

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 358
K-8 Multipurpose Room
September 8, 2011

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 Brent Fetsch. There was a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brent Fetsch, Neil Fuchs, Chad Goldsmith, Randy Primmer, John Zingg, Randy Russell, and Jan Davis.

GUESTS: Ellen Hawley, Lisa Paternoster, Annie Keebler, Dave Smith, Dan Gordon, Lisa Phelan, and Jim Straw.

FLAG SALUTE: Mr. Fetsch led the audience in the flag salute.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Mr. Zingg added the upcoming WSSDA legislative assembly.

CONSENT AGENDA:
Approval of Minutes

August 25, 2011

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Mr. Russell gave the Board an Eagle Scout proposal from Joseph Preble to build bat houses for the south end of campus to help control mosquitoes. He shared a letter from Canfield Associates regarding their bullying training with the middle school staff. He also gave a letter from Robert Brandt and Duane LaShaw regarding water issues in their fields. Mr. Russell plans to meet with them. Facilities Manager Kirk Lally looked at it and feels it is irrigation run-off rather than a lagoon issue. Mrs. Hawley's class sent letters to the Board and community thanking them for the new school.

REPORTS

BUILDING REPORTS: High School Principal Dave Smith reported students are settling in nicely. The staff is doing a great job, he reported, including the four new staff members. Testing results are in, and reading, writing, and science all went up. "We are above several schools around us, and we are pleased but have more work to do," he stated. There is a volleyball tournament Saturday, and community members have some surprises planned for the Friday night football game.

Middle School Principal Jim Straw reported staff was very pleased with the end of course exam results: 29 out of 31 met standard in algebra at the high school. Seven

8th grade students are taking geometry. Canfield & Associates representatives conducted bullying training with the middle school staff on September 1, and will be back to work with students and parents. The District has been awarded a security grant for security cameras in the middle school, automatic locking doors, and cameras for buses.

Elementary principal Lisa Phelan reported parents have implemented a popular robotics program with 40 students participating. Everyone is enjoying the new building. Aimsweb screening has begun which helps teachers place students in the correct area.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE – CSG Representative Dan Gordon reported earthwork continues on the bus loop and new parking areas. There have been additional discoveries of unsuitable soils. Mr. Primmer inquired about the cost. Mr. Gordon stated, “The first two spots may cost \$10,000 with an additional \$10,000 for the corner location.” The geotechnical engineer determines what material and how much must be removed.

Mr. Fuchs asked whether the fence and property issue was settled. Mr. Gordon stated he is waiting for the contractor and the civil engineer to meet with the county to determine the property line. The property originally belonged to the district, then became platted as an alley. The question is when the alley is abandoned, does the property return to the original owner (the district) or is it split among adjacent owners? Mr. Russell met with the adjacent property owner and all agreed to let the official records determine the outcome. Mr. Russell stated the District wants to continue to be a good neighbor.

Mr. Russell reported OSPI has approved the \$100,000 urgent repair grant to integrate the well across from the high school into the District’s water system. Mr. Gordon stated the District and he will work with OSPI and the contractor to determine what portions are charged to the grant and what belongs to construction funding.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: Mr. Russell reported it has been a great first week of school.

PSE NEGOTIATIONS: Mr. Russell stated he, Mr. Primmer and Mrs. Davis have met twice with the PSE to negotiate their salary schedule for 2011-2012. The budget has been built including a 1.9% reduction for all employee groups. This amounts to approximately \$22,500 for PSE employees. After the most recent meeting, the PSE group called for caucus, and stated they stand firm in not taking the 1.9% cut. Since that meeting, principals reviewed the change in the length of the school day and how it might affect seven hour para-educator time. As a result, those positions were reduced by 20 minutes, for a savings of \$15,000 in salaries and benefits. The District continues to look at where to cut the remaining \$7,500.

Mr. Primmer stated it is unfortunate that eight individuals take a greater hit rather than all the members receiving a smaller reduction. “The Board’s preference would be that

all of our employees be treated equally.” Mr. Russell reported negotiations continue next week.

ENROLLMENT: Mr. Russell reported there were 852 students on the first day and 866 today. Friday is the official September count date.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL BREAKFAST/OPEN HOUSE & BBQ: Mr. Russell thanked everyone for a successful kick-off. Spokane Teachers Credit Union provided a lunch on the staff work day. He thanked the Board for attending the open house/BBQ.

VISITORS’ COMMENTS AND CONCERNS: None.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVE BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT GOALS FOR 2011-12: Mr. Primmer moved the Board approve the Board/Superintendent goals for 2011-2012 as presented. Mr. Goldsmith seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION FORM: Mr. Russell gave the Board the proposed updated superintendent evaluation tool. Mr. Primmer stated he felt the five-page document with 70 categories was too lengthy. The Board concurred and suggested a document that evaluated the superintendent against the adopted goals. Mr. Russell and the Board will review further.

APPROVE FEA COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT: Mr. Russell reported negotiations with the Freeman Education Association were successfully concluded and requested approval of their 2011-2014 agreement. Mr. Fuchs moved the Board approve the agreement. Mr. Goldsmith seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: Mr. Zingg reported the WSSDA legislative assembly is September 23-24 in Pasco, and he is unable to attend. He asked if any other members could attend to vote on the 42 proposals. No one was available.

OTHER INFORMATION: Mr. Primmer reminded members the Spokane County School Directors meeting is September 27 at Freeman High School at 5:30 p.m. Dr. Livingston is the featured speaker and the teacher evaluation process will be discussed. Mr. Primmer is the incoming president of the group.

PERSONNEL: Mr. Russell recommended the following personnel action:

Certified: Resignation: Nate Bartlett – HS Spanish Teacher
 Hire: Lorraine Robinson – HS Spanish Teacher

Substitute Teacher: Samantha Fletcher

Classified: Resignation: Rich Wilbourn – Bus driver

Extracurricular: Hire: Ken Wells, HS JV Volleyball
 Andrew Dresback, HS Asst Football

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

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m. with no further action.

Recording Secretary

Board Secretary

Board Chair