

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 358
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
September 26, 2007

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. by Chair Sue Cronk. There was a quorum present.

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

GUESTS: Brent Fetsch, Ellen Hawley, Charlotte Trejbal, Randy Primmer, Greg Romey, Jay Cronk, Jim Straw, Darl Vander Linden, Dave Smith, Tom Maine, Debbie Maine, Lisa Miller, LeRoy Allen, Bonnie Carrell, Shane Miller, Dave Huotari, Julie Huotari, Vicki Sellers, Kevin Miller, Brian Parisotto, Lisa Phelan, Mark Dresback, Kathy Dresback, Kate Koch, Vern Blystone, and Lisa Hjaltalin.

FLAG SALUTE: Leroy Allen led the audience in the flag salute.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes	September 12, 2007
General Fund Vouchers #3880-4043	\$239,508.23
September Payroll	\$550,108.98
ASB Funds Vouchers #3748-3765	\$ 30,121.42
CPF Voucher #711	\$ 37,165.97
TVF Voucher #1037	\$ 94,083.38
Treasurer's Statement	

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

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Mr. Hernandez added a name to be recommended under extracurricular personnel.

VISITORS' COMMENTS/CONCERNS: Randy Primmer expressed concern about the timing of renewing extracurricular contracts. Mr. Hernandez stated the coaches contract is being renegotiated, and new language will address that very issue.

Shane Miller asked that board member representation by geographic area be clarified on the website, as well as e-mail addresses for each board member. Mr. Hernandez reported the website is being redesigned and that some items which were on the old website have not yet been placed on the new website. It should be resolved shortly, he stated.

Debbie Maine inquired about the committee being formed to look at the grading scale. Brian Parisotto stated he is gathering samples of grading scales from area schools and then a committee will be formed in the next few weeks to review it. Parents interested in serving on the committee should contact High School Principal Dave Smith. Brent Fetsch said parents want Freeman kids on a level playing field when it comes to competing in college applications.

Lisa Miller inquired about starting a soccer team at Freeman. Mr. Hernandez directed her to begin the conversation with the athletic director. “There are other factors, such as Title IX requirements to balance sports,” he stated. Mrs. Cronk reported a soccer program was attempted around 1999, however, the district was unable to find a coach after a season had been scheduled.

Darl Vander Linden asked the Board and administration to think about ways to retain students at Freeman High School, rather than having them leave for other programs. Mrs. Lundy stated the Board has worked with the principal and counselor to add more courses, including on-line offerings. Mr. Hernandez stated six classes were added to the high school schedule this year, including AP courses. Jay Cronk stated, “We don’t have the facilities to offer a whole lot more classes—until we get more space, it will be difficult to do that.”

Mr. Vander Linden also inquired about getting information about Board meetings other than the brief minutes posted on the website. Mr. Hernandez invited him to call the office for more information or clarification.

Greg Romey asked whether some of the course offering issues are caused by the split block schedule. Mr. Smith stated the state is requiring additional math and science credits, and now other schools with six-period days have fewer electives. He stated the schedule will be reviewed this year and invited parents to participate in the process. Math will be emphasized year-round, he stated. Mrs. Cronk thanked the audience for their input.

REPORTS

STUDY AND SURVEY PRELIMINARY REPORT: Dave Huotari of ALSC Architects updated the Board on the study and survey process, which is required to be eligible for state matching funds and is paid for through a state grant. The study includes an analysis of the facilities, review of educational program objectives, enrollment trends and projections, financial capacity for new bonds, racial and demographic information, and whether area schools have unused space. “Our buildings vary in condition from good to poor,” he stated. He provided the Board copies of the second draft. Mrs. Cronk stated patrons could review the study and survey at the district office. Mr. Hernandez stated this is just the first step in a process that includes asking the community what they feel is important and what they will support. Mrs. Cronk invited the audience to become a part of this process.

BUILDING REPORTS: Middle School Principal Jim Straw reported on upcoming retreats: the eighth grade will go to Adventure Dynamics and the seventh grade students will go to Chewelah Peak. Resource Officer Ron Nye is pursuing a grant for a separate intercom system for the middle school.

Elementary Principal Lisa Phelan reported on the fundraiser kick-off, essay contest, spirit week activities, and a new recycling program. High School Principal Dave Smith reported on homecoming week activities. “Our high school students are amazing—we have great kids,” he stated.

ENROLLMENT REPORT: Mr. Hernandez reported September enrollment is 911.36 FTE. Enrollment is inching up, he stated, and at least 10 Choice students were turned away because classrooms were full at certain grade levels. First and third grades remain small, he stated, which could be a challenge as these classes move through.

BOND DATE: Mr. Hernandez reported initially the Board approved February 19 as a possible bond election date. However, other area districts are leaning toward the March 11 election date. “We are looking for 100 volunteers to identify the yes votes in this district, so please sign up,” he stated.

REVIEW HARASSMENT/BULLYING POLICIES: Mr. Hernandez provided the Board harassment and bullying policies for their review. “We need to make sure the language is consistent in policies, student handbooks and staff handbooks,” he said. Mrs. Lundy said the language appears to address bullying from student-to-student, but not staff-to-staff or staff-to-student. Mr. Hernandez will review it for content.

NEW BUSINESS

SET FUTURE BOARD DATES: The Board set the following meeting dates:

October 10

October 30

November 13

November 28

PERSONNEL: Mr. Hernandez recommended the following personnel action:

Certified: Substitute Teacher – Desiree Bonner, Roger Falk, Kathleen Proud

Extracurricular: MS Overflow Football Coaches - Brad Van Dyne & Chris Swanson
MS Asst Softball - Guy Coumont

Mr. Smith reported there were only two boys basketball applicants, so the committee recommends hiring JV coach Greg Hannah as an interim coach for the season.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board went into executive session at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose set forth in RCW 42.30.100, specifically the following: to discuss litigation with their attorney, such session anticipated to be approximately 60 minutes in length. No action is anticipated following executive session. At 8:34 p.m. executive session was extended another 30 minutes.

ADJOURNMENT: The Board returned to open session at 9:15 p.m. and took no action. Mrs. Lundy moved the Board adjourn the meeting. Mr. Goldsmith seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Recording Secretary

Board Secretary

Board Chair

