

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT
March 14, 2013

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The regularly scheduled meeting of the Freeman School District Board of Directors was called to order at 4:00 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: Jon Gores, Annie Henson, Dave Smith, Char Trejbal, Lisa Phelan, and Jim Straw.

FLAG SALUTE: Mrs. Keebler led the audience in the flag salute.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Dr. Russell added one personnel item to the agenda. Mr. Primmer added a report from Mr. Zingg on the Olympia legislative meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes – February 26, 2013

Approval of Minutes – March 6, 2013

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

BOARD RECOGNITION: High School Principal Dave Smith honored Annie Henson who has spent many hours assisting with the district's website. Her expertise has been invaluable, he said.

CORRESPONDENCE: Dr. Russell gave the Board the most recent issue of the Bagpiper and a copy of Board and Administrator.

REPORTS

BUILDING REPORTS: Middle School Principal Jim Straw reported on upcoming conferences. He thanked Tawnya Becker for her work in Skyward parent conference scheduling. She piloted the module last year, and has spent a great deal of time on it, he stated. Staff is preparing for MSP testing. Students take science, reading and math tests on line. Writing is still done with paper and pencil.

High School Principal Dave Smith reported on testing, conferences, and sports activities. Scheduling for next year has begun, and parents are encouraged to "sit down

with their kids and do this together on line,” he stated. Almost three quarters of the student body are participating in sports.

Elementary Principal Lisa Phelan reported on profile meetings, Math is Cool, and the anticipated math adoption.

WELL PROJECT REPORT: Dr. Russell reported GeoEngineers staff is reviewing a potential change in water rights with the drilling of the test well. The Dept. of Health will conduct a “sanitary control area survey” to make sure the site is suitable. The site will be “witched” and drilling could begin next week. Once drilled, pump tests and water quality tests will be required.

Dr. Russell reported the district has exceeded carbon tetrachloride limits and incurred a water quality violation as a result. As required, a letter is being sent to parents and staff regarding the situation.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: Mr. Zingg reported on his attendance at the recent WSSDA legislative assembly. OSPI Superintendent Randy Dorn reported Washington is 42nd in the nation for per pupil funding. Legislators are considering adding two more assessments to the current five; Superintendent Dorn feels there should only be two, Mr. Zingg reported.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT--ENROLLMENT REPORT: Dr. Russell reviewed the March 1 enrollment report with 858.09 FTE and an annual average of 856.86.

SCHOOL SAFETY, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT: Dr. Russell gave the Board the updated emergency procedures office manual. A keyless entry pad will be added to the west elementary wing using contingency funds, he stated.

PARTNERING WITH PARENTS AND SCHOOL/COMMUNITY: Dr. Russell stated Annie Henson has been a phenomenal volunteer. The District also receives support from the Hangman Creek Chamber of Commerce and the Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce.

FISCAL AND LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY: Dr. Russell reported staff continues to monitor enrollment, budget, Choice applications, and remaining capital projects funds. Special Education needs continue to be a priority.

VISITOR COMMENTS/CONCERNS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

BOND REFINANCE PROPOSAL: D.A. Davidson Representative Jon Gores reported that bonds sold in 2008 at 4.9 percent interest may now be eligible to be refinanced at a

2.5 percent rate for significant savings to taxpayers. The first ten years of bonds are protected, however, bonds maturing after 2018 can be paid off early or “called”. For issues under \$10 million, two tax incentives are granted to banks to encourage purchase of smaller bond issues.

Current rates would produce savings of approximately \$470,000 on \$9.5 million in bonds, resulting in annual interest savings of \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year. He recommended board members set a savings target. The state savings target is five percent, and he recommended no less than that. Once a target is set, there is no cost to the district unless the savings amount is reached and bonds are sold.

There are three things to consider, Mr. Gores stated:

- (1) the bonds can only be refinanced once
- (2) the bond rating could be reviewed and changed
- (3) the issuance of new bonds counts toward the district’s non-voted debt limit.

Mr. Gores suggested the adoption of a “delegation resolution” which sets forth the savings target and delegates the authority to sign a bond purchase agreement if the target is reached. The resolution remains in place for one year, and if the savings target is not reached, no bonds are sold. After discussion, the issue will be on the next Board agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVE SCHOOL BUS BIDS: Transportation Supervisor Charlotte Trejbal reviewed school bus bids as follows:

	<i>Schetky-Thomas</i>	<i>Bryson - Bluebird</i>	<i>Harlow’s – Intl</i>
41 passenger	\$102,957.47	\$102,062.91	\$103,902.58
24 passenger	66,375.59	65,196.17	69,720.32

She recommended the Bryson bid for both buses. Mr. Goldsmith moved the Board approve bus bids as presented. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

OTHER INFORMATION: Mr. Primmer stated the refinance issue will be on the March 28 agenda.

PERSONNEL: Dr. Russell recommended the following personnel action:

Classified: Leave of absence – Kaylene Iltz to complete student teaching

Extracurricular: Resignation –Jennifer Lucas, HS Cheer Coach
 Steven Hertz – HS Assistant Baseball Coach

Hire - Clayton Panzeri – HS Asst Baseball Coach
Larry Wheatley – HS Overflow Track Coach

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

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m. with no further action.

Recording Secretary

Board Secretary

Board Chair