



Regular meeting of the Freeport School District Board of Education

September 20, 2023

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

Superintendent's Report

Student Recognition

5 Freeport High School students were acknowledged at the board meeting because of their recognition by the National College Board. This recognition will go on their college application as colleges use it to identify academically exceptional students. Congratulations to the following students:

National African American Recognition Award

Grant Barnes

National Rural & Small-Town Recognition Award

Rachel Salazar, Max Krezminski, Ryan Coon & Thalia Eden McDougal

Grant, Ryan, Ashley were present at the board meeting with their parents.

Special Recognition

Dr. Patrick McDermott, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance was recognized by Dr. Mike Jacoby from IASBO (IL Association of School Board Officials) for his 3 years of service on the IASBO Board of Directors. As an outgoing director IASBO provides a donation to an organization selected by Dr. McDermott. He chose the Freeport Public School Fund. Their treasurer, Amber Cummins, was in attendance to accept a \$1000 donation. Congratulations Dr. McDermott for your service to IASBO and for representing FSD with distinction.

Enrollment Update

Dr. Alvarado provided the board with an enrollment update as of 9/18/23. There are currently 3692 students enrolled. There are 3601 students in FSD seats. The other seats are from services FSD offers to other students. The 3601 is an increase from what was reported on 8/14/23 of 3572 students.

K-12 ELA Curriculum

An update on K-12 ELA Curriculum Implementation was provided by Georgia Mathis. She discussed the checkpoints, the observations, the feedback from staff and the support provided to them.

Institute Day

This year's Fall Institute is scheduled for Wednesday, September 20. The theme of the institute is "Student by Student, Skill by Skill." The Fall Institute will feature a keynote address, "Teachers Are The Difference Makers: The Power of PLCs and Collective Teacher Efficacy" by Jack Baldermann, former principal of Westmont High School. There will also be over 55 breakout sessions aligned to the core commitments of our Three-Year Strategic Plan, including topics such as professional learning communities (PLCs), ELA implementation, early childhood education, supporting newcomers, and using artificial intelligence to help close the equity gap.

Teacher Vacancy Grant

We have received notification that our application for the state's Teacher Vacancy Grant was approved. This will provide \$380,000 annually for the next three years to support recruitment and retention of certified teachers. Strategies were developed in partnership with the FEA for how to budget these funds and maximize the most effective strategies.

Bilingual Education Update

FSD is excited to welcome three bilingual teachers from Colombia during the month of September. They will be joining our bilingual team to support our growing bilingual student population. These teachers are participants in the Cultural Exchange J-1 Teacher Visa program.

Bus Driver Shortage Plan for September

Transportation Director, Dallas Pieper has reevaluated this plan. We have 2 brand new licensed drivers and 6 drivers in various stages of training. Schools and parents will be notified if we need to activate any portion of the contingency plan.

Soup With the Sup.

Dr. Alvarado presented this initiative to invest more time in interacting with students, other than the typical classroom visits. Throughout the year, she will spend time having lunch with a group of students per school. Students will still get their regular lunch from the cafeteria and be able to engage with her in a conversation about their experiences in school, etc. She will provide the students with a cup of soup.

Information Reports

FY 24 Budget

Dr. McDermott provided an update on where the district is in the budget approval process. The required public hearing was held at the start of this meeting. The budget will be voted on by the board during the action section of this meeting. If approved Dr. McDermott will take the proper steps to file the budget as required.

7:240 Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities

After further review and discussion about the policy, it has been decided that the policy does not need to be revised, however, a review of the Extracurricular Administrative Procedures led to changes that are consistent with our current Student Code of Conduct.

Job Description Secretary to Assistant Superintendent of Bilingual Education

A job description was presented for this new role, which will report to the Asst. Supt. of Bilingual Education. This is a cost neutral position as NDS has eliminated a secretarial position.

Athletic Training Contract

The contract was presented for a full-time athletic trainer position which FHS has not had for some time. Having a full-time trainer will provide more stable care and injury prevention for our athletes.

Approved the Consent Agenda

- A. Freeport School District and Career TEC Bills
- B. Personnel Report September 20, 2023

Took Action in Favor of the Following Previously Presented Items

- A. MANNRS College Visit Field Trip
- C. Transportation Coordinator Job Description
- D. Press Issue 112
- E. Job Description: Secretary to the Asst. Superintendent of Bilingual Education
- F. Resolution declaring intent to issue Working Cash Bonds
- G. Approve the FY24 Budget

Committee Reports

Reports were provided by:

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

Members Martha Furst & Jack Sosnowski for the Finance Committee

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

Member Charlene Williams report for Curriculum & Instruction / Education 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 October 3, 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](#).