

Freeburg Elementary School
Monday, July 27, 2020
7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Education for Freeburg Community Consolidated School District No. 70 was held on Monday, July 27, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Freeburg Elementary School District #70 Cafeteria. The meeting was also broadcast on Zoom.

Call to Order

Mrs. Bauman called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call of the members.

Roll Call

In addition to Mrs. Bauman, board members Andy Bittle, Michelle Morgan, Jamie Smith, Ed Scheibel, Ron Humphries (via phone), and Michelle Foppe were also in attendance. Also in attendance were Tomi Diefenbach, Superintendent, Mark Janssen, Assistant Superintendent and Recording Secretary, and Justin Imm, Principal.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board and public stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitors

Visitors to the meeting included district staff Brooke Krauss, Natasha Tucker, Kayla Cripe, Sarah Gagen, Cory Lawrence, and Abby Vosse. Other visitors included Bethany Raetz, John Lawson, Kelly Lawson, Mike Schnur, Tracy Schnur, Nicole McCullough, Tara Garcia, Laurie Kallonakis, Kristie Ingram, Leah Black, Mindy Fuhrhop, Drew Meyer, Donna Kisgin, Cooper Kisgin, and Bill May.

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Andy Bittle

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).

- MINUTES OF THE JUNE 22, 2020 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND JULY 9, 2020 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
- TRIAL BALANCE AND STATEMENT THROUGH JULY 24, 2020 AND THE BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH JUNE 30, 2020

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 7-aye, 0-nay.

Approval of the Bills

Moved: Andy Bittle

Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE BILLS, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).

AYES: Bittle, Morgan, Smith, Scheibel, Humphries, Foppe, Bauman
Motion Carried

Reports of Standing Committees

Reports of Special Committees

Petitions/Communications

There was one Freedom of Information Act request. SmartProcure sought purchasing information including purchases and vendors from February 28, 2020. The request was filled within the five-day mandatory period.

Public Participation

Public participation was moved to after the Superintendent's Report.

Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Diefenbach gave an update on the reopening of school. She reviewed the results of the survey sent to parents regarding the reopening of school. A majority of parents expressed a desire to have their children back at school. To that end, Mrs. Diefenbach recommended the hybrid (A/B) plan of returning to school. This would mean students are divided into two groups based on their last name. The "A" group would attend Mondays and Thursdays and the "B" group would attend on Tuesdays and Fridays. Wednesdays would be remote learning for everyone. In addition, full-time remote learning would be available for students. This entire reopening plan will be reassessed in nine weeks. The district is also looking at various options for Open House, including some type of face-to-face possibly occurring outside. The district will coordinate with families to ensure siblings attend on the same day. Likewise, the district will coordinate with Freeburg High School for the same reason. Finally, students may opt for full-time remote learning. This will be a nine-week commitment and students must have a device and access to the internet. She emphasized this decision was not made lightly and understands it will present childcare challenges for parents.

Mrs. Diefenbach gave an update on student registration. She is urging families who have not registered to please do so as soon as possible. She also stated parents must declare for full-time remote learning by letting the office know by 2 pm on August 3. If we do not hear from the parents, it is assumed that student is attending in-person.

Mr. Janssen gave an update on the summer projects expected to be completed. Custodians and Maintenance staff returned to work today. Guidelines for social distancing and mask use were communicated and will be followed throughout the summer.

1. Restoration of the Primary Center roof and HVAC replacement of the Kindergarten section is substantially completed.
2. The driveway and entrance to the gated area at the bus garage is completed.
3. The repainting and refinishing of the gym is completed.
4. The installation of fencing around the north playground at the Primary Center is completed. This allows us the use of an additional playground in that area.

5. The thorough cleaning of both buildings is substantially completed. He thanked the Maintenance and Custodial staff for their hard work this summer.

Mrs. Bauman opened the floor for any citizens who wished to make a comment or ask a question. Bill May asked the Board to consider the impact of this decision on incoming Kindergarten students and also the challenges of accessing the internet for those living outside Freeburg.

Donna Kisgin pleaded for the Board to consider the five-day per week in-person learning. She cited articles on the benefit of students attending school five days per week, instead of the hybrid plan.

District teacher Sarah Gagen sought understanding from parents during this time. Teachers will work hard to ensure the education of their students is not compromised.

Laurie Kallanakis asked a few questions regarding transportation and accommodations for special education students.

Beth Black broached the possibility of the board taking more time to make a decision, possibly evening delaying the start of school until after Labor Day. She also emphasized the importance of face-to-face Open House and student orientations.

Old Business

New Business

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION REGARDING THE DISTRICT REOPENING PLAN FOR STUDENTS DETAILING THE PARAMETERS OF RETURNING TO SCHOOL, INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HYBRID SCHEDULE FOR THE FIRST NINE WEEKS OF THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR AND TO GIVE THE SUPERINTENDENT AUTHORIZING THE SHUTDOWN OF IN-PERSON LEARNING IF CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT (SEE ADDENDA).

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
FREEBURG COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICTS #70'S
2020-2021 RE-OPENING PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of **FREEBURG COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT #70**, County of **ST. CLAIR**, State of Illinois, (“the Board”) has the responsibility to manage and operate the schools of said **FREEBURG COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT #70** (“District”); and

WHEREAS, the Illinois School Code, 105 ILCS 5/10-20 and 5/10-20.5, as amended (the “Code”), authorizes the Board to exercise all powers required for the maintenance, operation, and development of the District’s schools and adopt and enforce all necessary rules for the management and government of the District’s schools; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker declared all counties in Illinois as disaster areas pursuant to Section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Act (20 ILCS 3305/7) and directed implementation of the State’s Emergency Operations Plan in response to the novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”); and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the U.S. President declared a national state of emergency and Governor Pritzker ordered the closure of all public and private K-12 schools in Illinois in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2020, Governor JB Pritzker announced the Restore Illinois plan which addresses the public health approach to safely reopen the State; and

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2020, Governor JB Pritzker announced authorized in-person instruction during Phase 3 and Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan; and

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2020, the Illinois State Board of Education issued Transition Joint Guidance with the Illinois Department of Public Health pertaining to the re-opening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year; and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2020, Illinois entered Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan; and

WHEREAS, Public Act 101-0643 (105 ILCS 5/10-30) requires that “the district shall adopt a remote and blended remote learning day plan approved by the general superintendent of schools”; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it is necessary and in the best interests of the District to adopt a re-opening plan for the 2020-2021 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed and considered the remote and blended remote learning day plan (“Plan”) presented to it and attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that it must give the District Superintendent and his/her designees the authority to exercise all necessary discretionary authority to implement and enforce the Plan given these unprecedented times.

NOW, THEREFORE, It Is Hereby Resolved by the Board of Education of **FREEBURG COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT #70**, County of St. Clair, Illinois as follows:

Section 1. The preamble recitals of this Resolution are adopted and incorporated herein by this reference and found to be true and accurate statements.

Section 2. The Board authorizes and adopts the **FREEBURG COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT #70** re-opening plan (the “Plan”) for the 2020-2021 school year.

Section 3. The Plan takes precedent and supersedes all Board policies as necessary to implement the Plan.

Section 4. The Superintendent and his/her designees are authorized to determine all policies and exercise all discretionary authority to implement and enforce the Plan.

Section 5. The Superintendent is authorized to close any school building or District facility without further action by the Board. Such closure shall continue during the emergency created by the

COVID-19 pandemic until such time as the Superintendent deems it in the best interests of the District and its students to open schools.

Section 6. The Superintendent is authorized, based upon the needs of the District to direct staff assignments during District closures in his/her discretion.

Section 7. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

Ayes: Bittle, Morgan, Smith, Scheibel, Foppe, Bauman

Nays: Humphries

Absent: None

This resolution is adopted this 27 day of July, 2020.

President, Board of Education

Attest: _____
Secretary, Board of Education

AYES: Bittle, Morgan, Smith, Scheibel, Foppe, Bauman

NAYS: Humphries

Motion Carried

Moved: Andy Bittle

Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ALLOW LAUGH AND LEARN TO CONTINUE TO USE THE BUILDING FOR BEFORE AND AFTER-SCHOOL CARE AND ALL RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES ARE FOLLOWED, (SEE ADDENDA).

AYES: Bittle, Morgan, Smith, Scheibel, Humphries, Foppe, Bauman

Motion Carried

Moved: Andy Bittle

Seconded: Ron Humphries

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE ALL STUDENT AND EMPLOYEE HANDBOOKS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 7-aye, 0-nay.

Moved: Jamie Smith

Seconded: Michelle Morgan

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE DISTRICT HOMEWORK POLICIES, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 7-aye, 0-nay.

Moved: Michelle Foppe

Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE ACCELERATED READING GUIDELINES, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 7-aye, 0-nay.

Moved: Michelle Morgan

Seconded: Andy Bittle

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE DISTRICT JOB DESCRIPTIONS, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 7-aye, 0-nay.

Motion: Andy Bittle

Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:02 PM TO CONSIDER:

THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES OF THE DISTRICT INCLUDING HEARING TESTIMONY ON A COMPLAINT LODGED AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE. 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1);

LITIGATION, WHEN AN ACTION AGAINST, AFFECTING OR ON BEHALF OF THE PARTICULAR DISTRICT HAS BEEN FILED AND IS PENDING BEFORE A COURT OR WHEN THE DISTRICT FINDS THAT AN ACTION IS PROBABLE OR IMMINENT. 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(11); AND

TO CONDUCT THE SEMI-ANNUAL REVIEW OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS LAWFULLY CLOSED TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY MAY BE RELEASED AS MANDATED BY SECTION 2.06 ILCS 120/2(C)(21)

AYES: Bittle, Morgan, Smith, Scheibel, Humphries, Foppe, Bauman
Motion Carried

Moved: Ed Scheibel Seconded: Michelle Foppe

A MOTION WAS MADE TO RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION AT 8:31 PM.

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 7-aye, 0-nay.

Moved: Michelle Foppe Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY LAUREN BAKER AS DISTRICT NURSE, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020 AT A SALARY OF \$43,000 PER YEAR.

AYES: Bittle, Morgan, Smith, Scheibel, Humphries, Foppe, Bauman
Motion Carried

Motion: Ed Scheibel Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE TEACHER AMANDA DIEFENBACH FROM PART-TIME TO FULL-TIME EMPLOYEMENT, EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR.

AYES: Bittle, Morgan, Smith, Scheibel, Foppe, Bauman
NAYS: Humphries
Motion Carried

Motion: Andy Bittle Seconded: Ed Scheibel

A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY THE FOLLOWING NON-CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: Emma DeRousse.

AYES: Bittle, Morgan, Smith, Scheibel, Humphries, Foppe, Bauman
Motion Carried

Motion: Ed Scheibel Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE NON-RELEASE OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES AS THE NEED FOR CONFIDENTIALITY STILL EXISTS.

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 7-aye, 0-nay.

Other Business

Adjournment

Moved: Jamie Smith Seconded: Andy Bittle

There being no further business to come before this body, **A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:40 P.M.**

Upon a voice vote, Motion Carried, 7-aye, 0-nay.

Barbara Bauman, President
Board of Education, Dist. #70

Jamie Smith, Secretary
Board of Education, Dist. # 70