



Regular meeting of the Freeport School District Board of Education

August 15, 2023

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

Superintendent's Report

Supt. Alvarado shared Back to School Details:

- Friday, August 18: Teacher In-Service Day
- Monday, August 21: District Kick-Off Breakfast 7:15 AM- 8AM
District gathering @ FHS gym 8AM- 9:30 AM
Principal Directed PD 10 AM- dismissal
Schools and departments order their own lunch
- Tuesday, August 22: AM Principal Directed PD
PM Teachers work in classrooms
- Wednesday, August 23: First Day of School
Medical Exclusion applies

Enrollment and Registration Update

- Total Enrollment August 14, 2023 3572
- Total Enrollment August 18, 2022 3424
- Increase of 148 students from this time last year.

Staffing Update

Certified Staff:

All classrooms are currently staffed for the first day of school. We have 19 long term substitute teachers in place.

Classified Staff:

We need one school nurse and an athletic trainer.

Transportation is fully staffed with monitors. We are in need of 4 bus drivers and have 5 in training. The 5 will not be licensed by the first day of school. We will be using office staff and mechanics to cover routes until drivers are licensed.

Teacher Retention Grant from ISBE

The district is eligible to receive \$384,000 each year for the next three years to address the statewide teacher shortage. Dr. Randle and Mrs. Fumo have been working with FEA leadership to design grant-funded strategies for recruitment and retention over the next several years.

Bilingual Department Update

It has been a great month for our new department. The work that has been done has been supported by the administrators, teachers, and staff, beginning with the one-on-one meetings that Dr. del Castillo had with principals and bilingual/ESL teachers. Our efforts focus on the following three major areas that are crucial to offer the language services and support our emerging multilingual students need to be successful and to strengthen our bilingual programs of instruction:

- Compliance
- Hiring of bilingual staff
- Screening our emergent multilinguals

Dr. del Castillio provided a detailed report of the initiatives and plans already underway and for the future.

Early Childhood Updates:

Thanks was extended to the Children's Hands on Museum (CHOM)! FSD 145 had their Early Childhood Screening at CHOM for the first time. We had 26 families that were able to come to CHOM and have time to play and attend a screening for preschool. All EC classrooms are now renovated (one year ahead of our strategic goal).

Facilities/Project Updates

Justin Pasch, Director of Facilities & Maintenance gave a detailed update of the many capital projects taking place throughout the District. A written report will be provided as a media release and made available to the community.

Safety and Security Update

- Security cameras have been installed at Blackhawk, Center, Empire, JFIB and Lincoln Douglas. Training for building administrators on the use of the cameras will be completed over the next several weeks.
- A review of the security camera coverage at Sandburg was conducted. Minor changes will be made to the camera system to address coverage needs as determined by the school building. Additional security cameras will be added to the newly renovated portion of the school building.
- A review of the security camera coverage at FMS was conducted. Minor changes will be made to the camera system to address coverage needs as determined by the school building.

- An annual review of each building's Emergency and Crisis Response Plan will be conducted. Recommended changes will be incorporated into the Emergency and Crisis Response Plans during the academic year.
- A review of Freeport School District's visitor management software has been completed and a recommendation will be presented to the Board for approval in September. An Administrative Procedure has been developed and will be shared with each school building for feedback. Feedback will be incorporated into the final procedure.

First Day Exclusion

There are only a few exceptions to the medical exclusion requirement per our adopted board policy, code 7:100:

- new students who register after the first day of school;
- If a medical reason prevents a student from receiving a required immunization by the first day of school;
- students transferring from out-of-state.
- Homeless Child/McKinney Vento

Our first day exclusion is FSD board policy and not a state policy. State policy deadline for immunizations is Oct. 15.

Information Reports

Monthly Financial Report and a first look at the **2023-24 Budget** was presented by Dr. Patrick McDermott.

7:240 Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities: Presented by FHS Principal and Athletic Director Brad Pemberton presenting a restorative option and approach for our athletes who violate the Code in terms of substance abuse. Discussion followed with the board and this item will come back to the board.

Updates to **Mentoring Handbook:** Dr. Julia Cloat shared recommended updates to the Mentoring Handbook. These changes are minor in nature and do not require board approval.

MANNRS College Visit Field Trip: Ag Educator Ben Skipor presented this report. The Freeport High School junior chapter of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences(MANRRS) would like to visit universities, national parks, museums, and other historical sites throughout the southern United States. Students will be able to explore post-secondary options while also exploring Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Science. This trip will take students to Universities they may not have the opportunity to visit.

Press Issue 112: The Illinois Association of School Boards Policy Reference Education Subscription Service provides policy updates to subscribing School Districts on a quarterly basis. These updates are due to changes in legislation, administrative rules, PRESS Advisory

Board feedback, quality assurance, or other factors. These policies have been reviewed by Central Office Administrators.

New Position: School Based Trauma-Informed Therapist: Principal Sago was recently informed that the school would be receiving \$80,000 in additional grant money from IL-EMPOWER. Her state consultant advised using the funds to hire a Trauma-Informed Therapist to address ongoing student issues related to trauma and self-regulation. This grant-funded position will be available at Lincoln-Douglas for 2 years. There is no cost to the District.

Approved the Consent Agenda

- A. Freeport School District and CareerTEC Bills
- B. Personnel Report August 15, 2023
- C. Resolution designating bank depositories and signatories for FY24
- D. Healthy Pou - Nutrition & Dining Services Department Training Agreement
- E. Purchase of Van for Transportation Department

Took Action in Favor of the Following Previously Presented Items

- A. Early Childhood Secretary Job Description Updates
- C. 3-Year Strategic Plan Draft
- D. Set Public Hearing regarding 2023-24 Budget
- E. Approve New Position School Based Trauma-Informed Therapist
- F. Appointment of School Based Trauma-Informed Therapist - Lincoln Douglas School

Item B :7240 Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities was removed for further consideration

Committee Reports

Reports were provided by:

Member Kacey Seal for Safety & Security: referenced the information report presented earlier

Member Audrey Moore-Howard for Equity

Member Alan Greene for Facilities Grounds - referenced the report presented by Director Pasch

Member Charlene Williams report for Curriculum & Instruction deferred to Asst. Supt. Cloat

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 September 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, information on joining the meetings can be found [here](#).