



Regular meeting of the Freeport School District Board of Education

January 16, 2024

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

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

Recognitions

FSD 145 and Freeport High School are proud to announce that paraeducator **Lakinda Brown** has been selected to represent Illinois in the national **Recognizing Inspiring School Employees (RISE) Awards sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education.**

The Illinois State Board of Education and Governor JB Pritzker

announced Brown's nomination today. The purpose of the RISE Award is to recognize the excellence exhibited by educational support professionals. She is one of two Illinois school employees selected by state officials to represent Illinois.

The U.S. Department of Education will select one national RISE Honoree in spring 2024, and all nominees are acknowledged.

CONGRATULATIONS LAKINDA!

OTHER SUP REPORT ITEMS

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has upwardly amended fiscal year 2024 **Continuation School Improvement Grant allocations** to eligible Report Card 2019 and 2022 Local Education Agencies (LEAs) pursuant to Title I, Part A, Section 1003 of the Every Student Succeeds Act. All schools in improvement status will receive an additional allocation of \$89,000. In addition, schools with newcomers will receive additional funds on top of the base amount depending on the number of newcomers being served.

Social Studies Curriculum Review: FSD145 follows a 6-year curriculum review cycle and the social studies curriculum is one of the curricular areas that is scheduled for phase 1 during the 2023-2024 school year. Attached is the planning document for the social studies curriculum review, which will be led by Dr. Julia Cloat and Mrs. Georgia Mathis.

Bilingual Department Updates presented by Dr. del Castillo included:

- A. ***Spanish Conversational Classes for Relationship-Building*** - exploring various options to provide our staff with Spanish classes, with the goal of equipping them with the necessary language tools to build stronger relationships with students and families.
- B. ***Illinois Migrant Council & Freeport School District Partnership***: The Bilingual Department is collaborating with the Illinois Migrant Council to assist families in critical need, providing support for housing, energy, health, and adult education. The Illinois Migrant Council is a community-based non-profit organization.
- C. ***Bilingual Department Bilingual Professional Development***: discussed the different trainings and staff development that have, are and will take place.
- D. ***ACCESS***: Illinois requires that all students in kindergarten through 12th grade who have been identified as English Learners take the state's English language proficiency test each year. The test will be administered in our district between January 17th and March 5th, 2024 to all our multilingual learners.
- E. ***ESL Endorsement Cohort***: Our district has partnered with St. Francis University to create an ESL and Bilingual In-House Cohort, addressing the growing demand for more teachers with an ESL endorsement. On January 8, 16 staff members embarked on their journey with the "Theoretical Foundations of Bilingual and ESL" class, marking the beginning of a series of six classes required for the ESL endorsement.

ECRA Fall Growth Update : Winter MAP growth data has been evaluated and posted to the ECRIS platform. All schools and all grade levels have met the expected growth within the range of standard deviation in both reading and math.

Dr. Alvarado reviewed the [Administrative Procedure for Emergency School Closing and Inclement Weather](#).

Information Reports

- A. SIP presentations were presented by Blackhawk Principal Stacey Kleindl, FMS Principal Danielle Summers, and FHS Principal Sarah Hasken. Each highlighting their schools goals and progress.
- B. **Monthly Financial Report** was provided by Asst. Supt. Dr. Patrick McDermot. Highlights included the filing of the tax levy, 2024-25 staffing & per student allocation, audit is on track to be finalized soon, monthly financial report.
- C. Press Issue 113, The Illinois Association of School Boards Policy Reference Education Subscription Service provides policy updates to subscribing School Districts on a quarterly basis. These updates are due to changes in legislation, administrative rules, PRESS Advisory Board feedback, quality assurance, or other factors. These policies have been reviewed by Central Office Administrators.
- D. **Grades 6-12 Math Curriculum** and the review cycle process was presented in detail, further info can be found in the board meeting members.

Approved the Consent Agenda

- A. Freeport School District and Career TEC Bills
- B. Personnel Report January 16, 2024
- C. Closed Session Minutes Disclosure

Took Action in Favor of the Following Previously Presented Items

- A. FHS New Course Proposal
- B. 2024-2025 Proposed School Year Calendar

Committee Reports

Reports were provided by:

Members Charlene Williams & Kacey Seal for Curriculum & Instruction

Member Alan Greene for Buildings & Ground

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 February 6, 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](#).