

BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 358  
December 15, 2011

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 Randy Primmer. There was a quorum present.

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

GUESTS: Everett Combs, Kirk Lally, Dan Gordon, Ellen Hawley, Jim Straw, Raeann Ducar, Brian Parisotto, Dani Cossey, Art Randall, Lisa Phelan, Larry Freter, Kate Coomes and Lisa Paternoster.

FLAG SALUTE: Dani Cossey led the audience in the flag salute.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes	November 29, 2011
General Fund AP not to exceed	\$200,000
December Payroll not to exceed	\$600,000
ASB AP not to exceed	\$60,000
CPF AP not to exceed	\$500,000
Treasurers Statement	

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Mr. Russell shared holiday cards and the resource officer agreement with the Board.

REPORTS

BUILDING REPORTS: High School student Dani Cossey reported on activities including the choir and band concerts. "Mrs. Wichmann has the kids sounding great. She is my drama teacher, so thank you for hiring her." Freeman's National Honor Society was featured on the front page of the Spokesman-Review. Miss Cossey updated the Board on activities of the Leadership Class, FCCLA, trap shooting, the holiday basketball tournament, Knowledge Bowl and Math is Cool.

Middle School Principal Jim Straw reported Freeman Math is Cool teams finished 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> out of 799 teams. Concerts have been great, and the choir performed at

Riverpark Square. A canine assembly is scheduled for grades 6-12 featuring two dog handlers with street, drug, and bomb dog demonstrations.

Elementary Principal Lisa Phelan reported on holiday parties, kindergarten profile meetings, and the new student discipline referral form that focuses on positive behavior.

Mr. Zingg moved the Board approve the word “Christmas” in referring to the Christmas holiday. Mrs. Keebler seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Athletic Director Brian Parisotto reported Medical Lake and Kettle Falls will join Freeman’s seven team league, while Colville is out. Shelby Nelson is on a cheer squad going to London over break.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Facilities Manager Kirk Lally reported “staff is ready for Mother Nature.” He learned late that some of the new grasses around the high school are supposed to be cut to a height of two or three inches, and Leadership Class students are assisting. High school faucets are being fixed under warranty, and one roof heat unit is being repaired. Mr. Russell reported the Freeman 2020 Strategic Plan will have a long-term facilities maintenance plan component.

Assistant Transportation Supervisor Everett Combs reported the new loading/unloading location is working well. The state is delaying depreciation payments from September to August in an effort to save money.

Nutrition Services Supervisor Raeann Ducar reported the recent state review went very well. The reviewer stated Freeman has a “best practices” program, including meal counts, cash handling, meeting nutritional standards, variety and creativity of the menu. She continues to look for ways to decrease sodium and increase fiber. “The trend is toward scratch cooking in school meals, but it can be a budget challenge due to food cost and labor.” Mrs. Ducar will work with seventh grade students in “Think Your Drink” about energy drinks and sugary sodas.

Technology Director Todd Reed reported he will work on network connections during break. Freeman is being considered for a stored solutions grant.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: CSG Representative Dan Gordon reported the new classroom wing is coming along, anticipating a February 3 move-in date. The main lobby floor will be acid-etched during break. Work on the transportation cooperative building continues. Mr. Gordon requested a work session to review contingency funds remaining in both projects and remaining postponed items, which was set for 5:00 on January 12.

LEVY DISCUSSION: Mr. Primmer reported the Board held a work session to review three options for the levy: (1) assume current tax rates with no increase, (2) increase the levy assuming half of levy equalization would be gone, or (3) increase the levy as if all of levy equalization is cut. Mr. Russell stated levy equalization funds help property poor districts, and means \$334,617 in revenue for Freeman. He and Mr. Zingg met with

legislators, all of whom felt levy equalization would not be eliminated. Elimination would require a two-thirds vote in the House and the Senate.

Kate Coomes reported she and Lisa Paternoster polled 24 voters, attempting to get a representative sample of our voter demographics. Most said to not ask for the additional funds given the tough economy in taxpayer households and the fact the loss of levy equalization is not definite.

Mr. Primmer stated the district has not done a good job of publicizing the cuts that have been made over the past three years. Mr. Russell pointed out staff is in the third year of reduction in pay. Programs, budgets, teaching positions, and staff hours have been cut. At the same time, utilities, food, fuel, and insurance have increased.

After lengthy discussion, Mr. Primmer called for a recommendation of one of the three options. Mr. Zingg moved the Board present option one, maintaining the same tax rate. Mrs. Keebler seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – ENROLLMENT: Mr. Russell reported December enrollment was 909.76 with an annual average of 903.44 FTE.

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION (JANUARY 2012): Mr. Russell gave Board members six-month evaluation forms. Mr. Primmer requested they return evaluations to him by February 1, and the evaluation will be conducted on February 9.

VISITORS' COMMENTS AND CONCERNS: None.

## NEW BUSINESS

APPROVE 2012-13 SCHOOL CALENDAR: Mr. Goldsmith moved the Board approve the 2012-2013 school calendar as presented. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

DECLARE SURPLUS TECHNOLOGY ITEMS: Technology Director Todd Reed requested six Gateway servers be declared as surplus property. Mr. Goldsmith moved the Board declare surplus property as presented. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

APPROVE EDUPORTAL PAPERLESS BOARD MEETINGS SERVICE: Mr. Fuchs moved the Board approve the Eduportal paperless board meetings service as presented. Mrs. Keebler seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

ADOPT LEVY RESOLUTION: Mr. Fuchs moved the Board adopt Resolution 5-2011/2012 to place on the February 14 ballot a replacement educational programs and operation levy as follows:

Collection Year	Levy Rate	Levy Amount
2013	\$2.93	\$1,470,000
2014	2.93	1,484,291
2015	2.93	1,499,132

Mrs. Keebler seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

APPROVE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER: Mr. Goldsmith moved the Board approve the interlocal agreement with Spokane County regarding the school resource officer. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

ANNUAL ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES: Mr. Goldsmith nominated Mr. Primmer as chair. Mrs. Keebler seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Fuchs nominated Mr. Goldsmith as vice-chair. Mrs. Keebler seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mrs. Keebler nominated Mr. Zingg as legislative representative. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Zingg nominated Mr. Goldsmith as WIAA representative. Mrs. Keebler seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

OTHER INFORMATION: Mr. Primmer reviewed upcoming Board meeting dates:  
January 12: work study session at 5:00, meeting at 6:00  
January 26  
February 9 – superintendent evaluation

PERSONNEL: Mr. Russell recommended the following personnel action:

Certified: Substitute teacher Jennifer Midani

Classified: Substitute Para-Educator/Nutrition Services – Lisa Morris  
Substitute Custodial/Maint/Nutrition Services – Dana Lott

Extracurricular: Hire: Mike Allen, MS Girls JV Basketball Coach  
Resignation: Dwayne Gady – MS Girls JV Basketball Coach

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

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m. with no further action.

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Recording Secretary

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Board Secretary

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Board Chair