

Regular meeting of the Freeport School District Board of Education

February 20, 2024 - The meeting was held at Empire School.

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 & Celebrations

Students who have a will be participating in State level sports/music conferences were recognized:

- **Speech:** Max Krezminski, Mya Ortiz, Nate Redmore & Rachel Sdao
- **Girls Bowling:** Diem Beach & Cameron Plowman
- **Girls Wrestling:** Cadence Diduch
- **All State Choir Conference:** Ava Chander, Janayah Palmer, Kyla Risenbichler (*also State Honors Choir*) & Noah Schiffman

IL State Board of Education - Those Who Excel Awards 2024

Since 1970, the Illinois State Board of Education has sponsored the Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year program to honor educators who have made significant contributions to our state's public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools. All awardees are honored at an annual banquet in the Spring. FSD is excited to announce our four individuals and one team being honored in 2024.

Award of Excellence

Jennifer DeJong

Principal JFIB

Award of Special Recognition

Yonca Benoy

Behavior Specialist

Center Elementary

Nikki Wheeler

MTSS Facilitator

FHS

Team - MTSS Facilitators Districtwide

Rose Marie Brubaker - FMS

Michelle Dorty - Blackhawk 8156188356

Vanessa Hansberry - CSMS
Cynthia Jensen - Linc Doug
Tiffany Kleckler - Center
Carmen Madigan - Empire
Maggie Taft - JFIB
Nikki Wheeler - FHS

Other Supt. Report Items

SIP Day - Collaboration Across the District

Feb. 20 was a School Improvement Day, with no student attendance. The day began with a PLC collaboration by grade level and department. Staff then return to their individual schools for the rest of the day. We converted to full SIP days this year and are making good use of that time.

End of Semester Chronic Absenteeism data

Problem of Practice: Our chronic absenteeism at the end of the 22-23 SY was 37.2%. At the Kick-Off, we kicked into gear a district wide , school by school focus on addressing how we can decrease this number by using strategies that increase student engagement, improving home-school partnerships between educators and administrators. Schools took on this challenge through SIP. At the end of the 2022-2023 school year, our chronic absenteeism rate was 37.2%. Currently, our overall rate on the 105th day of school is 28%

Exclusionary Data Report 23-24 Freeport SD145 Student Discipline Improvement Plan

The updated Student Discipline Improvement Plan was submitted to ISBE to address FSD's identification of being in the Top 20% of the Disproportionality Rate in the area of Out-of-School Suspensions. The Student Discipline Plan was updated to reflect initiatives that are currently being implemented in FSD, such as the annual review of the Student Code of Conduct to address disparities with discipline practices and procedures throughout the district. The Plan also includes the newly formed Restraint & Time-Out and Student Code of Conduct Committees along with the implementation of Threat Assessment Teams at each school. These Committees and teams have been developed to provide more proactive measures to addressing student discipline practices in FSD.

Report Card Revision Committee Phase 3: High School

Revisions to the FSD145 report card is entering phase 3 and will focus on the High School report card. Dr. Cloat will explain the project plan for the review, which will be done by a representative, ad hoc committee. The committee, which will be composed of administrators and FEA members from the FHS and Central Office, will review the current report cards and grading practices used in grades 9-12. The School Board will receive updates on the progress of the report card review through the Education Committee. If it is determined that a revised report card is needed, the School Board will be presented with the revised report card for approval.

Information Reports

Enrollment & Transportation Center Update, presented by Director Dallas Pieper. Director Pieper highlighted some of the quick facts of ETC, indicating they have a total of 96 staff members. New student enrollment for incoming kindergarten and new students to the District on March 4th. Returning student registration begins May 25th.

Finance Committee (Monthly Financial Report & Updates), presented by Dr. Patrick McDermott. Staffing discussions have begun and will continue over the next few months. Schedules being coordinated for the finance committee to meet with the auditors. The board will receive a full report at the March 5th board meeting. Further details of the report are provided in the meeting minutes.

Handle With Care MOU - with Law Enforcement, presented by Asst. Superintendent Dan Holder. HWC, a free school safety program developed by the State of Illinois, is to further implement an initiative aimed at addressing children's exposure to violence and trauma by mitigating these negative impacts of exposure to trauma when it does occur, by providing support and on-site, trauma focused interventions by school staff and/or mental health providers, if necessary, to children identified by local law enforcement and school personnel. The MOU is in partnership with our local Law Enforcement.

Approved the Consent Agenda

- A. Freeport School District and Career TEC Bills
- B. Personnel Report February 20, 2024

Took Action in Favor of the Following Previously Presented Items

- A. Handle With Care MOU - with Local Law Enforcement
- B. 6-12 Math Curriculum Adoption

Committee Reports

Reports were provided by:

Building & Grounds by Member Ryan Shirley, the placement of the modular units are in process. Part II of the high school science labs will begin as well as turf replacement for the FHS

Finance committee by President Jack Sosnowski, they are setting meetings for future finance discussions.

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 March 5, 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](#).