

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

**December 17, 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:**

A public hearing was held concerning the intent of the Board of Education of FSD 145 to sell \$15,000,000 School Fire Prevention and Safety Bonds, \$15,000,000 working cash Fund Bonds and \$10,000,00 Funding Bonds. No one from the public spoke during the hearing.

**Student Recognition:** The board recognized students for their accomplishments in sports, music, academics and NJROTC.

### **Superintendent's Report**

**Spotlight:** Congratulations to Center Elementary School for being the recipient of the US News and World Report Best Elementary Schools Public for the second year in a row. Recipients ranked in the Top 40% in the State of Illinois. We will invite the Center Staff to come and be recognized at the January 21, 2025 board meeting.

### **Enrollment & Attendance**

There are 3741 students enrolled in FSD as of 12/17/24.

Attendance the Week of Thanksgiving 11/24 and 11/25: Average Attendance was 88.87%. During Parent/Teacher Conferences: Average Attendance was 83.3%.

### **Winter Institute Day: The S.H.A.P.E. of Equity**

The next district-wide Institute day will be on Wednesday, January 22. The theme of our Pretzel Winter Institute will be "The S.H.A.P.E. of Equity," featuring Dr. Rachael Mahmood, 2024 Illinois Teacher of the Year. Following Dr. Mahmood's keynote, attendees will be able to choose from over 80 60-minute breakout sessions on topics related to equity, curriculum, multilingualism, technology & innovation, and inclusion.

## **ISBE Instructional Mandates**

The Illinois State Board of Education releases a document each year outlining the Instructional Mandates required by the Illinois School Code in addition to state graduation requirements. **For 2024-2025, the instructional mandates are the same as 2023-2024.** FSD 145 is in compliance with ISBE's more than 120 mandates across 39 instructional topics.

## **Preschool For All Grant Update**

FSD will be receiving \$129,360 to serve those newly funded 40 students for FY 25, and can be retroactive back to July 1, 2024. That amount will be added into our existing Preschool for All funding \$447,335, for a grant total of \$567, 695 for the half day preschool programming. The Preschool for All Expansion Grant dollars remain unchanged at \$314,278 for 40 students in the all-day model, and are in a separate grant fund.

Dr. Alvarado gave thanks to the **Freeport Community Foundation Public School Fund** for \$80K allocated for requested supplies for our teachers/schools.

The **POSADAS Celebration** held last Friday at the Eagles Club had more than 250 persons in attendance. Posadas is a Christmas tradition that celebrates the search for lodging for Mary and Joseph before the birth of Jesus. The word posadas is Spanish for "lodgings" or "accommodations". In addition to the celebration of POSADAS there was a community resource fair in which service agencies from our community were on hand to provide information to the families in attendance.

## **Information Reports**

Due to the number of Information Reports Presented at this meeting, a select few are being highlighted, all are listed. More information on each item can be found in the agenda attachments for this meeting and will be in the board minutes.

### **Monthly Financial Report**

Present by Dr. Jeremy Dotson, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance  
Dr. Dotson provided reports/updates on the financials for November.

### **Preschool Expansion Program**

Presented by Superintendent Alvarado. She set the purpose for a proposal to the board for a Preschool Expansion. More details regarding the purpose, the proposal and the impact are outlined in the Superintendent's Newsletter dated 12/13/24. [You can view that document here.](#)

## **Vision 2030 Call to Action: School Board Resolution of Support**

The Illinois Association of School Administrators has reached out to various school districts encouraging support for the Vision 2030 Call to Action. The launching of Vision 2030 was highlighted during the opening general session at the Joint Annual Conference. The joint agencies worked together to develop this vision for K-12 public education over the next decade. Vision 2030 is rooted in a shared belief that students learn best, and educators teach most effectively, when they feel safe and connected to one another and to their communities. School districts across Illinois are being asked to express support for the goals and priorities of Vision 2030 by passing a resolution at a public meeting.

## **OTHER INFORMATION REPORTS**

Press Policy 117

Policy 4:150 Facility Management & Building Programs

Policy 7:40 Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home Schooled Students

2025-22026 School Year Calendar

FMCSA Consortium Pool Agreement for 2024-2025

Regional Alternative Program Lunch Agreement for 2024-2025

Freeport Alternative High School Lunch Agreement for 2024-2025

Instructional Coach - Bowen FSD Consulting Contract

Job Description Revisions - Paraeducators (APAD, Early Childhood, English Learners, High Needs Classroom and Specialized).

Job Description - Coordinator of Language and Culture

**Approved the Consent Agenda with individual votes on each item:**

- A. Freeport School District and CareerTEC Bills
- B. Personnel Report - Dec 17, 2024
- C. Texthelp Inc.
- D. Restore Together Contract (Restorative Practices)
- E. Bus Lease Agreements for 8 68-passenger buses and 2 lift buses.
- F. Planned Service Agreement for Johnson Controls
- G. THERMOFLO Service Renewal Agreement

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

- A. Certificate of Tax Levy for 2024
- B. Showtime Tour 2025
- C. BloomBoard Teacher Apprenticeship Program Contract
- D. Calm App for Staff

**Board Member Committee Reports**

Member Charlene Williams reported for the EC-12 Committee and Equity

Member Alan Greene reported for the Buildings & Grounds 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 January 21, 2025, at 6:00 PM. Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at the FSD Administrative Office at 501 E South Street.