

BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 358  
MARCH 29, 2017

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, Neil Fuchs, Ed Cashmere, Travis Campbell, Randy Russell and Jamie Weingart. Excused John Zingg.

GUESTS: Jody Sweeney, Char Trejbal, Todd Reed, Debbie Morphy, Everett Combs, Kirk Lally, Lisa Phelan, Ben Ferney, Brian Parisotto, Harry Amend, Marci McGill, Ryan Russell and Ben Jamison.

FLAG SALUTE: Brian Parisotto led the audience in the flag salute.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Updated Personnel Report.

CONSENT AGENDA:

February 23, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes	
General Fund AP – 111249 - 111326	\$ 151,252.56
General Fund AP – Direct Deposits	\$ 4,725.07
ASB Fund AP – 111327 - 111345	\$ 16,289.90
Benefit Trust Fund AP – 111346 - 111347	\$ 31,589.21
March Payroll – 111348 - 111394	\$ 659,177.19
Treasurer's Statement/Budget Status	

Mr. Campbell moved the Board approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: Dr. Russell presented the Board the following correspondence:

- Letter from Dave and Mary Sandberg commending the boys basketball team and coaching staff on their attitude and performance at the state tournament
- Latest copy of Board and Administrator
- Article from March 9<sup>th</sup> from Spokesman review about the Chase Youth Awards. The Freeman girls basketball team had the highest GPA in the state and our FBLA group was recognized
- The WSSDA regional meeting is on May 4<sup>th</sup> at that High School
- The article from the Spokesman Review front page
- Letter from Ray Betz about the article from the Spokesman Review
- Shirley Carlson Retirement letter
- Audit entrance conference letter

Annie Keebler, Board Chair, read the districts mission statement "The Freeman School District is the center of a unique, rural community. With pride, commitment and caring, we provide a safe environment for all students to experience meaningful, rigorous learning opportunities that allow them to dream and develop into capable, confident and ethical members of the 21st Century."

## REPORTS

### BUILDING REPORTS:

Lisa Phelan, Elementary Principal, shared it has been a busy week at the elementary with conferences. The conference attendance percentage is about 99% and those parents that are not able to attend are reached by phone. The past month has included late start professional development for the teachers and paraeducators, profile meetings and the PACE awards assembly was held and the perfect attendance awards were presented. Lisa then shared an example of how many outstanding you's were turned in on a single Friday at the elementary school and explained where the different colors of the outstanding you's are handed out around campus. Art and Soul gave the Kindergarten and first grades a grant to attend a play and PTSG grants just went out. Enrollment is staying consistent at the elementary.

Ben Ferney, Middle School Principal, asked the Board if they had seen the show storm chasers, and used that as an analogy of what it was like at the Middle School this past week. Last week included ASB elections, career day and science fair - a lot happened in a single week. All but two of the second round observations are complete. Mr. Ferney shared girls basketball ends tomorrow and track will start after spring break. Student led conferences are underway this week and he was able to attend the Whitworth job fair. Enrollment has increased over the course of the year and the eighth grade class is once again a big group.

Harry Amend, Acting High School Principal, shared it has been busy at the high school as well. They have been working on the master schedule for next year and the first draft is now complete. Laura Hama, High School Counselor, is receiving class preferences from students and the final schedule and registration will take place at the end of April. Mr. Amend thanked Kirk and his team for doing an amazing job this winter on making sure our campus was ready for school and safe each day. Upcoming events include the Senior All Nighter Fundraiser Dinner on April 21<sup>st</sup> and the Art and Soul Auction is May 6<sup>th</sup>. Harry thanked the parents and students for their flexibility this spring with adjustments in schedules and rescheduling due to weather. The Spokane Guild School Benefit Assembly will be on April 17<sup>th</sup> at the High School. Enrollment has remained steady.

Brian Parisotto, Athletic Director, shared multiple games have been rained out and we have been scrambling to get games scheduled and to find fields dry enough to play on. The teams in our league are great and everyone has been as flexible as possible. Our staff has been great in helping out and getting everything setup before games. Brian shared the scheduling process for the master schedule at the high school is very interesting and the feedback from the staff has been mostly positive. With the single lunch, the high school will be able to use the auto scheduling function for next year, as kids aren't worried about which lunch they have. This should hopefully make scheduling a bit easier for our counselor.

### DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Jody Sweeney, Special Education Director, shared the profile meetings at the elementary were great and the amount of care the teachers have for the kids is never ending. She is working on scheduling for next year and meeting with the teachers and special education staff about which students will be transitioning. We are very lucky to have such a great group of paraeducators who have amazing experience and bring many skills to our district. Jody has started working with the para's on collaboration during the late start days and the group is running with process. We are not yet at the point that any of our hearing impaired kids are moving to the middle school and we are still contracting with the state for audiologist for their services.

Marci McGill, Nutrition Services Director, shared things are going well. Over spring break a new steam well will be installed at the elementary school thanks to a grant we received. She is looking at adding an option for a grab and go lunch at the High School after spring break, to encourage even more participation. Marci shared she will be reaching out to the spring sports coaches to see if they are interested in sports nutrition education for their athletes.

Char Trejbal, Transportation Director, shared the key to this spring has definitely been flexibility. One week had eight trips canceled due to weather. Two of the drivers will be going into the k-3 classrooms this spring talking about bus safety and proper loading and unloading for the buses. Our new bus will arrive this spring, hopefully in time for the rush of spring sports.

Everett Combs, Assistant Transportation Director, shared he had nothing to report.

Kirk Lally, Facilities Director, shared we will be sweeping the parking lots later in April as it is too wet currently to do the sweeping over spring break. Float pumps were installed in the mechanical room in the elementary school to keep the water from coming in from the conduit causing flooding in the building. Kirk shared we have been a bit short staffed with some planned vacations and a birth in this department and he thanked the principals and staff for helping out where they could this past week.

Todd Reed, Technology Director, shared he finished the application for E-rate. He is looking into the options of getting onto the fiber cable that is along highways 27 to the casino as backup for more capacity to the current signal we are on. An anonymous tip line is being setup and Todd will finish his training tomorrow. It is the same tip line that Liberty is using and will be up and running after spring break to allow students/parents/community members to submit anonymous tips via text, phone or online.

#### SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT:

##### SCHOOL SAFETY, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT:

Dr. Russell shared Board Policy No. 3207 – Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying in lieu of the article that was published about the district and ensuring we all know what our policy and procedure are. Across our district most issues are being handled appropriately at the time and point of the issue by the nearest staff member. The larger issues go to the principals and the parents and any significant issues are going to Deputy Ron Nye to handle. As a district we can only act when an issue is brought to us and we encourage parents and students to bring issues forward. Dr. Russell shared our procedure outlines how we train staff and students to handle harassment, intimidation and bullying. Dr. Russell reminded the board and those present that we can only act on the situations that we are made aware of and we take all issues brought forward very seriously.

Brian Parisotto shared the majority of the issues that they deal with at the high school relate to problems that have happened outside of school and/or on social media that then spill over to the school setting. Lisa Phelan shared Deputy Ron Nye is brought in at the elementary school as well, to really let parents know how seriously we take accusations around bullying. Mr. Ferney shared at the middle school they spend a lot of time educating students on conflict and the difference between bullying and conflict. Across the district, anytime bullying is brought up, Deputy Nye is involved to ensure the issue is resolved. Dr. Russell shared in his time here, he feels we have followed our policy and procedure every time issues of bullying have arose. Mr.

Amend shared all staff and the board pride themselves in providing a safe nurturing environment for all students. The majority of the issues are overflow from the community into the school and the goal is always to work directly with the students to solve the problem at the lowest level possible. Mr. Amend shared he has not worked in a more positive environment than what he has witnessed at Freeman in the past year. Jody Sweeney shared across the district our best practices involve identifying and providing support for kids with social emotional goals. We are able to provide more interventions and preventions across the spectrum of curriculum and social skills than most districts, which helps to resolve conflicts.

Dr. Russell shared when an article comes out like this, often times you are judged in the harshest light. We received only three questions about how we are handling harassment, intimidation and bullying here at Freeman and on the flip side, we received over 200 messages in support of what we are doing as a district after the article. The support comes from our staff, our parents and our students. Dr. Russell shared he has a lot of respect for our High School students and how they handled the pressure of the article and their positive response. He reminded everyone to keep both hands on the wheel, even when it hurts, and encouraged all of us to take this as a learning opportunity, to ensure we reviewed the policy and procedures and have an open line of communication at all times.

#### CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT:

Dr. Russell shared he is impressed by the number of parents we have had participate in conferences. Across the district we have had great participation, even at the higher grade levels.

Dr. Russell shared we have had conversations about the SOARS program at the high school, which is our alternative program that serves some of our small, neighboring districts as well. Scott Moore and Deena Jackson have done a great job in building this program and we are now ready for the next step of what this program can be. This model will now include a “bookend” component, which will allow us to help the incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders more in an effort to get more students to stay on track, rather than focusing on the credit retrieval on the back end. Data will be reviewed around grades and scores on our eighth grade class and determinations around what population this program will support will be made. The largest indicator will be Algebra 1. Discussion ensued around what will be reviewed and the possibilities of what this program could be.

Annie Keebler shared the National School Boards Association conference was a great success and very valuable. She, Neil Fuchs and Dr. Russell were all able to attend and they split up at the conference to attend different sessions to ensure they heard as much information as possible. Annie then shared their presentation was the last the day of the conference first thing in the morning and the class was full and many people stayed after to talk to them. Annie shared our goal going forward is still to continuing sharing our knowledge with other School Boards. Dr. Russell shared just the very first session he attended, was worth the trip all together. Neil Fuchs shared he went to some very valuable sessions and he learned a lot of about perspective and picked up tidbits of information that he finds extremely useful. He also heard multiple pieces of feedback how much other districts appreciated the presentation from our school. Dr. Russell shared if the Board would like to continue down this track, they can submit a proposal for the WSSDA conference this fall. They have presented at the conference the past two years.

Dr. Russell reported the Center for Educational Effectiveness survey will be closing on Friday, after being open for multiple weeks. Once the data is reviewed and compiled we will get the results of the survey in mid-April, which will help us with future planning as a district.

FISCAL AND LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY:

Dr. Russell reviewed March enrollment and ending cash balances.

BOARD COMMENTS: Annie reminded the board to complete their public disclosure by April 17<sup>th</sup>.

VISITOR COMMENTS/CONCERNS: Ben Jamison stated he learned a lot tonight and thinks transparency of the district is important and easier or more clear access on website to policies might be helpful.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY AND PROCEDURE 5202 – 2<sup>nd</sup> READING:

Mr. Campbell moved the Board approve Board Policy and Procedure No. 5202 – Federal Highway Administration Mandated Drug and Alcohol Testing Program, as presented. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY AND PROCEDURE 5231 – 2<sup>nd</sup> READING:

Mr. Fuchs moved the Board approve Board Policy and Procedure No. 5231 – Length of Workday, as presented. Mr. Cashmere seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY AND PROCEDURE 5253 – 2<sup>nd</sup> READING:

Mr. Cashmere moved the Board approve Board Policy and Procedure No. 5253 – Maintaining Professional Staff/Student Boundaries, as presented. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY AND PROECEDURE 5271 – 2<sup>nd</sup> READING:

Mr. Fuchs moved the Board approve Board Policy and Procedure No. 5271 – Reporting Improper Governmental Action, as presented. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF COOPERATIVE FOR ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION AGREEMENT:

Mr. Campbell moved the Board approve the Cooperative for Alterative Education Agreement as presented. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 1320 – 1<sup>st</sup> READING:

Mr. Cashmere moved the Board approve Board Policy No. 1320 – Suspension of a Policy, first reading, as presented. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 5201 – 1<sup>st</sup> READING:

Mr. Fuchs moved the Board approve Board Policy No. 5201 – Drug-Free Schools, Community and Workplace, first reading, as presented. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 6106 – 1<sup>st</sup> READING:

Mr. Campbell moved the Board approve Board Policy No. 6106 – Allowable Costs for Federal Programs, first reading, as presented. Mr. Cashmere seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

OTHER INFORMATION:

- Future Board Meeting Schedule

PERSONNEL:

Classified:                      Dan Devine – Retirement – Bus Driver  
   DeeDee Kopp – School Bus Driver  
   Ashley Romey – Substitute Para Educator/Secretary

Mr. Fuchs moved the Board approval the personnel action as presented. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m. with no further action.

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Recording Secretary

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Board Secretary

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Board Chair