

BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 358  
November 29, 2011

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 Brent Fetsch. There was a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brent Fetsch, Neil Fuchs, Chad Goldsmith, Randy Primmer, John Zingg, Randy Russell and Jan Davis.

GUESTS: Annie Keebler, Dan Gordon, Lisa Phelan, Kim Antons, Dave Smith, Everett Combs, Ellen Hawley, Brian Parisotto, Jim Straw, Todd Reed, Andy Coumont, Raeann Ducar, Kelly Hicks, Audra White, Larry Longhurst, Nathan Longhurst, Jeff McCormick, and Cameron Schwenk.

FLAG SALUTE: Mr. Fetsch led the audience in the flag salute.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes	October 27, 2011
General Fund Accounts Payable #100556-100661	\$108,646.90
November Payroll	\$608,630.50
ASB Accounts Payable #100662-100691	\$51,547.11
Capital Projects Fund Accounts Payable #100542-100555	\$1,047,270.01
Treasurer's Statement	

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

HONOR BRENT FETSCH: The Board honored Mr. Fetsch at the conclusion of his four-year term on the Board of Directors. Mr. Russell thanked him for his service and stated he appreciated his courageous leadership. Mr. Fetsch stated, "I would not have traded this experience for anything. Thank you for this wonderful community leadership opportunity."

OATH OF OFFICE: Mr. Russell issued the oath of office to newly elected Board members Neil Fuchs, Annie Keebler, Randy Primmer and John Zingg. Mrs. Keebler took her seat at the Board, and Mr. Primmer assumed the role of chair.

GUESTS: Rob Bryant and students from the Robotics Club gave presentations prior to their first regional competition this Saturday at EWU. Twenty-six students participate on teams that identify problems and develop solutions.

CORRESPONDENCE: Mr. Russell reviewed correspondence:

- a records request for a previous student;
- a letter from law firm Stevens-Clay-Manix stating their qualifications and offering their services;
- correspondence regarding the audit memorandum concerning how the Skill Center route was reported based on advice from OSPI's representative;
- a letter from the Washington State Board of Education stating the district meets all basic education compliance requirements;
- a letter regarding energy use analysis from CSG. It was decided to wait until a year after all three projects are complete to conduct another energy analysis at that time.

## REPORTS

BUILDING REPORTS: Elementary Principal Lisa Phelan reported students are excited for holiday activities including the Thanksgiving feast, play, and concerts. Staff is working on the office referral form to include positive behavior alignment. Craft night is Friday in the multipurpose room.

High School Principal Dave Smith reported on the blood drive, choir concerts, and band concerts. Students will participate in a survey based on school climate. "We want all kids at Freeman to feel safe and supported." Staff development is focused on training staff regarding teacher websites. Mr. Fuchs stated he and his father were very impressed by the recent Veterans Day program.

Middle School Principal Jim Straw reported Math is Cool teams are competing in the masters tournament in Moses Lake. The fundraiser was a huge success with great support from the community. Winter sports participation is high. Parent Annie Henson volunteered to review the new website for things that do not flow correctly, he stated.

Mr. Russell recognized the three principals for their efforts on how to meet the needs of every student. "Many conversations have taken place to move us forward in how a student succeeds, and we are excited about moving into 2012 for each of those students."

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Technology Director Todd Reed reported work continues on the new website. Honeywell Instant Alert continues to be used this season, and transportation can send a message to families on a specific route regarding snow delays. Mr. Reed installed the new virtual server over Veterans Day.

Nutrition Services Supervisor Raeann Ducar reported she is preparing for the upcoming child nutrition review which happens every five years. Monthly claims, menu planning, verification of free/reduced participation, and nutrition will all be reviewed. Lunch counts are up in both schools, and the free/reduced count has increased to 22%.

Assistant Transportation Supervisor Everett Combs reported everyone is pleased buses are no longer loading/unloading on Jackson Road. The new lineup is successful, and he reported the new exit onto Highway 27 is working well but work continues to request signs and additional paint lines on the highway.

Athletic Director Brian Parisotto reported fall sports have wrapped up, while basketball and wrestling start this week. The Greg Larson Memorial Basketball Tournament was a success, followed by the wrestling invitational the next day.

Mr. Russell reported maintenance and custodial staff survived the first snowfall and plans are in place for future events. One issue was the new concrete and what de-icer to use—experts had differing opinions. He stated Facilities Manager Kirk Lally will propose a long-term maintenance/custodial plan given all the additional building and grounds spaces.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: CSG Representative Dan Gordon reviewed the project manager report and cost tracking log. The last slab was placed inside the Palouse Transportation Cooperative building, and the roof should begin soon. The last wing of the elementary should be complete by February 3. The Transportation Cooperative building work will continue beyond that due to weather and soil delays.

BUDGET REPORT: Director of Fiscal/Administrative Services Jan Davis reviewed the district's cash flow projection, pointing out that November payroll was higher than estimated due to two long-term substitute teachers.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – LEVY DISCUSSION: Mr. Russell reviewed maintenance and operations levy information for the proposed February 14 election. This levy is for the 2013, 2014, and 2015 years. The decision for the ballot is made more difficult by the decreasing assessment of the district and the state's budget difficulties. One potential cut for Freeman is the loss of \$342,517 in levy equalization funds which would force the district to cut programs and staff.

Mr. Russell reviewed three potential options: (1) maintain current tax rate, (2) increase levy anticipating the loss of half of levy equalization, and (3) increase the levy assuming all levy equalization will disappear. The third option would bring the 2012 levy close to the district's levy maximum.

He reported the Legislature began meeting this week to implement budget cuts, and it is hoped the definite impact will be known by the December 15 Board meeting in time to set the levy amounts for ballot title.

TEACHER/PRINCIPAL EVALUATION PILOT: Mr. Russell reported the state and the district continue to move forward to develop a new evaluation tool that will be linked to the strategic plan. He suggested perhaps a Board member would be involved in the process.

WINTER BOARD WORK SESSION: Mr. Russell reported ESD Superintendent Mike Dunn has agreed to lead a Board work session on December 8 at 5:00. Time will be spent working on focus as a group as well as direction for 2012.

VISITORS COMMENTS/CONCERNS: Larry Longhurst and Jeff McCormick brought Boy Scout Troop members Nathan Longhurst and Cameron Schwenk who attended the Board meeting as part of earning a citizenship badge. Mr. Longhurst stated he attended the football game at Connell, and their superintendent commented on Freeman's great fans.

ADOPT RESOLUTION 4-2011/2012 – PERMIT NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS TO ATTEND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF WASHINGTON STATE SCHOOL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION: Mr. Zingg moved the Board adopt Resolution 4-2011/2012. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Mrs. Keebler, Mr. Fuchs and Mr. Russell attended the recent WSSDA conference, and said it was very worthwhile.

OTHER INFORMATION: Mr. Primmer reviewed future Board meetings:

December 15 at 5:00	April 12 and 26
January 12 and 26	May 10 and 24
February 9 and 28	June 14 and 28
March 8 and 27	July 26
	August 23

PERSONNEL: Mr. Russell recommended the following personnel action:

Classified: Hire: Jeannette Hansen, Bus Driver  
Substitute Bus Drivers: DeeDee Kopp, Mitch Freter

Extracurricular: Hire: Chad Ripke, MS Head Wrestling  
Russ Mitchell, MS Assistant Wrestling

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

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m. with no further action.

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Recording Secretary

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Board Secretary

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Board Chair