

Regular meeting of the Freeport School District Board of Education

May 20 2025

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

Student & Staff Recognition

Staff who received Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year Awards were recognized.

This included:

Jenna Spinnato

Ben Skipo

Stacey Kleindl

Madison Hoffman

Candace Rodriguez

Meredith Schoonhoven

Lindsey Thomas

Students were recognized for qualifying for state in sports and extracurricular activities.

Those honored were:

FMS Boys Bowlers

Owyn Hunt

Bryson Kerchner

Cody Plowman

Raef Schmelzer

Paxton Woker

FMS Girls Bowlers

Jaysea Reisenbichler

Olivia Hicks

Natalia Escamilla

Janessa Fritz

Brooklyn Watter

5th & 6th Grade Boys Bowlers

Brexton Blunt
Liam Wolbers

ICTM Math Competition

Soren Duede
Carl Duede

IHSA State Film Festival

Student Organizations
Members of

The Board of Education:

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Alvarado congratulated the 371 graduates who received their diplomas on Sunday.

She also recognized our staff members who were recognized at a banquet Saturday, by ISBE in the Teacher of the Year & Those Who Excel program.

Dr. Alvarado gave an update on the **Pres-School Expansion**. The Preschool Expansion Project is On -Track to meet Phase 3 plan that ends on June 3. Highlights include:

- Moving and Packing logistics have been completed. Boxes and packing slips have been delivered to JFIB, CS and Elementary Schools for PreK teachers
- Building maps completed
- Staffing all buildings (still need to finalize paraprofessional services for each building- this traditionally happens in July)
- Curriculum Materials transfer plan/ additional orders
- All school administrative positions have been filled
- Working on completion of Master Schedules
- Boundary changes have been communicated with families
- Budget allocation

- Enrollment projections being fine tuned
- Collaborative planning between Facilities + all other departments and school administrators are ongoing.
- Enrollment for the 2025–2026 school year is progressing well. We have 225 more respondents this week than we did at the same time last year, and new student enrollment is currently one ahead of where we were last year.
- Updated rosters will be shared with principals on Thursday, outlining expected student assignments for the fall.
- Transfer requests will be reviewed and decisions finalized in July. As of now, we've received 15 requests.

Early Childhood Director, Sara Latimer reported on the **Expansion Project from the Preschool Perspective**. A few of the topics Sara talked about were:

- YMCA –wrap around
- Finalized the following procedures:
 - arrival/dismissal
 - Recess Schedule
 - Building schedule
 - Building map along with classroom placement
- Mascot finalized, logo pending
- Results shared from Transportation Survey for current preschool families

Communications Specialist, Paulette Williams talked about changes to the **Flyer Procedures**. The District will promote and encourage the use of our electronic flyer system, Peachjar for the distribution of flyers by outside entities. Also the flyers must be approved by the communication's office and a form must be completed by the entity submitting the flyer.

Empowering Multilingual Learners: Summer Backpack Biliteracy Program presented by Dr. Rocio Del Castillio. This summer, the Department of Language and Culture will provide almost 500 backpacks filled with Spanish- and English-language books to every student who qualifies for multilingual services and is designated as an English Learner by the State of Illinois. **Purpose:** This initiative is designed to prevent summer slide and sustain reading growth for MLL. **Funding:** This project will be funded through Title III and supported through Illinois's Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) allocations for MLL.

Professional Learning: Make & Take Workshops presented by Dr. Julia Cloat.

Following a packed literacy workshop during the Pretzel Fall Institute last October, Anna Nesbitt, MTSS specialist at Blackhawk Elementary School, proposed an after-school professional learning series for elementary teachers that rotated through the elementary buildings and focused on learning about high-impact literacy center activities that teachers could make and take home to use the next day with their students. With 40 participants between November and February, the response to these workshops was overwhelmingly positive.

INFORMATION REPORTS

7.1 -Presented by Dr. Jeremy Dotson, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance
The **monthly financial report** for April 2025 was presented.

7.2 - Presented by Dr. Sue Waughon, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Personnel Services
The latest required review of the **Student Code of Conduct** was presented with recommended changes for the board to consider and vote on at the June meeting.

7.3 - Presented by Dr. Shalonda Randall, Assistant Superintendent of Equity
As part of the recommendation from the FEA Student Discipline Committee, the current PBIS Matrix has been updated to include expectations that are consistent throughout the District from grades K-12 and also incorporates language from the Second Step and School Connect SEL Curricular.

7.4 - Presented by Dr. Shalonda Randall, Assistant Superintendent of Equity
Dr. Randle presented to the board the recommendation of renaming the Department of Equity & Curriculum to the **Department of Student And Family Engagement (SAFE)**.

7.5 -Presented by Dr. Shalonda Randall, Assistant Superintendent of Equity
Due to the end of the Stronger Connections Grant, Freeport SD will need to find other means to support students with **mental health support** in the schools. A representative from Daybreak Health was present to discuss the services they provide. Services provided by Daybreak to support Freeport SD 145 will be at no cost for three years.

7.6 - Presented by Dr. Alvarado
The board was provided with highlights of the major points of **review of policies from the II Association of School Boards**.

7.7 - Presented by Mrs. Susan Fumo, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
The District **Differential Committee** has completed their spring review process and is recommending several changes to extra-duty positions and compensation levels for the 2025-2026 school year. These recommendations include new positions, increases to existing differential levels, and reallocation of funds to better support student activities and athletics. The board will be asked to vote on the recommendations at the June 17th meeting.

7.8 - Present by Dr. Rocio del Castillo, Assistant Superintendent of Lang. & Culture
The **Multilingual Steering Committee** recommends that the Freeport School District 145 Board of Education designate the 2025–2026 school year as a formal planning and exploration year to assess the feasibility of implementing a Dual Language (DL) Program. During this time, the Department of Language and Culture and a subcommittee of the Multilingual Steering Committee will lead the process by engaging families and community stakeholders, examining research-based practices, consulting with national experts, and visiting successful DL programs.

The exploration year will culminate in a recommendation to the Board of Education in December 2025 regarding whether to move forward with a DL program and, if so, which model best meets the needs of Freeport’s students and community.

Approved the Consent Agenda:

8.1 - Freeport School District and CareerTEC Bills

8.2 - Personnel Report - May 20, 2025

8.3 - Annual renewal of service with Asset Essentials and Event Manager programs from 7-1-2025 through 6-30-2026

8.4 - Regional Office of Education #8, Regional Alternative Program (RAP) for Disruptive Youth Agreement for 2025-2026

8.5 - Goal Book multi-year contract

8.6 - Three revised job descriptions that have been updated to align with current district needs and strategic priorities:

1. Secretary to Director of Nutrition & Dining Services
2. Nutrition & Dining Services Manager
3. Bilingual Family Resource Coordinator

8.7 - Quote from Pacific Learning for educational materials needed for the newly hired bilingual MTSS staff and 5th grade bilingual teachers

Took Action in Favor of the Following Previously Presented Items:

- 9.1 - Alternative Learning Opportunities Program
- 9.2 - Learning Technology Center Contract
- 9.3 - Pioneer Guided Reading Kits
- 9.4 - Instructional Coaching Group LLC Contract
- 9.5 - Stockton Community Unit School District 206 Intergovernmental Agreement for Educational Services
- 9.6 - Consolidated District Plan
- 9.7 - Renaming of the Equity and Curriculum Department to "The Department of Student and Family Engagement (SAFE)"
- 9.8 - Hazard, Young, and Atteah Letter of Agreement - Scope, Action Steps, Deliverables Strategic Plan Development Project

Board Member Committee Reports

Member Charlene Williams - Educational Committee

VP Alan Greene for the Finance Committee & Buildings & Grounds (with Geroge ? from Green Associates

Kacey Seal for the Safety & Security 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 June 17, 2025, at 6:00 PM. This meeting will be held at the Administrative Office at 501 E. South St.