

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 358
NOVEMBER 24, 2015

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

GUESTS: Debbie Morphy, Lisa Phelan, Jody Sweeney, Marci McGill, Todd Reed, Jim Straw, Ben Ferney, Brian Parisotto, Everett Combs, Sharron Aune-Ruland, Lisa Ofenloch, Emily Ofenloch, Kris Berglund, Travis Goldsmith, Tanner Goldsmith, Charlie Wells, Colton Wells, Preston Eigenhuis, Ashleigh Eigenhuis, Craig Eigenhuis, Ron Hahner and Marie Hahner.

FLAG SALUTE: Marci McGill led the audience in the flag salute.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: No additions.

CONSENT AGENDA:

October 29, 2015 Board Minutes

General Fund AP – #108920 - #109002	\$ 143,726.85
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General Fund AP – Direct Deposits	\$ 4,191.44
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Capital Projects AP - #109003	\$ 3,261.00
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ASB Fund AP – #109004 - #109032	\$ 16,128.30
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Benefit Trust Fund AP – #109033	\$ 1,559.76
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November Payroll - #109034 - #109086	\$ 684,084.52
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Treasurer's Statement/Budget Status

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

OATH OF OFFICE:

Dr. Russell gave the oath of office to re-elected board members Annie Keebler, John Zingg and Travis Campbell.

BOARD RECOGNITION:

Five Freeman Elementary third graders, under the direction of Ms. Aune-Ruland shared a bubble experiment they had done in class. The kids explained the process they used for scientific inquiry from setting up the experiment, formulating a hypothesis and charting the results. They then demonstrated how to blow a bubble inside a bubble, pick up a bubble and cut a bubble using straws and a mixture of dish soap, Karol syrup and water.

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

- Most recent edition of Board and Administrator

REPORTS

BUILDING REPORTS:

Ben Ferney, Middle School Principal, shared he is continuing observations and walk throughs in the Middle School. He provided some examples of what he has been able to observe in multiple teachers classrooms during the walk throughs. This year the Middle school switched from quarter grades to semester grades and so far the kids appear to be adjusting to the change very well. The ELA teachers are working on the wish list of what they need for curriculum, both for novels and grammar. In the past month there was an emergency drill exercise, a lost and found rack was built by Marc Taylor and a few students, Jerry Ackerman as a guest speaker at an assembly, conference week, Missoula Children's Theater production of Rapunzel and volleyball and wrestling are now underway.

Lisa Phelan, Elementary School Principal, shared she is completing her fall round of observations. SBAC interim testing has taken place in the third and fifth grades and teachers are using the results to help guide the focus for their class. Today Lisa was able to do a walk through with Joanne Eckstrom to look at some ideas in the Elementary and talk about strategies. The art group at the Elementary, which is made up former teachers and parents have been working with students on various projects and Lisa shared some examples of the artwork students have done this year. The fifth grade social studies curriculum was delivered and the two fifth grade classes dove right in. Lisa was able to work with the ESD and four other small school district elementary principals in a professional development session which provided the opportunity to bounce ideas off each other and work with others in her same role.

Jim Straw, High School Principal, shared the high school has been extremely busy in the past month. STCU came in and did a financial seminar and practical application with the seniors, the Veterans Day assembly was very successful, Jerry Ackerman came to talk to students about appropriate use of social media, Kenny Davis will be staying on until winter break and we are in the process of screening applicants for his position. Jim then shared in the past week, many community members have been very thankful for the district opening up the facilities during the power outages and even amongst the outages the food drive was a great success.

Brian Parisotto, High School Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, shared the annual fall blood drive collected 44 units of blood and another drive will be done in the spring. Preliminary WIAA numbers came out today, the final numbers will be out in mid-December which will tell us what our league will look like going forward. Fall sports are complete with soccer making it to the first round of play offs and volleyball took 7th in state. Winter sports have started with approximately 30 boys out for basketball, 30 out for wrestling and 24 girls out for basketball.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Todd Reed, Technology Director, shared we were approved for \$47,890.50 in e-rate funding which will be used for wireless technology around the campus. He has been working on setting up the 32 Microsoft surface tablets for the elementary and those will be deployed soon. He has also been getting quotes for new technology as he prepares for the next round of technology purchases.

Everett Combs, shared the morning after the storm they drove all the routes to ensure that we would be able to run buses on schedule. While driving our roads he was impressed by the community members that had been out clearing trees from roads. He then shared we had our first

snow of the year this morning and even small amounts of snow can cause issues in transportation. Everett reminded the Board we will be holding a safety table top exercise on December 15th at 9:00 am.

Marci McGill, Nutrition Services Director, shared the nutrition services audit is complete and overall the results were very good. Freeman had no major findings in the 24 page report that was issued. This was the compliance audit which place every three years in nutrition services to ensure that we are complying with federal guidelines. Marci then shared the veteran's breakfast was great and we served about 80 meals with the help of the leadership classes.

Jody Sweeney, Special Education Director, invited the board to participate in a special education walkthrough on December 1st at 9:30 in the elementary school. In preparation for the upcoming work session on December 10th, she asked if any board members have particular issues or areas they would like to know more about, please share those to make sure the work session is as personalized and valuable as possible.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:
SCHOOL SAFETY, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT:

Dr. Russell gave a facilities update and shared we received \$2,500 from Farm Credit Services for our capital projects.

PARTNERING WITH PARENTS AND SCHOOL/COMMUNITY:

Dr. Russell presented the final version of the Board\Superintendent Operating Principles.

Mr. Fuchs moved to approve the Board\Superintendent Operating Principles. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dr. Russell reported he and the board attended another successful WASSDA conference where they made a presentation on successful transition plans for new board members. From this presentation there has been lots of interest in the operating principals that were just approved.

FISCAL AND LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY:

Dr. Russell reviewed the ending cash balances and enrollment numbers.

Dr. Russell shared a summary of the most recent bond refunding. The Boards goal was a 5% savings and we were able to save 8.86% on \$3.2 million of bonds.

VISITOR COMMENTS/CONCERNS: None.

OTHER INFORMATION:

- Future Board Meeting Schedule
- Board Work Session, Thursday December 10th 2:00 pm-5:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. with no further action.

Recording Secretary

Board Secretary

Board Chair