

Regular meeting of the Freeport School District Board of Education

November 19, 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:

Prior to the approval of the agenda Item 8.6 (approval of the bus lease agreement) was removed from the agenda.

Information Reports:

STATE OF THE DISTRICT

Superintendent, Dr. Anna Alvarado presented the 2024 State of the District to the Board of Education, staff and members of the public who were present. The presentation highlights the IL School Report Card for FSD 145 in detail at the school and district level, as well as the state of IL. ***A public copy of the presentation will be made available via our website in the near future.***

Dr. Maurice Davis then presented Strategic School Improvement Planning, what are our goals and steps to improvement.

Dr. Alvarado closed the presentation with Additional Focus Areas:

- Special Education
- English Learners
- Quality Early Childhood Experience
- Reducing chronic
- Monitor the implementation of reading and math curriculum with integrity, increase grade level proficiency

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Present by Dr. Jeremy Dotson, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance
Dr. Dotson provided reports/updates on the financials for October; II General Assembly Passed Public Act 105 ILCS 5/17-1/10 Operational funds expenditure report and reserve reduction plan.

Tax Levy was discussed, our budget was adopted on 9/25/24. Tonight the tentative tax levy was presented. The Levy will be finalized on December 3, 2024 with adoption by the B.O.E. scheduled for 2/17/24. Once adopted the certificate will then be filed with the County Clerk's office.

SHOWTIME TOUR 2025

A proposal was presented by Dr. Julia Cloat, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction and FHS music teacher Brittany Kieselhorst for a Showtime Trip to Detroit MI, March 21st-25th during Spring Break. The Showtime Tour has been a tradition at FHS for over 40 years. This item will come to the board on 12/17 for approval.

BLOOM BOARD TEACHER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM CONTRACT

Presented by Mrs. Susan Fumo, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. The district seeks to increase its teacher pipeline and provide advancement opportunities for current staff members by partnering with BloomBoard to offer a Teacher Apprenticeship Program. This program will allow 2-4 current staff members to earn teaching credentials while maintaining their employment with the district over the next 1-4 years. The contract will be completely funded by the Teacher Vacancy Grant.

CALM APP FOR STAFF

Purchasing a Calm App subscription for all staff members was presented by Mrs. Susan Fumo. The Stay interviews last year revealed that teachers' stress levels is an area of challenge for retaining them in teaching positions. We know this is a multi-faceted problem, but after researching options, we are suggesting a 1 year trial of the Calm App for all staff members using the Teacher Vacancy Grant. Calm will develop a custom user-interface for our staff members that has the ability to connect them to district health insurance resources as well as free available supports for those without insurance.

Approved the Consent Agenda with individual votes on each item:

- A. Freeport School District and CareerTEC Bills
- B. Personnel Report - Nov 17, 2024
- C. Nancy Herrera contract extension
- D. Stronger Connections Grant - Community Partnership Contract Renewal
- E. 14 Passenger Bus purchase
- F. Health Insurance Renewals (medical, dental, vision)
- G. Illinois Energy Consortium Engie Resources LLC
- H. Waste Disposal and Recycling Services Contract

Took Action in Favor of the Following Previously Presented Items:

- A. Resolution Estimating Aggregate Levy for 2024
- B. Intent to apply for the Property Tax Relief Program for 2025
- C. Intent to sell \$10,000,00 funding bonds for HLS Planned Projects
- D. Intent to sell \$10,000,00 Working Cash Fund bonds for HLS Planned Projects
- E. Grant Specialities Consultation Proposal to manage the C.O.P.S. School Violence Prevention Program

Board Member Committee Reports

There were none.

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 December 17, 2024, at 6:00 PM. **PLEASE NOTE:** This meeting will be held at Freeport Middle School (701 W. Empire St.) **There will be no Zoom access for this meeting.**