

Freeburg Elementary School
Monday, September 28, 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, September 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Freeburg Elementary School 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 telephone), and Michelle Foppe were also in attendance. Also in attendance were Tomi Diefenbach, Superintendent, Mark Janssen, Assistant Superintendent and Recording Secretary, Ryan Wittenauer and Justin Imm, Principals.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board and public stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitors

Visitors to the meeting included district teachers Kayla Cripe and Sarah Gagen. Other visitors included Brian Garcia, Tara Garcia, Bill May, and Leah Black.

Moved: Ed Scheibel

Seconded: Jamie Smith

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

- MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 24, 2020 REGULAR BOARD MEETING
- TRIAL BALANCE AND STATEMENT THROUGH SEPTEMBER 25, 2020 AND THE BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2020

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

Approval of the Bills

Moved: Michelle Foppe

Seconded: Andy Bittle

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 were no Freedom of Information Act requests.

Public Participation

The Board welcomed the public to the meeting. Mrs. Diefenbach read a letter from Ashley Clark. Ms. Clark complimented the teachers on the remote learning. Her children have done very well with the remote learning. Bill May inquired to the board if any thought had been given to having the students come back five days per week. Mrs. Diefenbach stated administration is looking at ways to increase the amount of in-person instruction. However, the number of remote learners who would come back must be determined first to ensure the district does all it can do to adhere to the guidelines. Ms. Garcia complimented and thanked the teachers for all they have done since March. Mr. Garcia also inquired about the possibility of returning five days per week. Mrs. Gagen expressed her appreciation and admiration to her fellow teachers for all they have done this school year.

Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Diefenbach gave an enrollment update. Currently, there are 763 students compared to 788 last year.

Mrs. Diefenbach gave an update on the reopening of school. She expressed all has been going well but the district needs to explore having the students come back more. The first task in doing this is determining how many students who would come back who are currently fully remote. From there, we can then determine class sizes. She also stated it is possible current schedules for students could change to balance the number of students. She and other administrators will continue to explore this and she will keep the board updated. She will also be in touch with parents once any determination is made.

Mr. Janssen gave an update on meal distribution at both schools. A survey is sent to all remote students to determine who needs meals. Meals are then delivered to those families each Monday for that week. A new survey will be sent tomorrow for October. Also, meals are distributed to all in-person students at both buildings prior to dismissal. The USDA has waived all costs with these meals until December 31. The district is averaging approximately 300 meals distributed each day.

Mr. Janssen presented the salary compensation report to the Board. Each year, this report must be presented to the Board and posted on the district website prior to October 1.

Mr. Janssen informed the public and board members the next board election will be held April 6, 2021. Candidate petitions are available at the St. Clair County Courthouse. Petition circulation is underway with the turn in window at the Courthouse of December 14 – 21.

Mr. Imm presented the Principal's Report for the Primary Center. On October 17 & 18, fire drills were held. All the students did a great job. In Kindergarten, the students made applesauce as part

of the apple unit. In 1st grade, they completed their farming unit and in 2nd grade the students are learning about communities.

Mr. Wittenauer presented the Principal's Report for the Elementary School. On October 24 & 25, bus evacuation drills were held. He congratulated Tyler Bryant for being named the Optimist Student of the Month. The baseball and softball teams wrapped up their seasons. The cross country teams wrap up their season this week.

Old Business

New Business

Moved: Michelle Morgan Seconded: Ed Scheibel

A MOTION WAS MADE TO MOVE INTO A BUDGET HEARING.

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

Motion: Michelle Morgan Seconded: Ed Scheibel

A MOTION WAS MADE TO RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION.

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

Moved: Andy Bittle Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE FY21 BUDGET, AS PRSENTED (SEE ADDENDA).

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

Moved: Ed Scheibel Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO PROCEED WITH THE INSTALLATION OF THE ELECTRONIC SCOREBOARD AT THE BASEBALL FIELD (SEE ADDENDA).

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

Moved: Andy Bittle Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO REINVEST THE CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT WORTH APPROXIMATELY \$919,000 WITH CITIZENS COMMUNITY BANK AT AN INTEREST RATE OF 0.25%.

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

Motion Carried

Moved: Michelle Morgan Seconded: Ed Scheibel

A MOTION WAS MADE TO EMPLOY WHITNEY SCHOENBECK AS LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

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

Moved: Michelle Foppe Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THE LETTER OF RETIREMENT FROM SPEECH PATHOLOGIST JAN RICHARDS, EFFECTIVE AT THE END OF THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR.

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

Moved: Jamie Smith Seconded: Andy Bittle

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM PRINCIPAL JUSTIN IMM AS TRACK COACH, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

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

Motion: Ed Scheibel Seconded: Michelle Foppe

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST FROM TEACHER STEPHANIE KETCHUM FROM OCTOBER 21, 2020 TO APPROXIMATELY JANUARY 27, 2021.

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

Other Business

Ms. Bauman appointed Mr. Bittle as the head of a committee to oversee the search for a new Superintendent upon Mrs. Diefenbach's retirement. Board members interested in serving on the committee are to contact Mr. Bittle.

Adjournment

Moved: Jamie Smith Seconded: Ed Scheibel

There being no further business to come before this body, **A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:35 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