the Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP), which provides funding to improve security at schools and on school grounds through evidence-based school safety programs.

Next steps: Our Safety Committee will meet to review the grant specific to items that are outlined and see if there are any modifications that are needed. We are bound by the Procurement bidding process, where applicable. District share is 25% of the total allocation. Our Legal Counsel will need time to review the contract.

## **District Institute Day**

The 2024 Fall Institute, "Amplifying Engagement," was held on Wednesday, September 25. The Institute kicked off with a general session that included introductory remarks from Dr. Alvarado, commentary about the impact of AVID on students and the community from FSD graduate and FMS dean Jalen Dunbar and retired teacher LaFrancine Baker, and a Q&A panel made up of current leaders, teachers, students, and FSD graduates.

After the general session, there were over 60 breakout sessions attended by more than 550 staff, educators in Freeport clocked an impressive 3,300 hours of professional development! Session themes included AVID strategies, curriculum implementation, instructional technology, and strategies for greater inclusion and support for all students.

## **The Stronger Connections Grant**

The SCG application has just been approved by ISBE. We can now continue our partnership and collaboration with community partners such as: Midwest PBIS, Boys and Girls Club, Freeport Art Museum, Voices, Bright Point, Heart Shift, Restore Together, Care Solace, Adaptive X, and SPARK.

## **Community Resource and Wellness Fair**

The Equity Department sponsored its Annual Resource and Wellness Fair on Monday, September 30, 2024, at Freeport Middle School. This event is one of the outcomes of the ISBE Community Partnership Grant that we received three years ago.

This year, the Equity Department collaborated with the Dept. of Language & Culture and the Early Childhood to help with recruiting more parents to this event. Well, it worked...we had over 200 participants.

The Fair had more than 20 community organizations who participated, some new and some who have participated in the past three years. We sponsored food trucks and provided a light meal at no cost to our families.

The Fair sponsored a guest speaker from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the Illinois Migrant Council, to provide information to our families around suicide prevention. We also provided fun activities for the children, such as, a Bounce House, Inflatable Basketball Rim, Face painting, and a coloring station.

Finally, we had student organizations and FSD staff who attended and volunteered their time to help make this a successful event.

## **Information Reports:**

### **Health Life Safety Amendment 25 FY**

Freeport School District contracted with Green Associates to provide a ten-life safety survey of its facilities. While assessing the HLS needs in the district, Green Associates discovered several HLS repairs that require immediate attention. The HLS amendment will allow the district to maintain a safe and sound environment for staff and students. A representative from Green Associates was present to provide repair information to the board for review.

### **School Maintenance Project Grant**

Freeport School District can apply for and receive the Illinois State Board of Education, School Maintenance Project Grant for \$50,000, of which may be used to address Health Life Safety repairs in the school year 2025. The grant is a matching grant that requires the district to make a matching like-kind contribution toward the cost of the associated HLS repair. The like kind contribution will be made with HLS bonds. The finance department recommends that the Board consent in the meeting minutes of its intent to submit for SMPG, and approve the District Certification page. The SMPG grant will allow the district to maximize its resources to address HLS projects in FY25.

## **Fitzgerald Equipment Fork Truck Lease**

The District's current fork truck is at the end of its product life cycle. The equipment is at risk of equipment failure. The maintenance department budgeted a new fork truck purchase or lease in the FY25 budget. The maintenance department recommends that the Board approve the two-year lease agreement with the option to purchase. The new equipment will avoid operational failures and maintenance delays

## **PRESS 116**

The Illinois Association of School Boards Policy Reference Education Subscription Service provides policy updates to subscribing School Districts on a quarterly basis. These updates are due to changes in legislation, administrative rules, PRESS Advisory Board feedback, quality assurance, or other factors. Three policies were presented to the board and have been reviewed by Central Office Administrators.

## **Approved the Consent Agenda**

- A. Freeport School District and CareerTEC Bills
- B. Personnel Report - Oct. 01, 2024
- C. Renewal of Contractual Agreement with Nancy Herrera
- D. Renewal of Contractual Agreement with Dani Salto
- E. Renewal of Contract for Spanish Class for Staff
- F. Renewal of Immunization Program Agreement
- G. Menard Consultant Agreement

## **Took Action in Favor of the Following Previously Presented Items**

- A. Press Issue 115
- B. Social Studies Curriculum Development and Early Implementation
- C. School Maintenance Project Grant FY 2025
- D. Health Life Safety Amendment FY 2025

## **Board Member Committee Reports**

Reports were provided by Members Charlene Williams & Kacey Seal for the Education Committee.

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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 September 17, 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](#).