

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 358
SEPTEMBER 28, 2017

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The regularly scheduled meeting of the Freeman School District Board of Directors was called to order at 5:00 P.M. by Chair Annie Keebler. There was a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Annie Keebler, Neil Fuchs, Travis Campbell, Randy Russell and Jamie Weingart. Excused, Ed Cashmere and John Zingg.

GUESTS: Debbie Morphy, Harry Amend, Ben Ferney, Todd Reed, Brian Parisotto, Kirk Lally, Everett Combs, Marci McGill, Lisa Phelan, Jody Sweeney, Char Trejbal, Michael Warnecke, Alycia Warnecke and Janel Garlick.

FLAG SALUTE: Todd Reed led the audience in the flag salute.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Updated Personnel Action.

CONSENT AGENDA:

September 7, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes	
Mid-Month AP – 112044 - 112064	\$ 51,938.03
General Fund AP – 112065 - 112148	\$ 114,803.74
ASB Fund AP – 112149 – 112159,112162 -112163	\$ 7,397.74
Benefit Trust Fund AP – 112160 - 112161	\$ 16,126.94
Accounts Payable Direct Deposits	\$ 1,202.45
September Payroll – 112164-112179	\$ 715,067.95
Treasurer’s Statement/Budget Status	

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

PACE CHARACTER TRAIT:

RESPECT – Recognizing, considering and properly honoring the worth of one’s self and others

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

- Copy of American School Board Journal
- Copy of Board and Administrator
- A sampling of letters of support we have received from local districts, community members and others across the country.

REPORTS

BUILDING REPORTS:

Harry Amend, Acting High School Principal, shared it has been a busy week and the students are doing better each day. We continue to have counselors on site for students and staff to access throughout the day and after school. We ended last week with 30 counselors and we are down to about 12 a day now across the district and continue to gauge the needs to ensure we are getting everyone the support they desire. Mr. Amend shared the assembly last week was very good and the Strahan family was very appreciative of the support of the students and the staff through their tribute to Sam. Homecoming week is next week and in preparation, posters and pictures we have received in support, are coming down to allow our students to start decorating the halls on Sunday for homecoming. All of the support in the form of photos and posters from around the country will be saved and put together. Mr. Russell commended Mr. Amend and the entire high school for all of their efforts over the past week.

Mr. Ferney, Middle School Principal, shared the day we came back to school all the Middle School students were given coffee and donuts, followed by an assembly for all middle school students and the afternoon was an abbreviated bell schedule. On Tuesday, Mr. Ferney and Denise Conrad, K-8 counselor, walked all of the kids up to and from the high school for each class to ensure no kids were alone. We currently have a couple of counselors in the middle school each day which has been very helpful. The students have been amazing and it was great to get back to sports and activities for the students.

Lisa Phelan, Elementary Principal, shared the students and staff are doing a great job. They started back to a normal schedule last Monday, as the kids in the elementary were pretty sheltered the day of the incident. The extra counseling support has been great, as she is finding this trauma has brought up some prior traumas in some of the kids. It is important for staff to make sure they are taking care of themselves and Lisa thanked Randy and the board for the support of her taking some time off. Mrs. Phelan then shared Radical Rick will be doing after school science on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays for six weeks and will have different activities each week.

Brian Parisotto, Athletic Director and High School Assistant Principal, thanked everyone for the support of the high school. The leadership of the ASB students has been amazing and next week homecoming will be good for the kids; however, there are many kids and families that are still struggling and we will keep working to support them all in every way we can. Mr. Fuchs asked to pass the message along to Konnor Freudenthal how impressed the Board is with his leadership. Mr. Amend shared his appreciation for the support of required respite time for all staff.

Jody Sweeney, Special Education Director, shared she has spent most of her time working on counseling services and programs. She is very impressed with the kids across the district. We will continue to work with all students and staff on wellness and community healing. We have had an outpouring of support from local schools and mental health organizations providing additional counseling services for all of our community. We have been able to bring in therapy dogs and kids have loved having the dogs on site so we are working on having a plan for the rest of the year that involves the dogs being a regular presence.

Todd Reed, Technology Director, shared he is working on connecting to fiber that was laid along highway 27. It will take our internet speed from 100mb to 300mb and will allow us the option in the future to have even faster speeds if we are able to get funding to upgrade some of our equipment.

Marci McGill, Nutrition Services Director, shared Nutrition Services is doing well. The day we came back to school Northern Quest catered breakfast at the high school and David's Pizza catered lunch for all the high school students, staff and parents. This was a great break for her staff and she continues to check in on her staff as they work to get back to a more normal schedule and meal pattern.

Char Trejbal, Transportation Director, thanked her entire staff, along with the students, the community and the support from across the state. Her drivers were amazing throughout the day of the incident and have been great to work with as we have returned to school. Marysville School District specifically has gone above and beyond in their support of the transportation department and our school as a whole. The drivers continue to keep an eye on all students and report any concerns to counselors. Ridership counts are coming up, and she hopes to have that completed in the next few weeks. At the beginning of the year eight of the twelve routes were changed and so some of the routes are quite full. We have a new sub driver and are in the process of training a couple of more subs.

Kirk Lally, Facilities Director, shared his guys are very appreciative of all of the support and are looking forward to getting back to a more normal schedule. He is working on fertilizer and blowing out sprinklers and getting started on the normal fall maintenance.

Dr. Russell, shared by saying, "It's not what happens to you, it's how you react." He thanked the entire leadership team for their work and echoed their comments on being thankful for all of the support we have received as a district.

SUPERINTEDENTS REPORT:

PARTNERING WITH PARENTS AND SCHOOL/COMMUNITY:

Dr. Russell shared the team from Empire Health Foundation who came in the day after the incident has been wonderful and they have been providing many pieces of support throughout the past few weeks. We are working on a recovery committee that will be headed up by former superintendent, Chuck Stocker, and he will be leading us on our road to wellness. We need to know we are all on the same road, heading in the same direction, even though we are all in different places on the journey.

Dr. Russell asked the board to consider granting a mental health day for each staff member across the district so they can take a day for themselves without using their sick or other leave balances.

Mr. Campbell moved the Board grant one mental health day for each employee, Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Dr. Russell shared this will allow all staff to take a day off in the next couple months with the support of our local districts.

Dr. Russell shared United Way has partnered with the district to host the Freeman Strong donation account. All donations that are coming in are going directly to the account with United Way, who is not charging any admin fees on this account, to ensure the funds will all be intact for the community to use. As part of the recovery planning, we are working on 5 year plan and some of the funds raised may play a part of this plan. Our insurance company has come in and been very supportive and the victim's compensation program is also available for students and staff at the high school. We will have a debrief about the incident with law enforcement and first responders to talk about what went well and what could be improved upon in the future. We want to ensure we help any future situations and offer our support.

FISCAL AND LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY:

Dr. Russell shared on Monday we were able to meet with Jon Gores and Jim McNeil about the upcoming levy as we start planning. Dr. Russell suggested we have a work session in October to discuss what our levy will look like, our current levy expires at the end of 2018, so our suggestion is to go to the voters in February of 2018 for a replacement three year levy. Part of this discussion is the new state law of \$1.50 collection rate cap and what our technology plan and roof replacement at the middle school looks like and our planning over the next three years. The filing deadline with the county is December 15th, so we will be working on this heavily over the next couple of weeks and months. The board agreed a work session is needed and would be a good use of our time for planning.

Dr. Russell shared we were able to end the year just above our fund balance goal.

Dr. Russell reviewed September enrollment.

BOARD COMMENTS: Mr. Fuchs shared he is amazed by the out pouring of support to our community and appreciate the efforts of all our staff and community throughout the situation.

VISITOR COMMENTS/CONCERNS: Alisha Warnecke, mother of a junior at the high school, thanked the board for the family meeting on the Thursday night where the kids were able to take their school back and begin the healing process. Alisha then asked about what would happen today if a note with a threat was received. She referenced policy 4314 and wants to re-iterate the importance of making sure that all staff across the district are aware of a threat. Dr. Russell thanked Alisha for her comments.

Janel Garlic, mother of a junior and a freshman, thanked everyone for how they handled this issue and stated she loves Freeman and the way the community has come together. She asked how the money from the United Way will be used. Dr. Russell shared part of the recovery process will be determining how the money will be distributed, and will be directed by a committee of parents and community members. Second question, she is wondering if the long term plan is at the high school for counseling and a mental health professional on staff. Dr. Russell shared we are looking at the different options for the year and moving forward. Janel then asked the question of the difference between a school counselor and a mental health counselor. Dr. Russell shared a school counselor is a professional designation, but that it is very different than a mental health professional or a trauma counselor.

Rylee Russell, shared a passage from John Maxwell's Positive Leadership Book and wished her dad a happy birthday.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY NO. 2162 – 2nd Reading

Mr. Fuchs moved the Board approve Board Policy No. 2162 – Education of Students with Disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as presented. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY NO. 3116 – 2nd Reading

Mr. Campbell moved the Board approve Board Policy No. 3116 – Students in Foster Care, as presented. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY NO. 2337 – 1st Reading

Mr. Campbell moved the Board approve Board Policy No. 2337 – Disability History Month, first reading, as presented. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

OTHER INFORMATION:

- Future Board Meeting Schedule

PERSONNEL:

Certified: Russ Olson – Substitute Teacher

Classified: Steven Baum – Substitute Bus Driver
 Kim Kirkland – Substitute Child Nutritionist
 Paula Lally - Substitute Child Nutritionist

Extracurricular: Resignation – John Hays – High School Head Track Coach
 Haley Burke – High School Assistant Soccer Coach

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board went into executive session at 6:07 p.m. for the purpose set forth in RCW 42.30.110, specifically the following: to speak with district legal counsel, such session estimated to be approximately 2 hours in length.

The Board returned to open session at 8:15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m. with no further action.

Recording Secretary

Board Secretary

Board Chair