

Regular meeting of the Freeport School District Board of Education

March 18, 2025

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

STUDENT RECOGNITION

A number of students were recognized by the board for state level participation in winter sports and extracurricular activities.

The Board of Education:

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women's History Month is important because it highlights the achievement of women both past and present who have helped build and mold this country. Women's History Month empowers young girls around the nation with courage, self-esteem and willpower to walk in our ancestors' footsteps. Women's history will also inspire current and future generations to emulate the women who laid the framework for us to succeed, be treated equitably and be recognized in society.

PRE-K EXPANSION PLANNING

An update was given on the PK-EP by Sara Latimer, Director of Early Childhood. There are a number of items in the works. A few of them include:

- YMCA Wrap-Around Services
- Head Start - dual enrollment, provide a Head Start class in the ELC so that students would not be bussed back and forth.
- HCC partnership with Career Tech students in Early Ed
- Developing staff for new EC Center
- EC Transition Advisory team has been put together
- Classroom location planning

- Parent Advisory Meetings

KRAUSE ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Brian Krause is a technology consultant that works with FSD through the ROE. He provided a summary of the work he does in coaching and working with teachers, administrators and staff.

CALL TO ACTION: EXPULSION/SUSPENSION LIMITATIONS

The Senate ([SB 2423](#)) and House ([HB 3772](#)) are advancing identical proposals from the Illinois State Board of Education that may negatively impact school safety, limit local decision-making, and undermine the ability of school districts to implement effective discipline policies by eliminating expulsions in grades K-2 and requiring superintendent approval for suspensions of students in the same grade levels. School districts must retain the ability to ensure that local policies prioritize student and staff safety. These proposals remove critical solutions needed to maintain safe and supportive school environments across our districts. Dr. Alvarado discussed some of the concerns with the proposed bills.

5ESSENTIALS SURVEY

Dr. Maurice Davis provided updates on where we are with the percentage of staff, students and parents/guardians taking the 2025 test. We are working to reach the benchmark in all areas.

INFORMATION REPORTS

Monthly Financial Report

Present by Dr. Jeremy Dotson, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance
Dr. Dotson provided reports/updates on the financials for the month of February.

Enrollment and Transportation Update

An update was provided by Director Dallas Pieper. She discussed staffing, # of routes, electric buses, boundary changes, and the results of a parent survey.

Boys & Girls Club Community Grant

Rebecca Spindler, Education Director and James Rhyne, Executive Director for the Boys & Girls Club of Freeport & Stephenson County, gave an update and reviewed the evaluation of the program for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program for 2024.

FHS Grading Procedures & Final Report Card

Dr. Julia Cloat updated the board on Phase 3 of grading procedure and report cards. Phase 3 is for FHS. The report was piloted for the 1st semester and parent feedback was overwhelmingly positive and in favor of the new report card.

6th Grade SAWAS ELA Proposal

Present by Dr. Julia Cloat - At the time of the review it was determined and the board approved that grades K-6 would use HMH Into Reading as the ELA Curriculum. With the Early Childhood Expansion and the restructuring of 6th grade to Freeport Middle School, the 6th Grade ELA PLC (including future FMS and JFIB teachers) unanimously decided to recommend to the Board an adoption of the 2025 edition of the myPerspectives curriculum to align with grades ELA curriculum at grades 7-12.

Approved the Consent Agenda:

8.1 - Freeport School District and CareerTEC Bills

8.2 - Personnel Report - March 18, 2025

8.3 - Uniform agreement for 5-year period for district maintenance employees

8.4 - AIM Web Plus Renewal

8.5 - IHSA Membership Renewal

Took Action in Favor of the Following Previously Presented Items:

A. Approved the naming of the Freeport School District 145 Early Childhood Center and renaming Carl Sandburg School as Jones Farrar, an IB World School, effective July 1, 2025. (At the January 21, 2025 board meeting, the FSD Board approved the creation of an early childhood center which will centralize all pre-school into one location.)

Board Member Committee Reports

Members Kacey Seal & Audrey Moore-Howard for the Safety & Security Committee

Members Kacey Seal & Charlene Williams for the Education Committee

Member Moore-Howard for the Equity Committee

Vice President Furst for the 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 April 1 2025, at 6:00 PM. Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at the FSD Administrative Office at 501 E South Street.