

Freeburg Elementary School
Monday, December 14, 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, December 14, 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, Jamie Smith, Ed Scheibel, Ron Humphries and Michelle Foppe were also in attendance. Barbara Bauman joined the meeting at 7:14 pm. Also in attendance were Tomi Diefenbach, Superintendent, Mark Janssen, Assistant Superintendent and Recording Secretary, Ryan Wittenauer and Justin Imm, Principals.

Visitors

There were approximately 53 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 NOVEMBER 23, 2020 REGULAR BOARD MEETING
- TRIAL BALANCE AND STATEMENT THROUGH DECEMBER 11, 2020 AND THE BUDGET SUMMARY THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2020

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

Approval of the Bills

Moved: Ron Humphries Seconded: Jamie Smith

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

AYES: Morgan, Smith, 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. There was one communication from Donna Kisgin. She wrote a letter to the board imploring them to consider bringing the students back to in-person learning as soon as possible.

Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Diefenbach gave an enrollment update. Currently, there are 766 students compared to 764 last month and 778 last year.

Mrs. Diefenbach gave an update on the reopening of school. Unfortunately, the district had to move to fully remote learning on December 9, due to rising positivity rates in Freeburg. She mentioned in light of current conditions, it may be best to delay that start date. She noted any changes to the current calendar or the current student schedule of in-person learning will need a motion in New Business.

Mr. Imm presented the Principal's Report for the Primary Center. Picture retake days were held on December 7 and 8. The PTO sponsored a Toys for Tots donation. In all, there were over 100 toys donated. Mr. Imm congratulated teacher Karen Gale for winning a \$500 grant through the Monroe County Electric Cooperative. She plans to use the funds for a new document camera and iPod for her classroom. Mr. Imm also congratulated Andrew Morgan for winning 2nd place at the Gingerbread House competition in Belleville.

Mr. Wittenauer presented the Principal's Report for the Elementary School. Mr. Wittenauer expressed a concern to the board on the number of students who has or is failing a subject. The number of students who received an "F" in 1st quarter was 51, compared to just 17 last year. The Student Council is sponsoring dress up days this week for the remote learning. Mr. Wittenauer congratulated Caden McCullough for being the Optimist Student of the Month for December.

Old Business

New Business

Mrs. Diefenbach sought guidance on delaying returning to school until January 11th or the 19th. She also sought their guidance on bringing additional grades back when we return. Mrs. Bauman asked the board members for their thoughts. After discussion, a majority of board members leaned toward coming back on January 11th. The Board also wishes to bring back 5th and 6th grades on January 11th with 7th and 8th grade on January 14th.

Moved: Andy Bittle

Seconded: Michelle Foppe

A MOTION WAS MADE TO DELAY THE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION FROM JANUARY 5, 2021 TO JANUARY 11, 2021. ALL OF FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADES WILL RETURN

ON JANUARY 11 AND ALL OF 7TH AND 8TH GRADE WILL RETURN ON JANUARY 14. THE 7TH AND 8TH GRADE WILL FOLLOW THE HYBRID PLAN ON JANUARY 11 & 12.

AYES: Bittle, Morgan, Foppe, Bauman

NAYS: Smith, Scheibel, Humphries

Motion Carried

Moved: Michelle Morgan

Seconded: Ed Scheibel

A MOTION WAS MADE TO COMPENSATE NON-CERTIFIED PERSONNEL DURING THIS PHASE OF REMOTE LEARNING THROUGH THE RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING ON JANUARY 11, 2021.

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

Motion Carried

Moved: Andy Bittle

Seconded: Michelle Foppe

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

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

Motion Carried

Motion: Andy Bittle

Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO NOTIFY CERTIFIED AND NON-CERTIFIED OF THE INTENT TO REDUCE STAFF DUE TO EDUCATIONAL AND FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR.

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

Motion Carried

Moved: Michelle Morgan

Seconded: Michelle Foppe

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:56 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) 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: Michelle Morgan Seconded: Jamie Smith

A MOTION WAS MADE TO RE-ENTER REGULAR SESSION AT 8:12 PM.

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

Moved: Jamie Smith Seconded: Andy Bittle

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE LETTER OF RETIREMENT FROM SECRETARY BRENDA MATHEWS, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 25, 2021, AS PRESENTED.

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

Moved: Ron Humphries Seconded: Ed Scheibel

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

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

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 8:19 P.M.**

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

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

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