

BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 358  
April 29, 2014

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. in the Rockford City Hall by Chair John Zingg. There was a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Cashmere, Annie Keebler, Randy Primmer, John Zingg, Randy Russell, and Jan Davis. Excused absence: Neil Fuchs.

GUESTS: Debbie Morphy, Pia Longinotti, Raeann Ducar, Debra Zingg, Kirk Lally, Lisa Phelan, Jody Sweeney, Todd Reed, Ben Ferney, Jim Straw, Everett Combs, Annie Henson, Micki Harnois, Julie Tucker, Karen Wilson, Jamie Wilson, Mary Lou Benson, Travis Campbell, Ivan Wilmschen, Alene Wilmschen, Brian Parisotto, Vivian Plank, Stan Seehorn, and Steve Meyer.

FLAG SALUTE: Randy Primmer led the audience in the flag salute.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Dr. Russell added one additional personnel item.

BOARD RECOGNITION: The Board recognized Randy Primmer, who resigned from the Board because he has moved out of the District. Mr. Primmer has served on the Board since 2007. Mr. Zingg stated, "You have been a tremendous worth to the Board and the schools with your well thought out solutions to problems." Dr. Russell stated, "Randy grew up in Freeman, graduated from Freeman, his kids graduated from Freeman, and he has been an unbelievable Board member and community member." Mr. Primmer stated, "Thank you to the patrons for electing me. My Dad taught me that community service is important. We have accomplished some amazing things here at Freeman."

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes – March 27, 2014

General Fund AP #105836-105927	\$134,494.53
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Capital Projects Fund AP #105928	8,448.02
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ASB Fund AP #105929-105953	\$17,675.00
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Benefit Trust Fund AP #105954-105955	\$11,380.95
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April Payroll	\$559,757.95
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Treasurer's Statement

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

STUDENT RECOGNITION: Freeman High School Student Julie Tucker reported on her senior project, Juju's Cupcakes, and gave samples of her work.

CORRESPONDENCE: Dr. Russell shared the following correspondence:

- Freeman High School 2013 Washington Achievement Award for meeting the standard for excellence in four of the six criteria. Freeman is one of only five high schools selected for multiple criteria. The awards ceremony is May 22 at ESD 101.
- Freeman Focus newsletter, which will be mailed soon
- Board and Administrator publication
- Freeman 2020 Strategic Plan

## REPORTS

BUILDING REPORTS: Middle School Principal Ben Ferney reported on state testing, ASB elections, the career fair, and middle school sports. He reported conferences were held with 96% of the seventh and eighth grade students.

Elementary Principal Lisa Phelan reported 51 kindergarten students were enrolled at the recent kindergarten round-up. Students are being screened in areas of reading, math and writing.

High School Principal Jim Straw reported Freeman High School has two National Merit competitors for the second year in a row. Staff is working on concurrent enrollment (also called college in the high school) where students can earn high school and college credit at the same time while remaining on campus. There were 18 math applicants and 48 social studies applicants, and excellent candidates are being recommended for hire.

Athletic Director Brian Parisotto reported high school basketball interviews will be held on Friday. There were 560 area students who participated at a recent Freeman track meet.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Facilities Manager Kirk Lally reported that the District has received an award from the American Water Works Association for drinking water as a result of removing carbon tetrachloride with the installation of the water stripper. Meanwhile, the Environmental Protection Agency is testing the area for contaminants.

Technology Director Todd Reed reported MSP on-line testing for eighth grade students went flawlessly. The Smarter Balance trial testing is next. The last of the campus security system work is being completed with the installation of additional cameras.

Nutrition Services Supervisor Raeann Ducar reported that she is working with the Junior Class Store to test Smart Snacks in School. The taste testing with high school students went well. Mrs. Ducar secured a mini-grant to implement the smart snack program. The Fill the Cupboard food drive begins next week.

School Psychologist Jody Sweeney reported the current caseload is 115, and staff is working on interventions and tracking of progress before referrals into special education. Outdated standardized tests are being reviewed.

Assistant Transportation Supervisor Everett Combs reported that additional substitute bus drivers are being trained.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND

ASSESSMENT: Dr. Russell thanked the Rockford City Hall for hosting the meeting. Next week the PTSG is holding a thank you breakfast for staff.

SCHOOL SAFETY, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT: Dr. Russell reported elementary students gave Para-Educator Leslie Malloy a great send-off for her participation in the Boston Marathon.

PARTNERING WITH PARENTS AND SCHOOL/COMMUNITY: Technology Director Todd Reed shared communication survey results from an on-line tool used to ask five questions of parents, staff, and students during conferences.

Dr. Russell reported work continues on developing a logo and mascot along with ideas for letterhead. He read several letters from Mr. Gady's class regarding the school district's mascot. Annie Henson discussed logo progress. Dr. Russell reported recommendations will be brought to the Board next month.

Dr. Russell reported Mr. Primmer's Board vacancy will be advertised. Residents of Director District 3 can request materials and submit a letter of interest and resume. If there are more than five applicants, the Board can screen and narrow down candidates for interview. Selection is based on who is most likely to contribute to the growth and development of district programs and operations, he stated.

FISCAL AND LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY: Dr. Russell reported Director of Fiscal/Administrative Services Jan Davis is retiring, and Jamie Weingart, a CPA, has been selected to fill the position beginning on June 3. Mrs. Davis reviewed the cash flow projection which continues to be positive. Other good news was enrollment, which increased 7.99 FTE over last month for an annual average of 848.31. After May 1 enrollment is known, she stated, an enrollment number will be decided upon for budget preparation.

VISITOR COMMENTS/CONCERNS: Micki Harnois reported on Rockford Fair activities, including the May 18 coronation of fair royalty.

Debra Zingg asked about Common Core and whether there is controversy associated with it. Dr. Russell stated the Common Core state standards originated with the National Council of Governors, and he said information about it is on the District's website. Freeman's new math curriculum adoption two years ago addressed the state

learning standards in mathematics. The District is piloting the Smarter Balance on-line testing this year, and students are expected to learn things at an earlier age, he stated.

### NEW BUSINESS

APPROVE WASHINGTON DC TRIP 2016: High School Teacher Pia Longinotti requested approval of the Honor Society Washington DC trip for 2016. The trip is made every other year, and students pay for the trip. Mrs. Keebler moved the Board approve the trip as presented. Mr. Cashmere seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

APPROVE TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK: Mrs. Keebler moved the Board approve Teacher Appreciation Week May 4 – May 10, 2014. Mr. Cashmere seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: High School Principal Jim Straw reviewed the attendance policy with Board members. Tracking of attendance will be done by the main office, and on the 11<sup>th</sup> absence, students could lose credit in the class. There is an appeal process in place, which begins with an appeal board, the principal, the superintendent, and then the school board.

OTHER INFORMATION: Upcoming Board meetings are May 8 and May 27.

PERSONNEL: Dr. Russell recommended the following personnel action:

Certified: Mary Jessett – hire as HS Math Teacher  
Matthew Smith – hire as HS Social Studies Teacher  
Katherine Hawley – hire as MS Special Education Teacher  
Donna Preble – teacher resignation  
Jennifer Jensen – adoption leave 4/21/14 to 6/10/14  
Anne Marie Ophus – Resign special education assignment; accept .40 English assignment  
Bradley Groce – hire as Substitute Teacher

Classified: Jamie Weingart – Director of Fiscal/Administrative Services  
Melissa Ruchert – Substitute Bus Driver  
Elizabeth Lally – Para-Educator resignation  
Wendy O'Connor – Seasonal Grounds Work

Extracurricular: Jessica McWilliams – MS Assistant Track Coach  
Jacob Lara – MS Overflow Track Coach  
Nate Garner – MS Overflow Baseball 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 8:20 p.m. with no further action.

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Recording Secretary

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Board Secretary

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Board Chair