

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 358
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
October 10, 2007

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board went into executive session at 5:30 p.m. to consider a grievance under the collective bargaining agreement between the Freeman Coaches Association and the Freeman School District. This hearing is exempt from the Open Public Meeting Act.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The regularly scheduled meeting of the Freeman School District Board of Directors was called to order at 6:22 p.m. by Chair Sue Cronk. There was a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kris Barnes, Sue Cronk, Chad Goldsmith, Kathleen Lundy, Sergio Hernandez and Jan Davis. Excused absence: Diane Woodman.

GUESTS: Shane Miller, Daniel Dodge, Lisa Hjaltalen, Jeff Hulse, Carli Lewis, Char Trejbal, Gary Lee, Cathy Lee, Jay Cronk, Mark Dresback, Rex Watson, Vicki Sellers, Raeann Ducar, Kirk Lally, Lisa Phelan, Brian Parisotto, Ellen Hawley and Dave Smith.

FLAG SALUTE: Raeann Ducar led the audience in the flag salute.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

September 26, 2007

Mr. Goldsmith moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mrs. Lundy seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

VISITORS' COMMENTS/CONCERNS: Jeff Hulse inquired about a possible debate among multiple parties for school board seats. Rex Watson invited everyone to an informational meeting October 17 at the Valleyford Fire Station at 7:00 p.m. where Board candidates will respond to prepared questions.

REPORTS

WASL PRESENTATION: Alternative school teacher Dan Dodge reviewed WASL reading, math and writing scores for the past three years. Freeman students are significantly higher than state scores in all areas. Scores are available on the district website.

BUILDING REPORTS: Athletic Director Brian Parisotto reported the grading scale committee met today and should be ready to make a proposal to the Board within a

month. Mr. Parisotto continues to research the possibility of soccer at the high school level. It appears there will be changes in the Northeast A League in the next two years, he reported.

Elementary Principal Lisa Phelan reported on fire protection safety week and the fundraiser. Fourth grade students asked to have their own book club, she stated. Middle School Principal Jim Straw reported on sports activities and the book fair.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Facilities Manager Kirk Lally reported the football field light wiring problem has been repaired. Resource Officer Ron Nye is seeking a grant to separate the middle school intercom from the elementary school system.

Transportation Supervisor Charlotte Trejbal reported buses are using a biodiesel blend from the new tank. Bus evacuation drills will begin, the ridership count is underway, and school bus safety week is next week. On an average, 570 Freeman students take the bus each day.

Nutrition Services Supervisor Raeann Ducar reported an exciting start to school. Students love the new fruit and vegetable cart. The “Vote for School Lunch” event was a big success, she reported.

ENROLLMENT REPORT: Mr. Hernandez reported October enrollment at 914.61 FTE, with an annual average of 912.45. This is 42 above last year’s average.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: Mr. Hernandez reported the website continues to be improved, and community suggestions have been implemented. All school Board policies should be available soon. Three community forums have been scheduled to dialogue about the bond issue:

October 22	Middle School Library	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
October 23	Rockford City Hall	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
October 24	Fire District 8, Stn. 81 (Moran Prairie)	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

The Board is considering a March 11, 2008 election date, along with several other school districts. After the input meetings, the Board will come back to a general session with all three communities to share what was learned, Mr. Hernandez stated. The Board agreed to hold its regular meeting December 12 prior to the winter concert.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVE COACHES CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS: Mr. Hernandez reported negotiations with the Freeman Coaches Association has been finalized, and he recommended approval of the agreement changes, which includes clarification of some language. Mrs. Barnes moved the Board approve the contract as revised. Mr.

Goldsmith seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Mr. Hernandez thanked Kenny Davis for his work in the negotiations process.

FIRST READING BOARD GOALS: Mr. Hernandez gave the Board a copy of goals for 2007-2008 prepared as a compilation of discussion during the Board retreat. The Board is to review the goals, make any suggestions, and formalize them at the next meeting. A shorter version will be placed on the web site after they are adopted. The next reading of the goals will be October 30.

PERSONNEL: Mr. Hernandez recommended the following personnel action:

Classified: Early Childhood Learning Center Assistant –
 Juleen Vogelman – Fridays, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

 Sub Bus Drivers – Scott Dougherty, Stuart Vogelman
 Sub Nutrition Services – Angie Lamb

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

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Lundy moved the Board adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. Mr. Goldsmith seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Recording Secretary

Board Secretary

Board Chair