

**Freeport School District
Freeport, Illinois
Office of the Superintendent
“Making a Difference For Each Student”**

Superintendent’s Newsletter Vol. 9 No. 1

August 27, 2010

**This is the first in the ninth series of occasional newsletters. I welcome your comments and suggestions. If there is something you would like me to address, please let me know.
peter.flynn@freeport.k12.il.us**

Welcome Back

I wanted to begin this first newsletter of the year, but saying to each of you:

“You are valued.”

Our school district is fortunate to have great workers, professionals- certified and classified and we are so grateful to you for all that you have done for the students of our school district and for what you are about to do in this upcoming school year. We thank you for choosing to join us or continue to be a part of the Freeport School District. Please don’t hesitate to share your ideas with us to continuously improve our school district. Whether your idea pertains to the entire system or the area in which you work, we appreciate suggestions and recommendations for doing things better.

Remember that as we address the challenges of getting every student to achieve we do so together. We will provide that educational sanctuary for our students, where they will be safe and secure so that learning can take place. We must **be the change** that we want for our students. And if we become that change, our collaborative efforts will ensure that

**MORE STUDENTS WILL LEARN AND
STUDENTS WILL LEARN MORE.**

Thanks for the Opening of School

Each year is unique as it presents different challenges and issues for us to deal with. This year with a new grade structure, slightly modified starting times, school uniforms and some considerable changes to our transportation plans, we had some extra variables to take into account. Through your hard work and good preparation we had a relatively smooth opening around the school district. Thank you.

We had a major glitch on Thursday with the new transportation badges. This caused some of our students to arrive home very late. Dallas Rackow and the staff figured out the cause of the problem and corrected it by early afternoon on Friday. Dallas reported that all students were dropped off by 5:00 p.m. on Friday. Apparently, there was a bottleneck on West and Moseley Streets which we are addressing and will have corrected on Monday.

If there are some other issues that we should know about and correct, please contact me directly or your union representative.

Our Mission

**In partnership with students, family and community,
we educate every student for the challenges of today and the opportunities of tomorrow
through the continuous pursuit of excellence.**

**Freeport School District
Freeport, Illinois
Office of the Superintendent
“Making a Difference For Each Student”**

Superintendent’s Newsletter

August 27

Page Two

How shall we dress?

A committee led by Pat Norman, Ryan Pierce and Yaa Appiah, which included teachers, administrators and parents after careful and deliberative study recommended the tightening of our dress code including a uniformity of dress, limiting the options for students in what and how they could dress. This plan is being phased in with the elementary schools this year, followed by the middle and high schools in successive years.

We realize that if we required a certain dress, it would be a change in work conditions for some of you and therefore an item for collective bargaining. So, as in the past, when we have addressed this issue, we have agreed without a written statement that we would all adhere at least to the standard that we hold for the students.

If you have questions about what is appropriate to wear, please talk with your immediate supervisor.

Budget Matters Always a Looming Issue

Last fiscal year, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) was unable to find the money to provide us with more than \$1,000,000 that was due to our school district. Currently, ISBE is about \$700,000,000 behind in payments to school districts for the fiscal year that ended on June 30th. They have asked us to keep our books open on these payments until December 31, 2010.

Meanwhile we have begun a new fiscal year and we have developed our budget for the 2010-2011 year, which we will ask the Board of Education to approve on September 15th, based on an expectation of slow, decreased or non-existent payments amounting to \$2,000,000. We are also asking the Board to help fund our budget by using approximately \$600,000 from our fund balance.

Rumor Buster

Each time I write one of these newsletters, if there are rumors that I know of, I am going to take a ‘rumor’ or two (this time we have none) and try to either confirm or dispel. If you would like a rumor dealt with in one of these newsletters please send it to me. Sorry, no anonymous mail is read in our office. But remember, there is nothing wrong with questioning a rumor. It is in the interest of open and honest communications.

No rumors, yet. Let me know if you have a rumor you would like me to address.

Our Mission
**In partnership with students, family and community,
we educate every student for the challenges of today and the opportunities of tomorrow
through the continuous pursuit of excellence.**

**Freeport School District
Freeport, Illinois
Office of the Superintendent
“Making a Difference For Each Student”**

Superintendent’s Newsletter

August 27

Page Three

Upcoming Events during September

Board of Education Meeting	September 1, 2010	Blackhawk School
CareerTEC Exec Comm	September 9, 2010	CareerTEC Office
District Leadership Team	September 14, 2010	Board Room
Secretaries Advisory Committee	September 15, 2010	Central Office Conf Rm
Homecoming Parade	September 15, 2010	Empire Street
Board of Education Meeting	September 15, 2010	Board Room
Poverty Symposium	September 16, 2010	SC Farm Bureau
Freeport Comm Public School Fund	September 21, 2010	Board Room
Supt Student Adv Comm	September 22, 2010	FMS Conf Ctr
Administrative Faculty Adv Council	September 23, 2010 (tentative)	Board Room
Institute Day	September 24, 2010	District
USW Contract Review	September 24, 2010	Empire School
Key Communicators	September 24, 2010	Board Room
District Leadership Team	September 28, 2010	FMS Conf Ctr

Our Mission
**In partnership with students, family and community,
we educate every student for the challenges of today and the opportunities of tomorrow
through the continuous pursuit of excellence.**