

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

**August 20, 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 for input on the District's E-Learning Plan. Public input was provided by one member of the public.

### **Superintendent Report**

#### **Enrollment Update**

##### Closed Sections

Center- 2nd & 3rd grade

Empire- 2nd and 4th grade

LD- 3rd and 4th grade

TOTAL ENROLLMENT FOR 24-25 SY: 3720 (as of 8/15/24)

##### Enrollment of Multilingual Students:

- FY25: 398 multilingual students (We have almost 20 students in the screening process so it's safe to say over 400)
- FY24: 222 multilingual students
- FY23: 167 multilingual students

#### ***We are fully staffed!***

- Added 3 itinerant teachers to support multilingual learners across all schools.
- Opened a bilingual preschool classroom with two sections.
- Revamped the Transitional Bilingual Program at FMS.
- Introduced a new curricular map for Spanish Language Arts at the elementary level.
- Launched a Spanish for Heritage Speakers course at FHS.
- Added a bilingual teacher to support newcomer students.

- Restructured the Transitional Bilingual Program at Carl Sandburg.
- Continued collaboration with community partners, including the library, Highland College, the health department, Illinois Migrant Council, Voices, and other partners

### **Pretzel Summer Institute**

The Pretzel Summer Institute offered FSD staff three days of specialized professional development aimed at enhancing their understanding of curriculum, programs, and resources tailored to our district's needs. From August 5-7, a total of 235 staff members participated. The institute featured 53 workshops, workshops covering topics such as leadership, technology, support services, curriculum, AVID, equity, and multilingualism. Staff feedback was overwhelmingly positive

### **FSD145 Summer Learning OUT THERE!**

During the summer of 2024 all FSD students had the opportunity to participate in Summer Learning Out There. The goal of the program was to promote student and family engagement in community activities. Participating students were given postcards and encouraged to visit the community partners to learn & have their postcards stamped. This year we had 101 participants in the Summer Learning at home program, which is an increase from the 64 who participated during the summer of 2023.

### **Information Reports:**

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

**Italy Trip** presented by Dr. Julia Cloat, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Freeport High School would like to take a group of students on a trip abroad. This would be the third trip of this nature; they went to London during the summer of '22 and Greece this past summer. This tour would be to Italy and would take place the summer of 2026, and is organized by Mr. Robert Winter. Some Standards that will be achieved: Analyze the impact of social structure, including culture, institutions, and societies; Model with mathematics; Use appropriate tools strategically.

**MANRRSS Summer Trip** presented by Dr. Julia Cloat, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction The Freeport High School junior chapter of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences(MANRRS) would like to visit universities, national parks, museums, and other historical sites throughout the midwestern United States. Students will be able to explore post-secondary options while also exploring Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Science. This trip will take students

to Universities they may not have the opportunity to visit. Each university we will visit has a MANRRS Chapter.

A **District Attendance Committee** report was presented by Dr. Shalonda Randle, Assistant Superintendent of Equity. Dr. Randle shared the focus of decreasing the Chronic Absenteeism Rate in each school by aligning the attendance coding procedures with excused and unexcused absences in FSD and training administrators and secretaries.

**K-4 ELA/SLA Report Card** presented by Dr. Julia Cloat. With the adoption of the HMH English Language Arts (ELA) and Spanish Language Arts (SLA) materials, the K-4 report card no longer aligned with the learning goals and Board approved curriculum of the FSD145. The committee for the changes in the reported standards on the English version of the K-4 report card gave updates. The Department of Language and Culture will share the revised Spanish version of the K-4 report card on September 20.

Establishment of a **Reciprocal Monitoring System** between the school district and local law enforcement. The reciprocal monitoring system allows the law enforcement agencies the ability to report and share criminal offenses committed by students. This is in line with the state and federal laws that impose certain reporting requirements on local law enforcement agencies and public schools that enhances cooperation, reporting and communications to improve the flow of information between educators and law enforcement personnel relating to violent or criminal activity by minor students in an effort to rehabilitate the offender, but also to protect the other students and school employees.

#### **Approved the Consent Agenda**

- A. Freeport School District and CareerTEC Bills
- B. Personnel Report August 20, 2024
- C. Personnel Report Addendum August 20, 2024
- D. Heartshift SEL Renewal Contract
- E. Pitney Bowes Mail Equipment Lease

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

- A. Emergency Day E-Learning Renewal Plan
- B. Floater Cook Position - New NDS
- C. Differential Request Spring 24-25
- D. Approval of Career Tec Budget 24-25 SY
- E. Approval of the Midwest Transit Equipment electric Bus Purchase

## **Board Member Committee Reports**

Reports were provided by VP Martha Furst for the Finance Committee, Member Kacey Seal for the Education Committee and by Member Alan Greene for Facilities & Grounds.

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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](#).