

Freeville Elementary School
Facts and FAQ
December 12, 2022

Superintendent's Elementary Planning Meeting Group

This a committee brought together by Superintendent Josh Bacigalupi. The purpose of the group is to make recommendations to the Board of Education (BOE) regarding programming and configuration. While the meetings of this group are not open to the public, the minutes will be posted at www.freevilleny.org/fes each month.

There are over twenty members, most of whom are school District employees. It includes principals, teachers, and administrative staff such as those in charge of food service, transportation, curriculum, and facilities. Additionally each of the three elementary schools (Dryden, Freeville, Cassavant) has a community representative and a parent representative.

Representatives for Freeville:

Audrey Ryan, Principal

Cynthia Simonet, 3rd Grade teacher

Community: Stephanie Goddard

Parent: Julie McLean, PTA President

The first meeting was held on 12/5/22. It was a review of the slides first shown at the 9/26/22 BOE workshop that was open to the public. For those already familiar with the slides, there is a notable addition regarding “Scenario 6” as being considered by many as a win-win. The link to the new slides can be accessed within the minutes. Look for the “Scenario 6” slides toward the end.

Future meetings will be held monthly. The next three will concentrate on each of the elementary schools.

Board of Education (BOE) Subcommittee

A subcommittee has been identified to receive recommendations from the Superintendent’s committee described above. As of this writing, the BOE committee has yet to meet. Details about the makeup of the committee and meeting plans are public record. That information can be found within the video recordings and minutes of past BOE meetings on the District’s website

https://www.dryden.k12.ny.us/b_o_e/archives

At both the November and December meetings, the topic was the last item on the BOE agenda so you may want to skip to the end of the minutes or videos.

FAQs

What do the acronyms in the slides stand for?

UPK - Universal Pre Kindergarten

IEP - Individualized Education Program

ICT - Integrated Co-Taught

MAPS - Multi Age Program and Supports

SCIS - Special Class in an Integrated Setting

DTC - Director Teacher Consult

How would the closing of Freeville Elementary affect the community?

Studies show a 20% difference between property values in communities with schools and without schools. Example: a 20% difference in property values and loss of that tax levy contribution for those residing in the Freeville community would create an approximate 114K dollar shortfall for the District that would need to be covered by the taxpayers.

Does the District need to close schools in order to save money?

No. The District is in good fiscal health. In fact, the District would not only lose tax revenue from Freeville as described above, it will lose some state funding as well.

When are the committees expected to reach a decision?

There is no deadline for either committee. According to the Superintendent, there is no sense of urgency to reach a decision.

Will there be public hearings or a referendum?

That is a decision the BOE will make if necessary.