

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 358
November 22, 2021

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The regularly scheduled meeting of the Freeman School District Board of Directors was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Annie Keebler. There was a quorum present.

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

GUESTS: Debbie Morphy, Lisa Phelan, Jim Straw, Jeff Smith, Chad Ripke, Char Trejbal, Jody Sweeney, Kirk Lally, Todd Reed, Kent Bevers, Everett Combs, Mike Allen, Stacey Rawson, Chris Thosath, Juli VanGemert, Rita Hansen, Angelique Bazar, Gena Hawk, Brooke Hames, Matt Collinson, Joe Cragin, Alyona Collinson, Donna Cragin, Echo Thompson, Michelle Dau, Jeremy Dau, Brandon Showers, Octavious Tookes, Alee Lents, Patty Gibson, Al Riddle, Mike Valente, Andrew Gibson, Rachel Spencer, Desseray Ellis, Dena Olson, Gregg Gemmet, Joe Schweiger, Kirsten Schweiger, Maria Wilson, Ryan Larkin, Steve Bailey, Barb Gady, Sonya Mounts, Jason Mounts, Eli Mounts, Ava Mounts, Jason Burton, Dwayne Gady, Dawn Cofone, Roman Cofone, Autumn Hoyer, Brook Hoyer, Mick McFarland, Lawrence Wilson, Dana Moss, Brian Bazar, Becky Ruark, Jason Farrow, Jessica Gilrein, Annie Murphey, Jenn Baumgartner, Kristin Primmer, Matt Breuig and Becky Hernandez.

FLAG SALUTE: Deputy Joe Reno led us in the flag salute.

CONSENT AGENDA:

October 28th, 2021 Board Minutes	
November Mid-Month AP - 118072-118074	\$ 36,640.69
November Mid-Month AP - Direct Deposits	\$ 2,370.52
November General Fund AP - 118098-118153	\$145,176.73
November ASB Fund AP - 118075-118097	\$ 12,306.43
November CPF AP - 118154	\$ 7,106.00
November TVF AP - 118155	\$105,317.02
November Accounts Payable Direct Deposits	\$ 8,495.15
November Payroll - 118156-118164	\$842,536.45
Budget Status and Treasurer's Report	

Neil Fuchs moved the Board approve the consent agenda as presented. Bill Morphy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

BOARD RECOGNITION:

- Eli Mounts – HS Principal Jeff Smith, awarded a National Merit Scholar Letter of Commendation to Eli. After taking the PSAT last year, Eli finished in the top 50,000 out of 2 million students tested. Congratulations and great job, Eli!

PACE CHARACTER TRAIT:

CITIZENSHIP – Positively contributing to society & community and dutifully respecting authority & the law.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Central Washington University – Per credit price increase - \$55 to \$65
- WIAA
- Board and Administrator - November

BUILDING REPORTS:

Lisa Phelan, Elementary Principal, and Stacey Rawson, K-8 Counselor, reports:

Overview

- 5th grade leadership students took the lead with Fill the Gap food drive
- 90 day evaluations for new certificated employees are complete
- 30 day evaluations for new classified employees are complete
- Certificated observations in progress

Areas of Focus

- ELA curriculum adoption
- Minor/major infraction updates – PBIS – Aligning behavior expectations/adjustments – collaboration making modifications
- Holiday season approaching – Tree of Sharing launched this morning

Enrollment

K-59, 1-48, 2-51, 3-54, 4-62, 5-64 = 338 Total (up 2)

Jim Straw, Middle School Principal, reports:Overview

- Serving students at school, in class
- Participating in the Annual Food Drive to benefit the North Palouse Food Bank

Areas of Focus

- Crisis Drills & Planning – running monthly drills and working toward a lockdown drill with a signal in December
- ASB sponsored a lunchtime volleyball tournament for 6-8 grade students – 10 grade level teams signed up and played over five days
- Conferences- 61 scheduled group conferences (59 attended) over the two days – focused on new students, at-risk students and parent requests.
- Veterans' Day – slide show and celebration during Advisory – Thank you to Mr. Cochran, choir and the Leadership Class for putting it together.

Enrollment

6-62 (-2), 7-84, 8-78 = 224 (-2) Total

Jeff Smith, High School Principal, reports:Overview

- First quarter of 2021-2022 school year at FHS is successful!

Areas of Focus

- Fall SBA testing of 9, 11, and select 12th graders is complete: ASVAB offered in December
- Homecoming participation was active
- All four fall athletic teams represented FHS at the state level
- Fall conferencing provided an opportunity to create action plans for support
- The first staff evaluation cycle is nearing completion
- FHS Veterans' Day Assembly was well-organized and attended by approximately 60 Veterans
- FHS food drive in process

Enrollment

9-86 (+1), 10-67 (-1), 11-72, 12-71 (-1) = 296 (+1) Total

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

- Great showing by our students/ athletes/coaches this fall
- Football made it to the state tournament for the first time in 4 years
- Volleyball took 5th in State
- Soccer made it to the state tournament and lost to the team that took 2nd
- Cross Country had 4 kids qualify for the state tournament: Lilly Jones-10th, Dixie Sefton-14th, Barrett Paulson-29th, Eli Mounts-109th

Areas of Focus

- Postseason Athlete Survey – Survey emailed to all fall athletes last Monday. 40 athletes have participated, so far. Hoping to get feedback on the program as well as on the coaches from the student/athlete perspective to share with the coach.

Enrollment

Boys Basketball - 29

Girls Basketball – 21

Wrestling 18

MS Wrestling – 19

MS Volleyball – 8th-20, 7th-24

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**Char Trejbal, Transportation Supervisor, reports:**

- Down to one applicant interested in bus driving. She has started classroom training and will be testing soon. Pre-trip inspection and behind the wheel training to follow.
- The new basic bus that was ordered has been built. It will head to Pasco where additional options will be added, then on to WSP for inspection. The EPA grant process can continue as soon as all paperwork for the new bus is received.
- The new SpEd bus that was ordered is still waiting on parts.

Kent Bevers, Nutrition Services Director, reports:**1. Learn successful change management strategies**

- Beginning screening and interviewing process for vacant position.
- Supply chain issues remain, but seem to be getting a little better. One example: ordered cases of 4-ounce yogurt, was told that particular brand was out of stock, substituted with a different brand, and ended up getting both.
- Just received notification from OSPI today that ***“Starting January 2022, all food-service providers, including school cafeterias, will no longer be allowed to automatically provide single-use food service items (straws, forks, sporks, spoons, cold drink lids, condiment packages, etc.) to students”.***

3. Re-imagine equitable learning systems (Equitable access to food)

- Just a reminder about salad bar at the high school beginning Nov. 29. We are excited about this, and hope it will increase participation.

6. Engage students, staff and community

- Non-competitive grant approved. Will begin purchasing equipment for digital displays soon.
- I will have an opportunity soon to visit with Mrs. Hendricks 4th grade class. Her students want to talk to me about the menu – it will be a great opportunity for me to connect with more students, and get good feedback.

Jody Sweeney, SpEd Director/School Psych, reports:Overview

- Special Education Team is playing a collaborative role by attending conferences and meetings with our colleagues in general education.

Areas of Focus

- Conducting assessments with new referrals for evaluation and reevaluations
- Initial evaluation, reevaluation, and IEP meeting this time of year
- Training and mentoring new secretary, SLP, and Special Ed teachers – team collaboration
- Assisting with the CPR audit
- Hiring a new para-educator
- Working to schedule time with the bus drivers to provide support and information
- Planning para training to meet the PESB/OSPI requirements
- Assisting with para and teacher observations and meetings when requested
- Appreciative of all the caring professionals we have at Freeman

Enrollment

116 + 7 initial evaluations in communication and 6 referrals for initial evaluations in other areas.

Todd Reed, Technology Director, reports:Areas of Focus

- Continually working with staff/students on meeting their technology needs.
- Triumph Electric has relayed that the manufacturer of the HS generator is shooting for a completion date of 12/2/21 as they are waiting for components caused by shipping delays.
- Hoffman Pro Sound finished the install of a new replacement amplifier in the HS blue gym for the PA sound system. The Veterans Day Program was the first use and the gym has never sounded better.
- Received funding from August application of 270 additional chrome books, but appealing the process as they did not include funding for the additional chrome book licenses. Hopefully, a quick process.

Kirk Lally, Maintenance/Custodial Director, reports:**2. Grow collaboration & ownership**

- Working with Mr. Ripke on winter sports needs
- Winter equipment is ready for use
- The big toy on the playground is all fixed and up and running.
- Meeting with OAC and contractors regarding MS upgrades

7. Elevate learning opportunities and success for all students

- Custodial continues to stay busy with normal daily duties.
- Substitute custodians are still needed. Kirk and Adam have had to cover several shifts.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- Every year, the Special Education Department is audited. Dr. Russell recognized Jody Sweeney, our Special Ed Director, and the Special Education staff for a job well done. The district received a met or exceeded rating in all areas of the audit, which is unheard of to get.
- The ESSER Funds accountability reporting is due by December 17th. Phase 1 & 2 monies were spent on PPE. Phase 3 used the funds for hiring a TOSA, additional support for testing and protocols, and the FMS HVAC project.

Learn Successful Change Management Strategies:**Grow Collaboration and Ownership:**

- Ending Cash Balance reflects the projected enrollment until January. Actual enrollment apportionments will be paid starting in January. We are right where we should be at this time of year.
- Enrollment has gained since the beginning of the year.

Re-imagine Equitable Learning Systems:

- The curriculum adoption committee is reviewing curriculum samples for grades K-5 reading adoption.

Communicate Well in Crisis:

- The trial is scheduled for January 18th. Updates will be discussed at the December 9th work session.
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Empathy, Self-Care and Team Building:**Engage Students, Staff and Community:**

- The district will continue to communicate to staff, students, parents, and community.
- Dr. Russell had a conversation with Chris Reykdal regarding future state mandates. Reykdal is asking the DOH to not change anything for this year. DOH is looking down the road. Mandates are beyond the district level. We can't control mask and vaccine mandates.

Elevate Learning Opportunities and Success for All Students:

- The staff has done a phenomenal job during the 1st quarter of school, along with students and parents. All are excited for 2nd quarter. Happy kids, happy staff.

BOARD COMMENTS:

- While at the WSSDA Conference and listening to other school districts, Freeman has shown what an amazing job our staff and teachers have done during this pandemic.
- The board has a further/better understanding regarding insurance and liability to the district and board.
- The board is proud of the staff for what they've done – able to do what other district aren't able to do.
- Out of 295 school districts in the state, 11 districts had originally chosen not to follow the mask mandate. That number is down to 3. Those 3 districts will not be receiving their apportionments starting in January.
- We will continue to follow the law, keep kids in school, and not break the law and put families in jeopardy.

VISITORS COMMENTS & CONCERNS:

- Protect students – Vaccine mandate concern
- SRH communication for next year – sign waivers to go against mandate
- Concerns regarding pop up vaccination clinics – parents' choice to vaccinate – plans if vaccine mandate is required
- Transmission rates same as vaccinated or unvaccinated
- Appreciate the district leadership – support the school to make the right decision
- Vaccine statistics – 98.9 % kids' survival rate
- Thanks for transparency – heard more rumors that what was communicated – legal is only advice – take care of our children
- Don't take dollars over students
- No pop-up clinics – won't allow children to get vaccinated
- District in a tough spot – impressed with school after the shooting – wait this out – don't like sweeping mandates
- No vaccination clinic at Freeman

NEW BUSINESS:**APPROVAL OF MIDDLE SCHOOL HVAC PROPOSAL PLANS:**

Bill Morphy moved the Board approve the MS HVAC Proposal Plans, as presented. Neil Fuchs seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

OTHER INFORMATION:

A board work session is scheduled for December 9, 2021, at the Palouse Regional Transportation Co-op at 2:00pm followed by the regular board meeting at 6:00 pm in the K-8 MPR.

PERSONNEL ACTION:

Certified: Ainslee Lemery –Substitute Teacher
 Seth Coleman – Emergency Substitute Teacher – Pending OSPI Approval
 Tina Freter – Emergency Substitute Teacher (Current Staff Member)
 Nate Jacobus – Emergency Substitute Teacher (Current Staff Member)
 Olivia Sementi – Emergency Substitute Teacher – Pending OSPI Approval

Classified: Robin Grant – Para-Educator
 Teresa Dickinson – AM SpEd Bus Assistant

Extracurricular: Mark Vetter – MS Assistant Wrestling Coach
 Colton Orrino – HS Assistant Wrestling Coach
 Bryce Williamson – HS Head Baseball Coach
 Scott Moore – 7th Grade Varsity Girls' Basketball Coach
 Scott Moore – 8th Grade Boys Head Basketball Coach

Neil Fuchs moved the Board approve the personnel action as presented. Ed Cashmere seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 7:27 pm, Annie Keebler announced the board would move into Executive Session to confer with legal counsel on matters relating to agency enforcement actions or litigation or potential litigation. The session will last for approximately 60 minutes. No action is expected. Executive Session ended at 8:30 pm. The board returned to the regular meeting at 8:33 pm. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT: The board meeting adjourned at 8:34pm with no further action.

Recording Secretary

Board Secretary

Board Chair