

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 358
January 13, 2022

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The regularly scheduled meeting of the Freeman School District Board of Directors was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Chair Bill Morphy. There was a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Annie Keebler, Bill Morphy, Neil Fuchs (Zoom), Danielle Santman, Ed Cashmere, Randy Russell and Alan Steinolfson were present.

GUESTS: Lisa Phelan, Jim Straw, Jeff Smith, Chad Ripke, Scott Moore, Cole Clark-ASB Pres., Isaiah Lindsley, ASB VP, Claire Paulsen MS ASB P, Tanya Paynter, Tommy Tribbett, Jess Gillrein (Zoom)

FLAG SALUTE: Jim Straw led us in the flag salute.

CONSENT AGENDA:

December 9, 2021 Board Minutes

December Gen. Fund Mid-Month AP - 118179-118179	\$ 16,597.16
December ASB Mid-Month AP 118180-118180	\$ 7,625.71
December General Fund AP - 118181-118235	\$ 93,838.13
December CPF AP - 118236	\$ 3,393.19
December ASB Fund AP - 118237-118252	\$ 13,759.53
December Gen. Fund Accounts Payable Direct Deposits	\$ 9,941.92
December ASB Accounts Payable Direct Deposits	\$ 287.84
December Payroll - 118253-118259 & Direct Deposit	\$862,158.63
Budget Status and Treasurer's Report	

Annie Keebler moved the Board approve the consent agenda as presented. Danielle Santman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

OATH OF OFFICE

The Oath of Office was administered to Ed Cashmere:

I, Ed Cashmere, do hereby solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Washington and will faithfully discharge the duties of Director of Freeman School District No. 358, Spokane County, State of Washington, to the best of my ability.

PACE CHARACTER TRAIT:

FAIRNESS – Treating people and ideas with justice and impartiality.

BOARD RECOGNITION:

HS ASB Mid-Year Report

- HS ASB School year theme is “Back to Better”
- Turnouts for sports are great – students are dressing up for games based on themes
- Working on PACE Character traits
- Food Drive – collected 2,000 pounds
- Homecoming Week went great – halls decorated, student participation, sports went well
- Did a moment of silence on September of 13th – want to continue the tradition
- Sent a sign to Oxford HS who experienced a shooting – students signed
- Fundraisers – have been busy this year. Selling old jerseys, made \$1500 so far; Freeman Cares – record number setting & students received community service hours.
- Veterans Day Program – went very well – received good student feedback
- ASB & Students love working with the new Admin at the HS; ASB has heard great feedback about new staff
- Planning a winter spirit week for the Golden Garment Game (Golden Theme)
- Plan to create a video involving all students by walking through halls with background music to show incoming new students – will advertise clubs, etc. (Market the HS on YouTube)

MS ASB Mid-Year Report

- Doing Lunch events – (Fall, Winter & Spring) great turnout and students are enjoying it.
- Had a Fall Spirit Week – student decided days; hoping to have a Spring Spirit Week
- Did a Food Drive – MS had 470 items; Elem to Valleyford Comm. Church;
- Recognizing PACE Character Traits monthly
- Did Learning activities leading up to winter break (Reindeer CSI, Gingerbread Mini Houses)
- Will do Heart Grams – 100% of profits will go to SCRAPS

School Board Recognition Month – Building the Future of Public Education

- Annie Keebler and Neil Fuchs were recognized for 10 years of service on the School Board
- Randy thanked the Board on behalf of the Leadership Team & read a Proclamation from the Governor thanking the Board

Positive, supportive, caring – Thank you school board members!

CORRESPONDENCE: None**BUILDING REPORTS:****Lisa Phelan, Elementary Principal, reports:**Overview

- The FES staff is working together reviewing ELA curriculum to adopt and implement during the 22/23 school year
- The enrollment continues to climb K-5. Last January, K-5 enrollment was 307 and today the current total is at 340 (up one from December's count).

Areas of Focus

- The area of focus for FES is to keep students in school. The Omicron variant has brought staff challenges. However, the RES staff is committed to helping out where needed to help our students on campus.
- Certificated Professional Development – AVID training with Rob Reavis and ELA review

Enrollment

K-61, 1-48, 2-52, 3-53, 4-62, 5-64 = 340 Total - Preschool 33

Jim Straw, Middle School Principal, reports:Overview

- Serving students at school, in class.
- Learning and implementing AVID school-wide strategies to support student engagement.
- Staff and students are participating in a daily Advisory that includes Social Emotional Curriculum, Digital Citizenship, College and Career Ready Content and organizational/study skills.
- Currently, attendance is a challenge.

Areas of Focus

- Ended the calendar year with two great science units: Santa CSE Reindeer Napping and Gingerbread Tiny Homes.
- WSU College of Medicine presented to our 7th graders on Tuesday. It was great! The students loved it! They will be returning March 1st.

Enrollment

6-62, 7-83, 8-80 (+2) = 225 Total (+2)

Chad Ripke, Dean of Students/Athletic Director reports:Overview

- New guidance came out from DOH on Monday; the 5th change since school started.
- Quarantine period is now a 6-day period, and may return if symptoms have subsided. Testing winter athletes and cheerleaders 3 times a week, now. Same for the middle school basketball players. 8th grade is on a pause until Tuesday.
- Golden Garment game next Friday at EWU; girls-6 pm, boys-8 pm

Areas of Focus

- Control what we can control. Trying our best to keep kids in school learning, on the courts and mats, and fans in the stands. An email was sent out to all winter sport athletes, cheerleaders and parents to please mask up while attending games. Possibility of having to go to so many tickers per athlete like we had to last year. Also, the possibility of going to no fans at games. State tournaments are still planned to go as originally planned at this time. We don't want to lose the trust of the DOH. If we do, they will take it away.

- Lots of rescheduled games; trying to get games in as we can; lots of changes have happened over the last few weeks.

Enrollment

Boys Basketball - 30

Girls Basketball - 21

Wrestling - 14

Cheer - 11

Jeff Smith, High School Principal, reports:

Overview

- Looking to finish the 1st semester strong! Hoping for the best . . . prepared to be flexible.

Areas of Focus

- Freeman FBLS's Cares 4 Kids – 35 volunteers, 114 kids served, \$1241.50 raised for the Ronald McDonald House.
- First semester finals are set
- Graduation requirements are almost complete
- First Drama productions are in process
- First Choir/Band concert is set
- ASB is gearing up for the Golden Garment
- MLK Assembly
- Building PD Friday – Collaborative work on Advisory, Zoom and Google, finals preparation

Enrollment

9-86, 10-66, 11-72, 12-71 = 295 Total

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- Concern of the district right now is Staff Availability. Daily check in w/ Principals, Nurses & Randy on staff absences. Each Director/Principal has a "tipping point". The intent is to stay in person, but a plan is in place. If we need to go virtual, we could pull it together in approximately 3 hours.
- Randy emphasized the extra work that staff and Principals are enduring and doing great.
- Randy highlighted this is one of the best years for PD. Couple of staff are getting Admin credentials.
- Randy mentioned there will be no trial for the 2017 incident and went over how the sentencing may take months and that laws have changed since the incident happened.

Learn Successful Change Management Strategies:

Grow Collaboration and Ownership:

- Enrollment is up above budgeted amounts. Cash Reserve is in a good spot.

Re-imagine Equitable Learning Systems:

Communicate Well in Crisis:

- Annual CEE survey will be in March.

Empathy, Self-Care and Team Building:

Engage Students, Staff and Community:

Elevate Learning Opportunities and Success for All Students:

BOARD COMMENTS:

- Board member asked if there was any pushback to the possibility of going virtual. Randy advised No.
- Annie and Danielle discussed the status of the Elementary Curriculum Adoption and where the committee is at in the process.
- Bill brought up the need to discuss the possibility for the need to establish a Resolution regarding Covid-19 Vaccine mandates.

VISITORS COMMENTS & CONCERNS:

- Tanya Paynter brought up that CDC is advising that cloth masks don't work against the Omicron variant, should we consider requiring staff to wear N95 or KN95 masks to protect them.
- Alan & Randy will look into a large PPE Order. Guests asked that if we find a source – we should communicate out to families to assist in purchasing
- Tommy Tribbett thanked the district – his 1st grader went home and talked all about MLK as well as the Freeman Cares Program – he was thankful for it. He also brought up if we can make the Sub Hiring process easier (less technological). He also questioned if we have thought of workarounds for keeping students in session – maybe not in classrooms but all students in the gym or lunchroom because of limited staffing. Also would like us to consider, if we are only closing school due to staff shortage – could we keep sports going if we have the coaching staff available.

NEW BUSINESS:

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY NO. 2108 – 1ST READING:

Annie Keebler moved the Board approve Board Policy No. 2108 – Learning Assistance Program, as presented. Danielle Santman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY NO. 2418 – 1ST READING:

Ed Cashmere moved the Board approve Board Policy No. 2418 – Waiver of High School Graduation Credits, as presented. Annie Keebler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

OTHER INFORMATION:

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2022, at 6:00pm in the K-8 MPR. Plan on an Executive Session at the next 2 board meetings.

PERSONNEL ACTION:

Certified: _____ Carli Kadzejs – Emergency Substitute (Current Staff Member)

Annie Keebler moved the Board approve the personnel action as presented. Danielle Santman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The board went into Executive Session at 12:52 pm for the purpose set forth in RCW 42.30.110. specifically, the following: to evaluate a public employee. Such session is estimated to be approximately 1 hour in length. Action is expected upon return. The Board announced at 1:50 pm that they would return to open session in 45 more minutes. The Board returned to open session at 2:37 pm. Ed Cashmere moved the Board extend the Superintendent contract from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025. Danielle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: The board meeting adjourned at 2:38pm with no further action.

Recording Secretary

Board Secretary

Board Chair