

**Regular meeting of the Freeport School District Board of Education**

**May 07, 2024 - The meeting was held at Empire School.**

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

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

**Recognitions & Celebrations**

**The Technical Design (CAD II)** class participated in the 2024 Helm VDC Competition. The students were recognized and a high level presentation was presented. The students were competing for both cash awards and a paid summer intern position. The following students received awards:

- Adolfo "Javy" Cuevas Samboy (12th) - 1st Place Cash Award and paid Summer Internship
- Asher Kittoe (11th) - Cash Award - 2nd Place/Cash Award
- Ethan Scudder (11th) - 3rd Place - Cash Award

**IPA Student Leadership Brunch**

A number of students were invited to and recognized at the IPA + ROE 8 Student Recognition Brunch on May 3 in Dixon, IL.

<b>Empire</b>	Zi'Yanna Williams Reignen Stifter
<b>Jones Farrar</b>	Ayleen Julian-Alquesada Nolan Wagner
<b>Lincoln Douglas</b>	Amari Watkins Rya Patrick
<b>Carl Sandburg</b>	Brooklyn Watter Kalli Bradbury
<b>FHS</b>	Faith Freeman Nathaniel Redmore

Congratulations were extended to the **Boys' Varsity Tennis Team** who won its first NIC-10 boys tennis title in 29 years. Good luck on Sectionals. Thanks to coaches Ed Schradermeier and his wife, Uli Dornhagen.

Congratulations to students from JFIB, Carl Sandburg and FMS for performing in their first **WEE SPEECH** under the direction of Tim Connors and student judges from the FHS Speech Team.

Freeport graduating students were invited to the **Noon Rotary Club Freeport, IL Student Scholarship Luncheon**. FHS Senior Radley Schneider received a scholarship. Students with 3.5 & higher GPAs with good attendance were invited to the luncheon.

### **Other Supt. Report Items**

#### **Northwest Illinois Food Bank**

Thanks was extended to our Family Resource Coordinators and staff who help distribute food to students that need it each weekend through our partnership with the Northwest Illinois Food Bank. Staff determine which students are facing food insecurities and some parents call to tell us that they are in need of food and would like to be part of the program. The food is sent home each week in a roller backpack to supplement and help families through the weekend.

#### **Summer EBT / SUN Bucks**

In Summer of 2024 Illinois will launch Summer EBT / SUN Bucks, a new grocery benefits program that provides families \$120 for each eligible school-aged child to buy groceries when school is on summer break. Parents were provided specific information through the April 26th Newsletter. More details & information are provided [here](#) for those needing the information

#### **Teacher Vacancy Grant Pilot Program**

From ISBE TVG: *"As part of our efforts to advocate for the continuation of the Teacher Vacancy Grant Pilot Program, our team has selected six school districts throughout the state to highlight. I am pleased to say, we have selected your district to feature on a one-pager document highlighting the initiatives and successes you have started in your district."* Asst. Superintendent Fumo will share the overall results of the TVG interview once she has sat down with each principal to share their individual results.

**Women League of Voters Featured Presentation:** Supt. Alvarado & Asst. Superintendent del Castillo along with other staff members presented FSD's Bilingual Department's Journey to the League of Women Voters in their April meeting.

## **Information Reports**

**Facilities & Grounds** update was presented by Director Justin Pasch. Director Pasch highlighted some of the quick facts of F&G, providing information on staffing, the statistics of the work they do as well as highlighting recent, current and future projects, including the work that will be done this summer while school is out.

**Boys and Girls Club Community Grant** The Boys & Girls Club of Freeport and Stephenson County is requesting an amount of \$25,000 from Freeport School District to offer programming during the school year and throughout the summer. This is a long-standing partnership between FSD & BGC.

A review of the **Early Childhood Program** was provided by Director Sara Latimer. In the report she provided some of ECERS (Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale) results from our state visit. FSD had 3 of the top 5 scores in the region of 23 teachers. The average score for FSD was 4.8, the average score in the region was 4.75. She highlighted both strengths and weaknesses from the evaluation.

**ELA my Perspectives** was presented by Asst. Superintendent Cloat. The FHS English Department, along with 7-8 grade ELA teachers at FMS unanimously decided to upgrade to the 2025 edition of the myPerspectives curriculum. The Board reviewed the proposed curriculum instructional materials purchase as an informational item at the April 16 meeting. The revised/adjusted cost amount to do a 5-year implementation vs. 6 years was reviewed under information and is up for consideration of approval at this meeting.

**ClassHero** was presented by Asst. Superintendent Cloat and Blackhawk Principal Stacey Kleindl. The request is to move forward with the expectation of implementing the *Bridges* (math) and *HMH Into Reading/Arriba* (English Language Arts/Spanish Language Arts) materials and instruction with integrity, ClassHero, a new online management system will be beneficial to planning and prioritizing instruction. Presented as action tonight, this comes before the board as an action item on May 21.

**ECRA Renewal**, presented by Asst. Supt. Cloat, proposing that we renew our contract with the ECRA group and expand our partnership in ways that support District-wide strategic planning, School Improvement Planning, and Multilingual Learners. The ECRA platform has been utilized in the district since 2021 to track student growth data, provide data-informed Board reports, and during phase 1 of the curriculum review process. Through collaborative efforts of the C&I, Equity, PPS, and Bilingual Departments.

**5-8 Report Card** presented by Asst. Supt. Cloat. It was determined by a representative committee of teachers and administrators that the report card for grades 5-8 needed to be updated. The committee worked toward ensuring that “grades are reflective of learning instead of behaviors” and that “timely feedback is important for students to make corrections and adjustments.” The committee revised the grading practices of grades 5-8 and revised the report card. Presented as action tonight, this comes before the board as an action item on May 21.

**Cebrin Goodman Teen Institute Proposal**, presented by Asst. Superintendents Cloat & Randle. The Cebrin Goodman Teen Institute (CGTI) is a youth leadership conference held at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois, each July. CGTI is one of the largest and most acclaimed leadership conferences in the nation. It is proposed that, as part of the FSD145 Summer Programming offered in 2024, a team of approximately 14 students and 2 adult mentors to attend CGTI this July. Presented as action tonight, this comes before the board as an action item on May 21.

### **Approved the Consent Agenda**

- A. Freeport School District and Career TEC Bills
- B. Personnel Report May 7, 2024
- C. Final 2023-2024 School Year Calendar. With this approval the last day of attendance for students will be May 31, 2024.

### **Took Action in Favor of the Following Previously Presented Items**

- A. ELA Perspective
- B. College Now Agreement FY2025

### **Committee Reports**

Reports were provided by:

Member Charlene Williams for Equity

Member Kacey Seal for Safety & Security

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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 May 21, 2024, at 6:00 PM. Meetings are held at the FSD administrative office, located at 500 E. South St, and can be accessed virtually, (unless otherwise communicated). Information on joining the meetings can be found [here](#).