

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

January 21, 2025

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

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### The Board of Education:

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

### Superintendent's Report

#### **SPOTLIGHT: Student/Staff Recognition**

FHS Choir, Orchestra and Band students were recognized for qualifying for state. These students will participate in the state music festival in February.

Superintendent Alvarado read a letter from the IL State Board of Education acknowledging the progress of three schools in their summative designations

#### **GREAT NEWS!**

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has officially approved Freeport High School's ***Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources*** pathway for the College and Career Pathway Endorsement. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved, particularly Brittani DeVries. Brittani's exceptional effort and attention to detail were pivotal in ensuring this pathway was approved on our first submission—a remarkable accomplishment. This milestone reflects the strength of our program and its alignment with state standards, opening doors for our students to gain valuable skills and recognition as they prepare for their futures.

#### **Enrollment**

At the end of Dec. 2024 the district enrollment was 3741 students.

## **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.

## **SIP Day Feedback from Staff**

Staff overwhelmingly reported that the structure, purpose, and outcomes of the day were both relevant and meaningful. The data/feedback is used to plan future SIP days. Dr. Alvarado & Assistant Superintendent Susan Fumo reported on spending of the ISBE funded Teacher Vacancy Grant. Freeport planning and use of the grant funds have become a model for districts across the state.

## **Multilingual Steering Committee Update**

The committee plays a critical role in advising on the development, implementation, and evaluation of multilingual programs, aligns with the district's 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. Purpose of the meetings: Provided an opportunity for committee members to **deepen their knowledge** and **continue to grow in their understanding of multilingual education**. As the committee advances, its members are actively contributing to shaping the future of multilingual education within the district.

Next upcoming sessions will focus on **evaluating current programs, identifying needs**, and **finalizing a report with recommendations** for the Board of Education in May. The committee's efforts are already making a significant impact on the district's multilingual education initiatives, and we look forward to the continued growth and success of our programs.

## **Program Options Task Force Update**

Members: The Program Options Task Force is composed of varied stakeholders representing Banks Bergagna, Freeport Alternative High School, and SITE along with elementary, middle, and high school levels from all our schools. Both classified and certified staff members as well as administrators and parents participate on the Program Options Task Force.

What has the task force been doing?

- a. Monthly meetings have allowed them to work through action steps of the project plan with intent to answer this guiding question: **What program options are needed in FSD 145 to ensure all students receive a high quality education designed to appropriately and effectively meet their learning needs?**

- b. Members have engaged in activities and discussions to better help them explain and understand the current state of program options for students in FSD 145. Part of that work included reviewing the historical context of existing program options with emphasis on Banks Bergagna, Freeport Alternative High School, and SITE.
- c. Concurrently, members have begun research on varied program options that include Alternative Programs, Alternative Schools, and Therapeutic Schools. District data is being reviewed and utilized to not only analyze the effectiveness of existing program options, but also identify gaps in program options for students in FSD 145.
- d. Future work for members will include opportunities to visit examples of Alternative Programs, Alternative Schools, and Therapeutic Schools. Wrapping up the first phase of the project plan will be identifying barriers to expanding program options in FSD 145.

### **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.

### **School Improvement Plans**

The following schools provided mid-year progress reports on their School Improvement Plans: Freeport Middle School (Principal Danielle Summers), Carl Sandburg School (Principal Dr. Beth Summers and Asst. Principal Jennifer Heilman)

### **Monthly Financial Report**

Present by Dr. Jeremy Dotson, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance  
Dr. Dotson provided reports/updates on the financials for December including information about the levy, the bond sale, financial and the school maintenance grant.

### **Policy 4:150 Facility Management and Building Programs**

Policy was provided for the board to review. ([policy linked for review](#))

### **Dakota Transportation Services Agreement for July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028.**

([document linked for review](#))

**Pearl City Transportation Services Agreement for July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028.**  
[\(document linked for review\)](#)

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

- A. Freeport School District and CareerTEC Bills
- B. Personnel Report - January 21, 2025
- C. Review of Closed Session Minutes
- D. Destruction of Closed Session Minutes prior to June 2023
- E. Microsoft Open Value Subscription Agreement for Education Solutions (12 full month calendar agreement)

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

- A. Preschool Expansion Program
- B. Vision 2030 Call to Action: school Board Resolution of Support
- C. Press Policy 117
- D. 2025-2026 School Year Calendar
- E. FHS Proposed New Courses 25-26
- F. MSCA Consortium Pool Agreement for 2024-2025
- G. Regional Alternative Program (ROE #8) Lunch Agreement for 2024-2025
- H. Freeport Alternative High School Lunch Agreement for 2024-2025
- I.
- J. Instructional Coach, Bowen FSD Consulting Contract 2025
- K. Job Description Revisions Paraeducators (APAD, Early childhood, English Learners, High Needs, Classroom and Specialized
- L. Coordinator of Language and Culture
- M. Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$15,000,000 General Obligation School Bonds of the District for life safety purposes, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof.
- N. Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$20,000,000 General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds of the District for the purposes of increasing the Working Cash Fund of and paying claims against the District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof, and authorizing the execution of certain escrow agreements in connection therewith

## **Board Member Committee Reports**

Member Kacey Seal reported for Safety & Security

Assistant Superintendent Randall thanked those who attended the 2nd Annual Day of Racial Healing on Saturday, January 18th.

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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 February 4, 2025, at 6:00 PM. Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at the FSD Administrative Office at 501 E South Street.