

Freeburg Elementary School  
Monday, November 23, 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, November 23, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom due to the restrictions of in-person gatherings by the Governor's Office.

### **Call to Order**

Mr. Bittle called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call of the members.

### **Roll Call**

In addition to Mr. Bittle, board members Michelle Morgan, Ed Scheibel, Ron Humphries and Michelle Foppe (7:04) were also in attendance. Board member Barbara Bauman and Jamie Smith were absent. Also in attendance were Tomi Diefenbach, Superintendent, Mark Janssen, Assistant Superintendent and Recording Secretary, Ryan Wittenauer and Justin Imm, Principals.

### **Visitors**

There were approximately 49 visitors to the meeting who signed in at various points throughout the meeting.

Moved: Michelle Morgan                      Seconded: Ed Scheibel

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

- MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 26, 2020 REGULAR BOARD MEETING
- TRIAL BALANCE AND STATEMENT THROUGH OCTOBER 20, 2020 AND THE BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

AYES: Morgan, Scheibel, Humphries, Bittle  
Motion Carried

### **Approval of the Bills**

Moved: Ron Humphries                      Seconded: Michelle Morgan

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

AYES: Morgan, Scheibel, Humphries, Foppe, Bittle  
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. Visitors were welcome to enter their comments into the chat feature or would be unmuted to address the board. There were no comments.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Mrs. Diefenbach gave an enrollment update. Currently, there are 764 students compared to 764 last month and 778 last year.

Mrs. Diefenbach gave an update on the reopening of school. Third and fourth grades returned for full days for four days per week, beginning on November 9. Those grade levels join Kindergarten, first grade, and second grade as being back close to full-time. Wednesdays remain as a remote day district-wide for cleaning and disinfecting. Mrs. Diefenbach has been meeting with the remaining grade level teachers to begin discussions on the logistics of bringing those students back for four days. Those meetings have gone well. The tentative plan is to begin to bring grades fifth through eighth back in January. Initially, the plan was to bring some of those grades back before then. Meanwhile, in light of the elevated positivity rate and the increased challenge of finding substitutes, she also has been meeting with teachers to discuss the possibility of going fully remote. Staffing continues to be the challenge as the number of staff exposed and relegated to quarantine has greatly increased. In fact, seventh grade is currently fully remote for this reason. One kindergarten class and one fourth grade class are currently fully remote, as well. The goal continues to bring the students back as much as possible, provided it is safe to do so. Board Member Humphries pointed out there may be a need to consider going fully remote to stay ahead of the issue and possibly avoid exposure at school. Board Member Bittle disagreed and felt we should stay on the current course. Board Member Foppe agreed with Mr. Bittle and also pointed out it may send a conflicting message to parents we are trying to bring more grades back but then go fully remote. Board Member Morgan stated she feels schools are safe as there has been no issue with spreading the virus at school. Board Member Scheibel expressed a desire to poll the parents to determine if they would prefer to stay the course, go back to hybrid, or go fully remote. After discussion, the board wants to stay the course provided we have staffing.

Mr. Janssen explained in light of the conflicting guidance from Governor Pritzker, Illinois Department of Health, and the Illinois High School Association, the district has decided to pause winter sports. The State Superintendent of Schools sent a letter to all district strongly advising districts to adhere to the Governor's order of pausing sports. It is hoped winter sports can play in the spring but no date has been set.

Mr. Janssen updated the board on the waiver from the United States Department of Agriculture stipulating all meals given to students under 18 are free. This waiver has now been extended through the end of the academic year. The district will continue to deliver meals to the fully remote students and offer meals at the end of the day to those students who are on the hybrid schedule. So far this year, the district is giving out on average 196 breakfasts and 313 lunches each day.

Mr. Imm presented the Principal's Report for the Primary Center. The Toys for Tots organization is collecting new, unwrapped toys until December 7. The Kindergarten students just finished their owl units with many hands-on activities to learn about owls. The first grade is currently focusing on being thankful and second grade will have their small feast tomorrow.

Mr. Wittenauer presented the Principal's Report for the Elementary School. Virtual parent-teacher conferences were held October 26 – November 5 to give parents flexibility in scheduling them. Third and fourth grades returned for four days per week on November 9. November 20 marked mid-term for second quarter. McLimo was announced and those 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will receive coupons from McDonalds for receiving all "A's".

### **Old Business**

### **New Business**

Moved: Ron Humphries                      Seconded: Michelle Foppe

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE PRELIMINARY LEVY OF AN OVERALL INCREASE OF 4.98%, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

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

Motion: Michelle Foppe                      Seconded: Michelle Morgan

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE SCHOOL HEALTH ASSISTANT, AS PRESENTED (SEE ADDENDA).**

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

Moved: Michelle Morgan                      Seconded: Ed Scheibel

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:46 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)**

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

Moved: Ed Scheibel                      Seconded: Ron Humphries

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION AT 8:10 PM.**

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

**Other Business**

**Adjournment**

Moved: Michelle Morgan                      Seconded: Michelle Foppe

There being no further business to come before this body, **A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:11 P.M.**

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

Andy Bittle, Vice-President  
Board of Education, Dist. #70

Michelle Morgan, Member  
Board of Education, Dist. # 70