

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 358
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
December 12, 2007

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The regularly scheduled meeting of the Freeman School District Board of Directors was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chad Goldsmith. There was a quorum present.

MEMBERS: Kris Barnes, Brent Fetsch, Chad Goldsmith, Randy Primmer, Diane Woodman, Sergio Hernandez, and Jan Davis.

GUESTS: Vicki Sellers, Ellen Hawley, Raeann Ducar, Debbie Maine, Char Trejbal, Everett Combs, Don Peery, Bonnie Peery, Craig Lang, Kathy Dresback, Rex Watson, Darl Vander Linden, Patty Primmer, Brian Parisotto, Shane Miller, Dave Huotari, Kirk Lally, Jim Straw, Dave Teague, Dave Smith, John Sellers, and Lisa Phelan.

FLAG SALUTE: Don Peery led the audience in the flag salute.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes	November 28, 2007
Vouchers not to exceed	\$150,000
Payroll not to exceed	\$580,000
ASB vouchers #3802-3803	\$ 275
ASB vouchers not to exceed	\$ 50,000
CPF vouchers not to exceed	\$ 37,000

Mrs. Davis explained the consent agenda looks different since there is only one meeting in December. Voucher registers will be available for Board member review at the next meeting. Mrs. Barnes moved the Board approve the consent agenda as presented. Mrs. Woodman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION RECOGNITION: Superintendent Hernandez administered the oath of office to new Board member Vicki Sellers.

HONOR OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER: Board member Kris Barnes was thanked for her service and presented with a bell. Mrs. Barnes thanked the Freeman community “for allowing me to be a Freeman School Board member. It has been a great honor to serve. People have expressed concerns to me about the inexperience of this new board. I want them to know we have a strong Freeman history as well as passion and dedication with these Board members. We have the strongest administrative team ever, and I feel the years to come will be an exciting ride for Freeman.”

ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES: Mr. Goldsmith called for nominations for chairperson. Mrs. Woodman nominated Chad Goldsmith. Mr. Fetsch seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Goldsmith called for nominations for vice-chairperson. Mr. Primmer nominated Diane Woodman. Mr. Goldsmith seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Goldsmith called for nominations for legislative representative. Mrs. Woodman nominated Randy Primmer. Mr. Fetsch seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Fetsch inquired about board policy regarding rotation of the position of chairperson. Mr. Hernandez said rotation of the role of chairperson is not specifically addressed in Board policy but that it could be discussed during the Board retreat.

CORRESPONDENCE: Mr. Hernandez reported the ESD has extended the deadline to February 23 to negotiate the boundary petition with Central Valley School District. Two Freeman Board members will meet with two representatives from the Central Valley School Board on December 20.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Mr. Hernandez added approval of a minor change in bereavement leave language for classified employees.

VISITORS' COMMENTS/CONCERNS: Patty Primmer stated middle school students would like a milk machine instead of a juice machine. Some students are walking to the high school for milk from their machine. Nutrition Services Supervisor Raeann Ducar stated as a dietician she would like to see it available for students and will look into it with the middle school principal. However, the vending machines fund ASB and milk tends to not be very profitable.

REPORTS

BUILDING REPORTS: Elementary Principal Lisa Phelan reported on the holiday program scheduled this evening after the Board meeting. Middle School Principal Jim Straw reported on the upcoming end of semester and sports activities. The valley sports league has turned out to be a great advantage in reduced travel time, he stated, since middle school students can be home for dinner after a game.

High School Principal Dave Smith reported on the Knowledge Bowl competition in Ritzville. He stumped the audience with a tough Knowledge Bowl question the students answered correctly. Mr. Smith stated he received positive feedback on the recent FBLA trip to Seattle. The conference manager at the hotel wrote: "In the 15 years I have been at this hotel and hosting more than 50 school groups, your group was the most well mannered and polite group of young adults we have ever had." Mr. Smith reported that the school

improvement team is evaluating the current schedule. The high school received an honorable mention letter from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction regarding reading and math scores.

Mr. Smith reported only one student has not met standard in all areas required for graduation in 2008. There are 17 students who have not met standard in math, but will graduate if they pass the math class they are currently taking. Mr. Primmer asked about a deadline for collection of evidence. Mr. Smith stated there is a plan for each student on what the next step should be. Mr. Hernandez reported many districts are reviewing graduation policies now for students who try several times and have met all other graduation requirements.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Technology Director Dave Teague reported the new website is receiving 30,000 hits a month, more than three times previous years. Teachers are using blogs for students. Mr. Fetsch asked about pages for individual student progress. Mr. Teague stated it is being utilized—students are checking to see what is missing, parents can check lunch account balances, and teachers appreciate its features. “We need to get everyone’s e-mail address,” he said. Mr. Primmer asked about the recent instant alert test. Mr. Teague said it was tested with staff only and worked very well. Hopefully, it will be tested with parents after the first of the year and is planned for emergency notifications.

Nutrition Services Supervisor Raeann Ducar reported she is working on her department’s website. Participation is strong in all schools for both breakfast and lunch. She reported that all the beverages in the vending machines now meet the wellness policy guidelines.

Transportation Supervisor Charlotte Trejbal reviewed the recent West Valley bus accident at the intersection of Highway 27 and Jackson Road. Fortunately, there were no serious injuries. She reported bus bids will be sought from three vendors. Rex Watson asked about the attempt to reduce speed through that area. Mrs. Sellers reported she has served with others on a committee with the Dept. of Transportation. In the spring a Highway 27 safety corridor study is planned from Trent through Rockford. Committee members toured the area Friday before Memorial weekend, and one member noted it took nine minutes for a bus to get through that busy intersection.

Facilities Manager Kirk Lally thanked Everett Combs, Larry Freter and the custodians for their efforts in getting the parking lots and sidewalks cleared and sanded each morning. They have been plowing both mornings and evenings. Mr. Hernandez commented they have been here by 4:00 a.m. each morning to make sure the work is done.

Athletic Director Brian Parisotto reported Riverside School District will remain in 2A, which makes it more difficult to schedule games in an odd numbered league. A student has been helping to investigate potential use of a soccer field off 32nd Avenue in the Valley.

ENROLLMENT: Mr. Hernandez reviewed the December enrollment report with 870.56 FTE and an annual average of 903.35. CVA students are not counted in December for staffing ratio purposes, but are counted in June.

Mr. Hernandez asked for a Board member to assist Mrs. Woodman and himself in the 2000 series of Board policies. Mrs. Sellers volunteered. First reading is scheduled for the second meeting in January.

Mr. Hernandez proposed the following meeting dates, scheduled for 6:00 p.m. in the middle school library:

January 9
January 30
February 13
February 27
March 12
March 26
April 9
April 23
May 14
May 28

Mr. Primmer moved the Board approve the dates as presented. Mrs. Sellers seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Mr. Hernandez invited the Board to the holiday staff reception on December 18.

BEREAVEMENT LANGUAGE CHANGE: Mr. Hernandez requested approval of a memorandum of understanding to change classified bereavement leave language which brings it more in line with certificated contract language. The changes reflect the Family Medical Leave Act law and allows up to five days bereavement for specific situations. Mr. Fetsch moved the Board approve the language change. Mr. Primmer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVE NEW GRADING SCALE: The change in grading scale has been under Board review for two weeks. Mr. Fetsch moved the Board adopt the change as presented. Mr. Primmer seconded the motion. Mr. Straw clarified that the elementary and middle schools have already issued grades this year, so would not change to the new scale until the 2008 school year. The high school would change immediately. Mr. Fetsch stated the reasons for change, such as scholarships, consistency, insurance affect mainly high school students, and he reasserted his motion as clarified. The motion then passed unanimously.

STUDY AND SURVEY: Mr. Hernandez reported the Board needs to accept the study and survey report and adopt a resolution that addresses available space in adjacent school districts. Two districts, Central Valley School District and Spokane have available space, but are not suitable for Freeman’s needs. Mr. Hernandez stated that during community forums, parents stated that they wanted students to remain on campus. Mrs. Woodman moved the Board adopt Resolution 2-2007/2008 – Available Space in Adjacent School Districts. Mr. Fetsch seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hernandez recommended the Board adopt Resolution 3-2007/2008 – Facilities Study and Survey. The survey speaks to modernization and expansion of the high school, the elementary school as well as district and campus wide improvements. The cost is estimated at \$29.5 million, of which \$19.3 is from taxpayers and \$10.2 from the state. The modernization and new construction would focus on safety and security improvements, building and infrastructure improvements, and educational needs and improvements.

Mr. Hernandez stated approval would give direction to form a bond committee. He requested each Board member to solicit “one key communicator in your district that could serve on a strategy committee for the bond.” Subcommittees would then be formed for volunteers, fundraising, media communication and signs. As many volunteers as possible are needed. After discussion Mr. Fetsch moved the Board adopt Resolution 3-2007/2008 – Facilities Study and Survey. Mrs. Woodman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

PERSONNEL: Mr. Hernandez recommended the following personnel action:

Extracurricular: MS Girls Basketball – Pia Longinotti

Mr. Fetsch moved the Board approve personnel action as presented. Mrs. Sellers seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned with no further action at 6:54 p.m. so that members could attend the K-4 holiday concert.

Recording Secretary

Board Secretary

Board Chair

FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT #358

December 12, 2007

Recommendation for Capital Projects

Based on the 2007 Study & Survey as well as the Community Forums

The Community has reviewed existing facility and educational conditions, considered future circumstances, and have asked the Board to consider the following “Scope of Work” improvements:

Modernization and Expansion of the High School

Modernization & Expansion of the Elementary School

District & Campus Wide Improvements

The recommended “Schedule for the Work” following the successful passage of a spring 2008 Bond Vote:

Begin a +/- 16 month construction project at the High School in spring 2009. This would be “Front Funded” to allow construction to start earlier than mid summer.

Begin a +/- 12 month construction project at the elementary School in summer 2010. This project would proceed on the State Funding (OSPI) schedule where funds are available in July of each year.

Work on District & Campus Wide Improvements would likely occur during the summer months between June 2008 and 2011. Some work may be done during the school year.

The estimated “Budget for the Work” considers both local and State funding as follows:

Approximately \$29,500,000 for all work (Total Project Costs, including all “soft costs” in 2007 dollars)

Approximately \$19,300,000 in Local funds from the successful passage of a Bond vote.

Approximately \$10,200,000 from the State (OSPI) in the form of matching funds.

The Modernization and New Construction work would focus on 1) Safety and Security Improvements, 2) Building and Infrastructure Improvements and 3) Educational Needs and Improvements.

**FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT #358
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
COMPONENT COSTS**

December 10, 2007
ALSC Architects, P.S.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	TOTAL COST		\$9,100,000
Design for 380 Students (K-5)	District Portion	\$6,100,000	
	State Match	\$3,000,000	

Scope of Work includes:

New Multi-Purpose Room/Cafeteria/Kitchen
(4) New Classrooms & Support Space

- * New Mechanical & Electrical Systems
- * New Roof & Insulation
- * Improved Exterior Walls, Windows, Doors, Etc.
- * Improved Interior Finishes & Furnishings
- * Handicap Accessibility
- * Site Safety Improvements

HIGH SCHOOL	TOTAL COST		\$17,150,000
Design for 350 Students (9-12)	District Portion	\$9,950,000	
	State Match	\$7,200,000	

Scope of Work includes:

- * Modernization or Replacement of Vo-Ag Building
(4 - 6) New Classrooms & Support Space
- * New Multi-Purpose Room/Cafeteria/Kitchen
New "A" Gymnasium
- * New Mechanical & Electrical Systems
- * New Roof & Insulation
- * Improved Exterior Walls, Windows, Doors, Etc.
- * Improved Interior Finishes & Furnishings
- * Handicap Accessibility
- * Site Safety Improvements
- * All Weather Surface for Track

CAMPUS SITE IMPROVEMENTS	TOTAL COST		\$2,500,000
	District Portion	\$2,500,000	
	State Match	\$0	

Scope of Work includes:

New or Modernized Vehicle Maintenance & Storage Space
New or Modernized Maintenance & Support Space
Site Development & Improvements (Parking, Student Drop-off)
Pedestrian Safety on Jackson Road
Upgrade & Consolidate Water System

MINOR WORK AT MIDDLE SCHOOL	\$200,000
May convert District Office Space to Classroom Use May relocate District Office to Portable Bldg. on Dist./ Owned Property	

TEMPORARY CLASSROOMS & (*) PHASING ALLOWANCE	\$500,000
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ESTIMATED TOTAL \$29,450,000

* Notes Components of Work Eligible for State Matching Funds.

