

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 358
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
June 9, 2011

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 Chair Brent Fetsch. There was a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brent Fetsch, Randy Primmer, John Zingg, Sergio Hernandez, and Jan Davis. Excused absence due to business travel: Chad Goldsmith.

GUESTS: Ellen Hawley, Randy Russell, Dan Gordon, Penny Peterson, Richard Peterson, Lisa Phelan, Jim Straw, Lisa Paternoster, Neil Fuchs, Dax Logsdon, Kelly Paine, Annie Keebler and Maddie Keebler.

FLAG SALUTE: Randy Russell led the audience in the flag salute.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes

May 25, 2011

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

HONOR RETIREES: The Board of Directors honored three retirees: Vocational-Agriculture Teacher Pat Munstedt, Para-Educator Penny Peterson and Superintendent Sergio Hernandez. Collectively the three have 112 years of service in education.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

REPORTS

BUILDING REPORTS: High School Principal Dave Smith was with the senior class at their class trip to Silverwood. Graduation is on Saturday.

Elementary Principal Lisa Phelan reported staff is wrapping up the year in portables and must be moved out by June 17. School improvement teams met to develop a district-wide discipline policy that fits with the positive behavior program. Mrs. Phelan thanked Penny Peterson for her work with students.

Middle School Principal Jim Straw reported seventh grade students are designing and building bridges. They research, develop a construction company to sell the bridge, and build it with toothpicks. At the end of the project, bridges are tested to see which is the strongest. Eighth grade students are designing roller coasters in a similar project.

Middle school students will participate in the Greater Spokane County League next year. The middle school promotion has been moved to the high school due to parking concerns. Mr. Straw thanked Penny Peterson for her years of service.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: CSG Representatives Dan Gordon and Dax Logsdon reviewed construction progress. The high school project could be closed out at the July Board meeting, Mr. Logsdon stated. The Palouse Transportation Cooperative has been delayed due to water, weather and soil concerns. The Board had a lengthy discussion regarding the use of potential contingency dollars remaining in the projects. The focus is getting the elementary school ready for occupation in the fall.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT--ENROLLMENT/CHOICE: Mr. Hernandez reported enrollment and choice students are being closely monitored and appears to be 849 FTE expected in the fall. Kindergarten is full, and a third section may be needed.

2011-12 BUDGET UPDATE: Mr. Hernandez reported the Legislature enacted a 1.9% reduction in salaries for certificated staff and a 3% reduction for administrative and classified staff funding. When state employees' pay is reduced, they are given furlough days. Because the 180-day school year cannot be shortened, teachers would work the same amount of time for less pay. He met with the Freeman Education Association to think collaboratively on possible options.

ALE REPORT: Mr. Hernandez reviewed Freeman's three alternative learning programs. Freeman partners with Valley School District in the Columbia Virtual Academy, an on-line learning program serving 46.61 FTE in 2010-2011. Freeman operates the SOARS alternative cooperative with Liberty, Tekoa, Rosalia and Oakesdale, serving an average of 23.10 FTE this year. Of that number, 9.85 are Freeman students. "Some students do not fit into a brick and mortar program," he stated, "and this fills a need." In addition, 23 Freeman students took college courses on site through our digital learning program.

VISITORS' COMMENTS AND CONCERNS: None.

BOARD INTERVIEWS: Mr. Fetsch stated the filing period for the November election ends June 10. The Board will wait to see who files for Director District 4 before determining a process for interviews to fill the vacant position.

OTHER INFORMATION: Mr. Primmer reported he attended a Spokane County Rapid Response planning session and inquired about the status of the new buildings. Mr. Hernandez stated it is planned to be completed this summer. The system allows emergency responders to see every classroom, shutoffs for gas and electrical, etc.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m. with no further action.

Recording Secretary

Board Secretary

Board Chair