



Regular meeting of the Freeport School District Board of Education

November 28, 2023

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:

Recognitions

Congratulations to Principal Amanda Hayes and the entire faculty, staff and families of Center Elementary School for being named among the top 40% of elementary schools in the state of Illinois, making it a U.S. News Best Elementary School. We are waiting for the plaque to arrive and will do a presentation at a board meeting.

All Rankings

#575 in Illinois Elementary Schools

FHS Principal Sarah Hasken shared a plaque that the school and FHS Hall of Fame received from FHS Alum Command Sergeant Major (Ret.) George Manning. Manning, a 1980 graduate, honored FHS after receiving a Hall of Fame award in 2023, with a plaque engraved by the Department of Defense as a thank you for his award and the many other inductees into the FHS Hall of Fame.

OTHER SUP REPORT ITEMS

Migration of Current FSD Website: Due to the sale of our prior website provider Blackboard, to Final Site just over a year ago, we will now need to migrate to a new website platform. The cost and benefits of migrating to a new platform with Final Site, Composer were presented.

Grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois. The grant award is for \$82K+ and will be used for a Greenhouse Lab to further student's agricultural and career skills. Per FHS Ag Educator, Ben Skipor as of today, we have also raised \$19,595 in pledges, donations, and grants from other community stakeholders. Mr. Skipor's new classroom has the potential outdoor space to add a greenhouse that would serve as a learning lab.

"Stay" Interviews: HR is conducting "Stay" Interviews with FSD teachers as part of the state Teacher Vacancy Grant. Teachers receive \$100 to participate in a 20 minute interview designed to elicit feedback on their work conditions and experiences in FSD145. So far 194 out of 350 teachers have signed up to participate. Assistant Superintendent of HR, Susan Fumo has been conducting the confidential interviews.

Safe to Help: Handle With Care: Presented by Asst. Supt of Pupil Personnel Services, Dan Holder. We are beginning conversations with the Freeport Police Department to consider implementing Handle With Care. *The program is very simple: Law enforcement officers at the scene of crime, violence, and/or abuse identify children at the scene who have been exposed to*

trauma. The child's name, age, and school are sent by law enforcement in a confidential notice to the child's school before the child starts school the next day. No information is shared except for the child's name and these three words: "Handle With Care."

Information Reports

- A. **Monthly Financial Report** was provided by Asst. Supt. Dr. Patrick McDermot as well as key information about the levy.

- B. **Remote Education Program at the Middle School Level** was presented by Asst. Supt. Dr. Julia Cloat. This provides an opportunity for qualifying students to participate in an educational program delivered by the District in a location outside of the school. The purpose of the FSD145 Remote Educational Program is to increase opportunities for students to attend school in a way that best meets their needs. Detailed information was provided to the board.

- C. **World Language Trip Proposal** was presented by Asst. Supt. Dr. Julia Cloat. German and Spanish language teachers at Freeport High School are proposing a trip for language students in grades 9-12 to Germany, France, and Spain, June 9 - June 22, 2025. Details of the trip cost and travel company were provided to board members.

- D. FSD is entering into an **Inter-Governmental Agreement with ISBE** to be the host location for visiting teachers from Columbia, South America pursuant to the U.S. Department of State Exchange Visitor Program (EVP). Details were provided to the board. Report presented by Asst. Supts. Susan Fumo & Dr. Rosio Del Castillo. This agreement has no associated cost to the district.

- E. **MOU - with Rockford University Teacher Grant 2023:** FSD145 is starting a partnership with Rockford University to help current FSD employees obtain their Professional Educator License (PEL) so that they can be certified teachers in the district. This report was also presented by Asst. Supt Fumo.

- F. Asst. Supt. Fumo presented **updated NDS USW (Nutrition Dining Services - United Steel Workers) job descriptions** reflecting current duties and responsibilities.

- G. **ISBE AIR (American Institute for Research) Contract** was presented by Supt. Alvarado. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has contracted with the American Institutes for Research® (AIR®) to conduct the needs assessments. ISBE has allocated funding to districts for comprehensive improvement or intensive support schools for these required needs assessments. The purpose of the needs assessment is to provide schools and districts with data and information on their strengths and areas for improvement for use in the school improvement planning process. A contract is

forthcoming and an AIR staff member will be assigned to provide additional information about the needs assessment process and to begin planning for the needs assessment activities.

Approved the Consent Agenda

- A. Freeport School District and Career TEC Bills
- B. Personnel Report November 28, 2023

Took Action in Favor of the Following Previously Presented Items

- A. Independent Contractor School Psychological Evaluations Bilingual
- B. Independent Contractor School Speech Language Pathology
- C. ISBE Air Contract with provision for the board to review the final contract

Committee Reports

Reports were provided by:

All Board members & other staff attendees regarding the participation in the IASB Joint Annual Session.

Member Alan Greene for Buildings & Grounds

Member Charlene Williams regarding hearing parent group feedback for early childhood ed.

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 19, 2023 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](#).