

Agenda of Board of School Directors' Committee Meeting

The Board of Directors Freedom Area School District

A Board of School Directors' Committee Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Freedom Area School District will be held Thursday, October 1, 2026, beginning at 6:30 PM in the Freedom Area Middle School Library, 1702 School Street, Freedom, PA 15042.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1.A. Call Meeting to Order

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

1.C. Public Sign-In Sheet for October 1, 2026

Description: No members of the public were in attendance at this meeting.

2. ROLL CALL

3. PUBLIC/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Description: Per Board Policy 903: Public Comment in Board Meetings, members of the public must preface their comments with their name, municipality, and group affiliation (if appropriate). All comments should be addressed to the Presiding Officer and be relevant to agenda items or matters which may come before the Board. Required timelines must be observed. (Prior Formal Request — 10 Minutes, Informal Request — 5 Minutes).

4. MINUTES

4.A. Approval of September 10, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes

5. INFORMATION

5.A. BVIU Board Notes from August 26, 2026, Meeting

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

7. FINANCE COMMITTEE

8. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

8.A. Curriculum Update

Speaker(s): Bill Deal

9. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

9.A. Director of Buildings and Grounds Monthly Report

Speaker(s): Gary Mortimer

10. ATHLETICS/EXTRA-CURRICULAR COMMITTEE

10.A. Athletic Director's Monthly Report

Speaker(s): Steve Mott

11. POLICY COMMITTEE

12. ACTION AGENDA

12.A. Approve Salary Increase

Recommended Motion(s):

Approve Salary Increase of 3% for District Paraprofessionals and Related Services

Employees for the 2026-2027 School Year

12.B. Accept Monetary Donation

Recommended Motion(s):

Accept Donation of \$1,200 from the Freedom New Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church to be used for the Cafeteria Fund

12.C. Accept Donation of Book

Recommended Motion(s):

Accept Donation of Book for the Elementary School Library; The Book, Titled "Herbie's Big Feelings", was written by Freedom Area School District Alumna, Katie Prest, Class of 2007

12.D. Approve Released Time - Professional Development

Recommended Motion(s):

Approve Released Time According to Act 48

Description:

1. Tara Little, BCASL Meetings for 2026-2027, BVIU, Cost Substitute
2. Health and P.E. Workshop, October 6, Virtual, Cost Substitute:
 - a. Dana Gaertner, Elementary School P.E. Teacher
 - b. Tami Smithmyer Middle School P.E. Teacher

12.E. Accept Resignations

Recommended Motion(s):

Accept the Following Resignations

Description:

1. Joshua Biss, 12-Month School Psychologist, Effective Date To be Determined
2. Kim Gardner, Part-Time Food Service Employee, Effective September 22, 2026

12.F. Approve Request for FMLA

Recommended Motion(s):

Approve FMLA Request #2026-15

12.G. Approve Updated List of Mentors

Recommended Motion(s):

Approve Updated List of 2026-2027 Teacher Mentors

12.H. Approve Administrative Assistant

Recommended Motion(s):

Approve Nicole Wilson as Administrative Assistant to the Director of Buildings and Grounds, Start Date October 5, 2026, \$31,000 per year (Prorated for the 2026-2027 School Year) (Clearances on File)

12.I. Approve Additional Frye Transportation Drivers

Recommended Motion(s):

Approve the Following List of Additional Bus and Van Drivers for Frye Transportation, Inc.

Description:

1. Laura Fosnaught
2. Richard Cybak
3. Gregory Lawton
4. Joshua Lloyd
5. Thomas Hunt

6. Judith McKay

7. Aubrey Wilburn

12.J. Approve Student Activity Officers and Sponsors

Recommended Motion(s):

Approve Student Activity Officers and Sponsors

12.K. Approve Updated List of Fall Coaches

Recommended Motion(s):

Approve Updated List of 2026-2027 Fall Coaches and Sponsors

12.L. Approval of Action Agenda Consent Items

Recommended Motion(s):

Approve Action Agenda Consent Items 13A-13K

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

13.A. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting.

Recommended Motion(s):

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Description: 7:10pm

Motion by Leslie Rizzi to adjourn into executive session to discuss confidential student matters.



Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit
Board Notes #591
August 26, 2026

Meeting Information

The Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit (BVIU) Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting on August 26, 2026, at 6:30 PM.

Attendance

Members Present: Mrs. Romasco, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Thompson, Mr. VanZalinge, Mr. Mowad, Mr. Inman, Mrs. Klessner, Mr. D'Itri, Mrs. Ceratti, Mr. Hunter and Mr. Blackwell

Members Absent: Ms. Gill, Mrs. Marino and Mrs. Hanes

Others Present: Dr. Rosendale, Attorney Al Steff, Mrs. Niedbala, Mrs. Ference, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Fenton, Mr. Sanderbeck, Mr. Huwar, A. Noah, J. Dugan, J. Wallace, H. Griffith, C. Taylor and R. Dixon

Action Taken

- Accepted resignations of the following personnel:
 - Mrs. Melissa Niedbala, Director of Special Education effective September 25, 2026
 - Ms. Kimberly Buglak, Teacher Aide, effective August 5, 2026
 - Ms. Ann Mooney, Teacher Aide, effective August 5, 2026
 - Ms. Amber Wilbert, Teacher Aide, effective August 14, 2026
 - Ms. Lindsey Redinger, Behavior Health Technician, effective August 14, 2026
- Employed the following people:
 - Mr. Jerrod Rebich as Transition Manager, effective with the start of the 2026-2027 school year
 - Mrs. Antoinette Brucker, Special Education Teacher at New Horizon North, effective August 17, 2026

Mr. Kristan Cruise, Special Education Teacher at New Horizon School, effective August 17, 2026

Ms. Lisa Liptak, Special Education Teacher at New Horizon School, effective August 20, 2026

Ms. Brittney McFarland, Shared Aide at New Horizon North, effective August 17, 2026

Mr. Matthew Phillips, Shared Aide at New Horizon North, effective August 17, 2026

Mrs. Julie Strickler, Shared Aide at New Horizon North, effective August 17, 2026

Mr. Nathaniel Coene, Custodian at New Horizon School, effective date to be determined

- Changed Ms. Mandi Rea's status back to part-time as a Mental Health Professional
- Approved two (2) FMLA requests for employees
- Approved one (1) uncompensated leave for an employee
- Approved the following CPE Instructors for the Fall 2026 term:

Instructor	Address	Course	Instructor's Fee
Rick Roth	Glenshaw	• 21 ST Century Educator Essentials	\$1975.00
		• "Apps" & iPads in the K-12 Classroom	\$1975.00
		• "Any Device" Technology Tools in K-12	\$1975.00
		• Teaching K-12 Problem Solving Using Computational Thinking in All Subjects	\$1975.00
Rhonda & Michael Bielawski	Bradford Woods	• Addressing Learning Disabilities in Education: Inclusive Practices	\$1975.00
		• ADHD in Education: Inclusive Practices	\$1975.00
		• A New Look at Working with Students with Autism	\$1975.00
		• Autism in Education: Inclusive Practices	\$1975.00
		• Adopting a Growth Mindset	\$1975.00

Instructor	Address	Course	Instructor's Fee
Colleen Anzio	Pittsburgh	• A-Z Guide on Positive Discipline-Solutions for the Classroom Behavior Problems	\$1975.00
		• Active and Engaging Strategies for the Inclusive Classroom	\$1975.00
		• Achieving Excellence-14 Things That Matter Most	\$1975.00
		• ABC's on Teaching Strategies for Pre-K-3	\$1975.00
		• A+ Ideas for Every Student's Success	\$1975.00
		• Art of Interaction	\$1975.00
Jill Brooks	Munhall	• Designing a Digital Classroom	\$1975.00
		• Developing Media Literacy Skills	\$1975.00
		• Digital Literacy Skills	\$1975.00
		• Tech Tools for 21 st Century Learners	\$1975.00
		• There's an App for That	\$1975.00
		• The Fundamentals of Project Based Learning	\$1975.00
		• Culturally Responsive Teaching	\$1975.00
		• Social and Emotional Learning	\$1975.00
		• How to View Students Through a Trauma Lens	\$1975.00
		• Innovative Teaching with AI	\$1975.00
William Yerger	Bethlehem, PA	• The First Days of School: How to be an Effective Teacher	\$1975.00
		• Multiple Intelligences in the Classroom	\$1975.00
		• Writing Alive: Strategies, Techniques and Materials	\$1975.00
		• Motivating and Inspiring Today's Students	\$1975.00

Instructor	Address	Course	Instructor's Fee
Danielle Nuhfer	Wyomissing, PA	- Teachers Building Resilience and Creating Compassionate Classrooms - Mindfulness for Educators and Their Students	\$1975.00 \$1975.00
Melissa Borgia Askey	Beaver Falls, PA	- Structuring Productive Group Work and Discussions - ESL for Everyone	\$1975.00 \$1975.00

- Approved closing an IBHS manager's position and adding an assistant supervisor's position
- Ratified an agreement with Aetna Network Services for the provision of IBHS services for reimbursement
- Approved purchasing additional licenses for the three-year agreement with TeachTown
- Approved an agreement with Frye Transportation for the 2026 – 2027 school year
- Amended the current agreement with FTF Behavioral Consultants to include Practical Functional Assessment

Addendum

- Appointed Mr. Zachry Huwar as the Director of Special Education effective August 27, 2026
- Employed the following persons as Shared Aides at New Horizon School:
 - Ms. Alyssa Ramstine, effective date to be determined
 - Ms. Harlee Barton, effective date to be determined
- Adopted a Memorandum of Understanding resolving the grievance filed on or about June 22, 2026

Reports

Executive Director - Dr. Rosendale gave kudos to the maintenance staff. He stated that they have been working tirelessly and have done a great job getting everything ready for school!

Dr. Rosendale informed the Board that we will be moving to the Keystone agenda, hopefully for the next meeting.

Solicitor - Mr. Steff said that he's been busy as usual. He stated that we need to have an Executive Session with no action to be taken to discuss potential litigation.

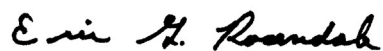
Other Business - Mrs. Niedbala stated that we had a great first day of school. The students and staff are happy to be back. She stated that we have 164 students at New Horizon School and 52 students at New Horizon North. She reminded everyone that the September Board meeting will be held at New Horizon School in conjunction with open house. Mrs. Niedbala wished Mr. Huwar the best of luck in his new role.

Mrs. Klesser stated that she went to New Horizon School on the first day and said everything looked great.

Mr. Mowad commended SitelogiQ, the administration and staff for the hard work that they have been doing.

Public Comment – None

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Eric G. Rosendale
Executive Director

EGR/cbf

Freedom Area School District
Buildings and Grounds Report
October 1, 2026

- Items of interest at our High School:
 1. Exhaust fan Ex-14 had a failed motor. The new motor has arrived and will be installed soon.
 2. Materials have arrived for repairs to the cast iron drain line in the gym area. This drain line has failed and we will be replacing the pipe and shielded couplers as soon as possible.

- Items of interest at our Middle School:
 1. We experienced a roof leak leading to ceiling tile damage in room E-106 in the second wing. We contacted the roofing company, sent photos and assisted with the repair of the area.
 2. While performing biannual service on our Pneumatic compressor, a faulty water separator was found. This unit was replaced in house for a cost of \$463.00 in parts.

3. Exhaust fan Ex-15 has a failed motor. I will be replacing this motor when it arrives. The last motor I installed was from September 2012.

- Items of interest at our Elementary School:

1. The new fire alarm cable was pulled by CCI and terminated into the panel by myself. After completing a hard restart, a fault was found in the main panel with one control board. I have two control boards ordered, one for each panel or possible backup. Upon arrival, I will be working with Intertech to install and program the new board. Both the Middle and Elementary schools have working fire alarm systems currently. The two buildings just don't communicate between each system.

- General updates:

1. The treatment on the baseball field continues. We completed the aeration along with over seeding last week. The grass fungus has greatly improved. We expect to need one additional treatment this fall to be ready for the spring sport season.

2026-27 Teacher Mentors		
TEACHER	MENTOR	
Phil Goerig - Year 2	Hope Bennett	
Nolan Colaric - Year 2	Cole Eged	
Lauren Sowa-Doku - Year 2	Jennifer Glover	
Olivia Evans - Year 2	Laura Miller	
Lydia DuFour - Year 2	Leslie DePace	
Anna O'Connor - Year 2	Hailey Burks	
Nathan Millison - Year 1	Linnea Homa	
Nancy Kroll - Year 1	Nicole Spiker	
Mackenzie Hazlett - Year 1	Erin Carnevale	
Madison Slowinski - Year 1	Gretchen Meyer	tenured teacher

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
SUBJECT: STUDENT ACTIVITY ACCOUNT OFFICERS
DATE: 10/1/26

Please approve the following as 2026-2027 Student Activity Officers and Sponsors:

MS STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Sponsor – Jim Culler

President – Lucas Miller

Vice-President – Hannah VanDeCar

Secretary – Aubrey Capehart

Treasurer – Grayson Pivik

Updated: 10-1-2026

FREEDOM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

2026-27 Fall Coaches & Sponsors

BAND	
Lawrence, Julia	Band Director
Weber, Jacob	Assistant Band Director
Wallis, Jen	Co-Drill Team Sponsor
Muron, Marques	Co-Drill Team Sponsor
Bellinger, Joseph	Co-Drumline Sponsor
Hinkle, Jamie	Co-Drumline Sponsor
Sterrett, Michelle	Majorette Sponsor
Gregory, Emily	Color Guard Sponsor
Capehart, John	Drumline/Band (Volunteer)
BASKETBALL	
TBD	Basketball Girls Middle School Head Coach
CHEERLEADING	
Barone, Alyssa	Cheer Varsity Head Coach
Lewis, Maggie	Cheer Varsity Asst.
Lane, Grace	Cheer Middle School Asst.
Mosconi, Leia	Cheer Middle School Asst.
CROSS COUNTRY	
DeLong, Chris	Cross Country Varsity Head Coach
Spencer, Ashley	Cross Country Varsity Asst.
FOOTBALL	
Balog, Ron	Football Varsity Head Coach
Ward, Guy	Football Varsity Asst.
Bailey, Dayne	Football Varsity Asst.
Marsillio, Anthony	Football Varsity Asst.
Leasha, Joe	Football Varsity Asst.
Leasha, John	Football Varsity Asst.
Stoll, Dan	Football Varsity Asst.
Leasha, Joe, Jr.	Football Varsity Asst./Equipment/Video (Volunteer)

Brown, Matt	Football Middle School Head Coach
Leasha, Austin	Football Middle School Asst.
Tatko, John	Football Middle School Asst. (Volunteer)
Minzenberg, Reed	Football Middle School Asst. (Volunteer)
GOLF	
Culler, Jim	Golf Varsity Head Coach
DeNome, Dante	Golf Varsity Asst.
SOCCER (BOYS)	
Mohrbacher, John	Soccer Boys Varsity Head Coach
Collins, Casey	Soccer Boys Varsity Asst.
Mohrbacher, Tyler	Soccer Boys Varsity Asst.
Singh, Gabriel	Soccer Boys Varsity Asst.
Mesing, Tanner	Soccer Boys Varsity Asst. (Volunteer)
Spieler, Casey	Soccer Boys Middle School (Volunteer)
SOCCER (GIRLS)	
Williams, Colin	Soccer Girls Varsity Head Coach
Keller, Chris	Soccer Girls Varsity Asst.
Barlamas, Alexia	Soccer Girls Varsity Asst.
Keller, Chloe	Soccer Girls Varsity Asst. (Volunteer)
Gilarno, Corey	Soccer Girls Middle School Head Coach
Warner, Millacent	Soccer Girls Middle School (Volunteer)
VOLLEYBALL	
Kennedy, Jessica	Volleyball Varsity Head Coach
Williams-Mitchell, Makenzie	Volleyball Varsity Asst.