

**Regular meeting of the Freeport School District Board of Education
March 4, 2025**

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

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Recognition

Superintendent Alvarado recognized artwork that students at **S.I.T.E. (Banks-Bergagna)** painted during summer learning last year. It is now on display at the Freeport Art Museum Arts Plaza downtown. Our students worked hard on this project to beautify our building and we are very proud that their work is being celebrated! When you get a chance to wander downtown by the post office you will see that it is much more impressive in person.



March 2-8, 2025 is School Social Work Week. Dr. Alavarado thanked and recognized all of the FSD Social Workers for their hard work and dedication.

FSD Social Workers



Leslie Price	Chelsea Davis
Mikala Grable	Donna Reel
Austyn Morsch	Amy Larson
Kyli Marshall	Jordin Bost
Cassandra Blair	Amanda Collins
Morgan Owens	- Intern

Enrollment & Attendance

Enrollment for FSD as of 2/28/25 is 3712 students. Our attendance is at 90.6%. This drop is significantly impacted by a strain of influenza that hit hundreds of students throughout the district.

Calendar for SY 25-26

Our calendar has received final approval from ISBE and will be posted on our website.

Homeschool students participating in extracurricular activities

The board engaged in discussion regarding **homeschool students participating in extracurricular activities and regarding liability insurance. This is ongoing discussion and will return for discussion in a future board meeting**

Illinois Youth Survey for 8th & 10th graders.

Dr. Alvarado shared high level results for FSD from the Illinois Youth Survey for 8th & 10th graders.

IL Affinity Group

The group was established under the leadership of former State Superintendent, Dr. Carmen Ayala. The affinity groups are part of ISBE's three-year [Strategic Plan](#) to support educator retention by leveraging partnerships that will provide access to coaching, mentoring, and teacher leadership opportunities.

The 3rd Annual IL Affinity Group Network, (IL-AGN), convened on Saturday, March 1, 2025, bringing together educators across the State of IL. At this convening, participants had the opportunity to attend workshops and network with other educators of color as well as enjoy musical performances and engage with a powerful keynote address.

Currently, FSD145 Facilitators are Danielle Jackson, FHS School Counselor, and Michelle Griggs, CSS 5th grade teacher.

World Arts Festival

This Annual Event involves hundreds of students from across multiple grade levels. It will take place this Thursday, March 6, 2025, in the Jeannette Lloyd Theater, the FHS West Gym & FHS Cafeteria) from 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM

INFORMATION REPORTS

Highland Community College Annual Road Service Fee for SY 2025-2026

Freeport School District 145 owns and conducts activities in the Jones-Farrar Magnet School on land adjoining the HCC campus. Persons traveling to and from the Jones-Farrar Magnet School use the HCC service road. In the past, maintenance of the service road has been the subject of an informal agreement between these parties and others, whereby organizations benefiting from the service road have contributed to its maintenance through annual payments to HCC. HCC provides for the maintenance of the service road, including snow plowing, Street lights along the perimeter of the service road, and use of HCC parking lots for overflow parking by guests of District #145. The annual fee is \$6,000.

14 Passenger Bus Purchase

On November 11, 2024, the Transportation Department solicited bids for purchasing or leasing one 14-passenger bus, the model year 2024, for the school year 2026, to be delivered on 7/1/2025. Freeport School District 145 awarded Central States Bus Sales, Inc. for \$109,850. Since the bid was awarded, Central State Bus informed FSD 145 that they could not comply with the district's equipment delivery demand. To ensure the districts' needs are met, it is recommended that FSD 145 contract with the second lowest bidder, Midwest Transit, for \$114,322.00. The change in vendors is urgent to enable the district to maintain transportation services for students in FY26. This will come back to the board with answers to some of their questions and for approval.

Approved the Consent Agenda:

- 8.1 - Freeport School District and CareerTEC Bills
- 8.2 - Personnel Report - March 4, 2025
- 8.3 - Raymond Owens Contract
- 8.4 - 2025 HELM Blackhawk Elementary School for HVAC installation, New lighting and Ceiling, Roof Top Unit, HVAC Screening, and Chiller Screening
- 8.5 - The General Obligation Surety Bond
- 8.6 - Health Life Safety (HLS) Amendment for Blackhawk Boiler and Chiller System for FY25
- 8.7 - Prepare the tentative budget for fiscal year 2026

Took Action in Favor of the Following Previously Presented Items:

- A. Freeport Alternative High School (ROE #8) MOU Agreement for 2024-2025
- B. Job Description Fine Arts Coordinator

Board Member Committee Reports

Member Seal reported that she and other board members and staff attended the **February 19-22, 2025**, NABE 54th Annual Conference. She also reported that the MultiLingual Steering Committee visited some of the ML classrooms in different buildings.

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 March 18, 2025, at 6:00 PM. **This meeting will be held in the Conference Center at Freeport Middle School, 701 W. Empire St.**