

Regular meeting of the Freeport School District Board of Education

May 6, 2025

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

The Board of Education:

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Alvarado acknowledged **Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week** and thanked all FSD teachers and staff for the work that they do.

She also recognized FHS students who received **Rotary Scholarships**.

Average Attendance for the District is currently 91.7%.

Governor's Cell Phone Ban Policy Proposal for SY 26-27

Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker has proposed and is pushing for legislation to ban cell phones in classrooms during class time in Illinois public schools, with the ban potentially going into effect by the 2026-2027 school year. This means that school districts would need to create and implement policies to prohibit the use of personal cell phones during instructional periods, with exceptions for specific circumstances. The current policies for FMS & FHS were reviewed. It was recommended that a task force be created to review, compare and if needed amend our current policies.

The **2025 Summer Learning at Home Program** is designed to keep students in grades K-6 engaged and learning throughout the summer with fun, grade-level appropriate activities. Organized into three grade bands—K-2, 3-4, and 5-6—students will receive sets of [Bingo cards](#) with fun and educational, at-home activities.

Dr. Julia Cloat, provided the Board with an overview of the **Science of Reading Research**; how it aligns with the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan; and what was

learned when she recently attended the Reading League National Summit. She also addressed the implications that this information has on literacy instruction in FSD145.

On May 3, members of our **Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee (BPAC)** attended the **19th Annual Statewide Summit for Bilingual Parents** hosted by the Illinois State Board of Education in Oak Brook. This event brought together over 1,100 parents, caregivers, and BPAC members from across the state to strengthen their leadership and advocacy on behalf of multilingual learners.

The **Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy** is an award that recognizes high school graduates who have achieved a high level of proficiency in English and in one or more additional languages. This year, our district implemented a strategic and collaborative approach to expand access and support for the Seal of Biliteracy.

- In FY23, one student earned the Seal;
- In FY24, eight students did; and
- In FY25, we anticipate 21 students earning either the Seal or the Commendation toward Biliteracy in Spanish, German, and Malay. **This 162.5% increase** reflects the collective work of the Department of Language and Culture, teachers, and school administrators. Although we had set a goal to expand the Seal program by June 2026, we are proud to report that **we have already surpassed next year's growth target.**

INFORMATION REPORTS

7.1 - Presented by FHS Principal, Sarah Hasken

College Now Update provided the board with proposed guidelines and funding needs for the program to address the increasing number of student participants.

7.2 - Presented by Dr. Julia Cloat, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction
Renewal of contract with the Learning Technology Center for services provided to FSD by an Instructional Technology Coach.

7.3 - Presented by Dr. Cloat

Pioneer Reading Kits for Empire Elementary School are requested as supplemental materials to support small group instruction. Materials are needed to continue the work that has begun at Empire Elementary, enabling teachers to more easily target the individual needs of students. Cost of this summer learning experience will be approximately \$7,750 and will be funded through the After-School Programs Grant.

7.4 - Presented by Dr. Cloat

Proposal to provide a two-day on-site **training for instructional coaches and instructional leaders** to develop a common instructional coaching framework based on the work of Jim Knight and delivered by a training from The Instructional Coaching Group, LLC.

7.5 -Presented by Dr. Sue Waughon, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Personnel Services

The **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** requires each state to submit a **State Performance Plan (SPP)** designed to evaluate the state's efforts to implement the requirements of IDEA and describe how the state will improve its implementation. Indicator 4 of the SPP requires the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to analyze discipline data specific to the suspension and expulsion of students with disabilities.

In calculating the district-reported suspension and expulsion data, ISBE has identified possible significant discrepancies in the district's data specific to Indicator 4a for three consecutive school years: 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024. As a result of meeting these criteria for three consecutive school years, the district is required to convene a team of individuals to complete the SPP 4 District Compliance Review Form. This was presented for information only and requires no board action.

7.6 - Presented by Dr. Waughon

Previously presented, update provided: The goal of the **Program Options Task Force** is to identify program options that are needed in FSD 145 to ensure all students receive a high-quality education designed to appropriately and effectively meet their learning needs. Recommendations for short-term options best address this priority while the Program Options Task Force will continue to explore long-term options.

7.7 - Presented by Dr. Jeremy Dotson, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance
Stockton Community Unit School District 206 Intergovernmental Agreement for Educational Services for 2024-2025 and future years until termed. The purpose of the agreement is to formalize the arrangement by which Freeport SD 145 will provide educational services for one ELL student enrolled in Stockton Community Unit School District 206, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

7.8 - Present by Dr. Rocio del Castillo, Assistant Superintendent of Lang. & Culture
Consolidated District Plan (CDP): The goal of the CDP is to create collaboration amongst different departments supported by grant funding. All district administrators who oversee the programs included in the federal grants of the CDP must work together to prepare and submit the CDP. It is intended that districts use this opportunity to coordinate across offices and increase communication regarding prioritization of goals

and how those are funded. The local school board must approve the CDP. A district doesn't have to get the CDP approved every year if no significant changes are made. Although no significant changes have been made, it was appropriate to share the contents with the board.

Approved the Consent Agenda:

- 8.1 - Freeport School District and CareerTEC Bills
- 8.2 - Personnel Report - May 6, 2025
- 8.3 - Final SY Calendar 2024-2025
- 8.4 - Resolution Naming Bank Depositories

Removed from Consent on voted on separately:

- 8.5 - City of Freeport to draft an Intergovernmental Agreement with FSD 145 for the Water Main Work on Blackhawk Ave and Solicit Bids.

Took Action in Favor of the Following Previously Presented Items:

- 9.1 - Cebrin Goodman Teen Institute Proposal
- 9.2 - College Now Update *(this was approved not to include the portion of the proposal dealing with a non-FSD student).*
- 9.3 - PE/Health/Driver Education Curriculum Adoption and Implementation
- 9.4 - Social Studies Curriculum Adoption

Board Member Committee Reports

Member Ryan Shirley & VP Alan Greene for Buildings & Ground Committee

Dr. Jeremy Dotson for Business & Finance Committee

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 May 20, 2025, at 6:00 PM. This meeting will be held at the FHS Library, 701 W. Mosley St.