

BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 358  
October 9, 2014

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The regularly scheduled meeting of the Freeman School District Board of Directors was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chair John Zingg. There was a quorum present.

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

GUESTS: Debbie Morphy, Jim Straw, Ben Ferney, Lisa Phelan, Melanie Belshe, Devanta Black and Mikaela Hutchinson.

FLAG SALUTE: Ben Ferney led the audience in the flag salute.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Dr. Russell added an updated personnel report.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes – September 25, 2014

Mrs. Keebler moved the Board approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Cashmere seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

LITTLE COTTONWOOD CREEK PROJECT:

Dr. Russell shared that we are partnering with Gonzaga University and the Department of Ecology to work on a research project on the water discharge into Little Cottonwood Creek. Dr. Russell introduced the Gonzaga team members Melanie Belshe, Devanta Black and Mikaela Hutchinson. The team shared that they have been working on a more formal proposal based upon the project goals that were discussed in their meetings with Kirk and Randy. They then talked a little bit about how this project helps each of them to complete their senior year at Gonzaga University.

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

- The article from Puget Sound Business Journal that ranked Freeman High School as Number One in the State
- A thank you from the Southeast Spokane County Fair
- A picture of the new Freeman School District sign on the Rockford Billboard
- WASSDA Fall conference reminder

REPORTS

BUILDING REPORTS:

Jim Straw, High School Principal, reported that the Freeman High School was reported as the number one high school in Washington by the Puget Sound Journal of Business. Mr. Straw then reported that the student leadership has been outstanding this year and shared the agenda for Homecoming week with a listing of all of the activities that will be taking place. Mr. Straw also

reported that we have 60 students participating in college in the high school and 9 students are taking both English and pre-calculus for college credit. As part of Board policy Social Studies teacher Matt Smith is coordinating the senior culminating project through his class this year.

Mr. Straw reported on behalf of Brian Parisotto, Athletic Director, that we still have two open coaching positions. He then reported that all fall sports teams are doing very well. Middle school will be switching sport seasons in late October. The new sound system has been delivered and will be installed in time for the homecoming game.

Ben Ferney, Middle School Principal, reported the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders have been participating in team building activities. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders have been going to the Palouse ropes course and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade's out to Eastern Washington University for a more advance course. He also reported that the new curriculum for special education and ELA has been received and everyone is excited to start using it. Ben then shared a picture of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade football team when they played on Roos field. He then reported that the fund run collected \$13,700 and their goal was \$15,000. This was a very successful first year for a new fundraiser. To recognize the kids who brought in over \$75 for the fund run the middle school kids took a trip to the Garland Theater which was very fun.

Lisa Phelan, Elementary Principal, reported 37 elementary students will be partaking in the movie on the 21<sup>st</sup> that rewards them for bringing in over \$75 for the fund run. The fund run was very successful and it was nice that the cookie dough and wrapping paper fundraisers were able to be turned over to the PTSG. Lisa then shared Parker Toyota has sponsored Freeman for their Reading with Lucky program for all of our first graders. With this program each first grader got a stuffed animal puppy to read to. The fire department came to do fire safety training with the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades this week. She then shared the new Scottie Scoop which was updated as part of the rebranding. As a part of the new look, it now includes links to the website that contain additional information for those that are interested.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

#### CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT:

Dr. Russell shared that having our high school ranked as number one in the state is one of the neatest experiences he has had in education.

Dr. Russell shared that next Friday he will be part of Project Leadership in North Idaho where he will be working with approximately 100 administrators.

Dr. Russell shared that he had been able to do a walk through this week with the Admin team and School Board Member Annie Keebler was able to join them. Lisa Phelan shared how the walkthrough works is the team goes throughout the building and goes into classes to observe. She also shared it has been very nice to have the additional para time to help with the overload classes. Annie also shared the experience was very good and she saw consistency in goals across each class and subject.

SCHOOL SAFETY, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT:

Dr. Russell shared they had the quarterly safety committee meeting on Tuesday and a couple of the topics that were discussed were the tennis courts and football bleachers and the safety regarding those two items. Dr. Russell asked the board to approve a study, at no cost to the district, to be done on both items to see what if any action needs to be taken.

Mr. Cashmere moved that the Board approve a safety study for the bleachers and tennis courts. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Dr. Russell also shared an update on the Freeman ground water concerns from the EPA. The EPA has decided more research needs to be done and they are in the process of figuring out what the action plan looks like.

PARTNERING WITH PARENTS AND SCHOOL/COMMUNITY:

Dr. Russell shared the district will be coming to the Board with a resolution in December for the renewal of the Maintenance, Operations and Technology Levy.

FISCAL AND LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY:

Dr. Russell reported Representative Susan Fagan visited with himself and Superintendent Kyle Rydell from Liberty about how to support education. The upcoming legislative session will be very important for education, so the board needs to make sure they are connecting with their state representatives.

Dr. Russell shared the top 3 legislative priorities compiled by ESD101. 1) Fully fund basic education, 2) Support levy equalization assistance and 3) Fund capital construction and state match.

Mrs. Keebler made a motion to adopt the top 3 legislative priorities set forth by NEWESD101 as Freeman School District's top 3 legislative priorities. Mr. Campbell seconded and it passed unanimously.

Director of Fiscal/Admin Services, Jamie Weingart reviewed the enrollment numbers for October.

VISITOR COMMENTS/CONCERNS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER INFORMATION:

- Future Board Meeting Schedule

PERSONNEL: Dr. Russell recommended the following personnel action:

Classified: Michael Warnecke – Overload Para Educator  
(4.0 hours – 1 year non-continuing)  
Amanda Miller – New Hire – Bus Driver  
Lisa Vargas – Special Needs Bus Assistant

Extracurricular: Kyle Olson – Returning Hire – HS JS Boys' Basketball Coach

Mrs. Keebler moved the Board approve personnel action as presented. Mr. Cashmere seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. with no further action.

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Recording Secretary

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Board Secretary

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Board Chair