

BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 358  
December 13, 2023

**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 Board Chair Bill Morphy. There was a quorum present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bill Morphy, Danielle Santman, Annie Keebler, Nate Talbott, Dave Teague, Randy Russell and Alan Steinolfson were present.

**GUESTS:** Lisa Phelan, Jim Straw, Jeff Smith, Chad Ripke, Mike Allen, Jody Sweeney, Todd Reed, Kirk Lally, Kent Bevers, Debbie Morphy, Erik Cole, Cameron Golightly, Brian Singer, Kris Johnson, Rachael Schwartz, Jackson Grover, Trudy Gilbert, Sarah Schultz, Ann-Marie Grover, Gretchen Sutherland, Jill Morphy, Sean Gilbert, Kellie Miner, Gretchen Brebner, Bryan Johnson, Annie Murphey, Joe Kopp, Kody Kopp, DeeDee Kopp.

**FLAG SALUTE:** Bill Morphy led us in the flag salute.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

November 29th, 2023 Board Work Session Minutes

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<u>Credit Card (BMO) Payment General Fund</u>	<u>\$ 8,515.05</u>
<u>Credit Card (BMO) Payment ASB Fund</u>	<u>\$ 5,905.45</u>
<u>Midmonth Gen Fund AP Not to exceed</u>	<u>\$ 13,000.00</u>
<u>December General Fund AP not to exceed</u>	<u>\$150,000.00</u>
<u>December Capital Projects Fund Payments not to exceed</u>	<u>\$155,000.00</u>
<u>December General Fund ACH Payments not to exceed</u>	<u>\$ 10,000.00</u>
<u>December ASB Fund ACH Payments not to exceed</u>	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>
<u>December ASB Fund AP not to exceed</u>	<u>\$ 50,000.00</u>
<u>December Payroll not to exceed</u>	<u>\$962,000.00</u>
<u>January Credit Card Payments, not to exceed</u>	<u>\$ 30,000.00</u>

Annie Keebler moved the Board approve the consent agenda as presented. Danielle Santman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**OATH OF OFFICE:**

The Oath of Office was administered to the 5 newly elected board members; Annie Keebler, Bill Morphy, Danielle Santman, Dave Teague, and Nate Talbott. I do hereby solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Washington and will faithfully discharge the duties of Director of Freeman School District No. 358, Spokane County, State of Washington, to the best of my ability.

**BOARD REORGANIZATION:**

Bill Morphy called for nominations for Chairperson. Annie Keebler nominated Dave Teague as Chairperson. Danielle Santman seconded the nomination and it passed unanimously.

Dave Teague called for nominations for Vice-Chair. Annie Keebler nominated Bill Morphy as Vice-Chair. Nate Talbott seconded the nomination and it passed unanimously.

Dave Teague called for nominations for WIAA Representative. Nate Talbott nominated Bill Morphy as WIAA Representative. Danielle Santman seconded the nomination and it passed unanimously.

Dave Teague called for nomination for Legislative Representative. Annie Keebler nominated Danielle Santman as Legislative Representative. Nate Talbott seconded the nomination and it passed unanimously.

**BOARD RECOGNITION:**

- Facilities Update – HS Red Gym
  - Cameron Golightly – Studio+Architects
  - Brian Singer – Lydig Construction

Welcome and thank you for the work you've done on the project. The project went well. They worked with OSPI and the Emergency Repair Grant that the district received. They came out three times before the work even started to get a good handle on the repairs needed. They will check back in 3 to 4 months to check on the repairs and if they are doing as they are supposed to.

Thanks to Kirk Lally and Mike Allen for their extra leadership on the project; good problem-solving team along with great teamwork.

**PACE CHARACTER TRAIT:**

*CARING – Showing a genuine concern for the welfare of others and being a kind, supportive helper.*

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Spokane County Elections Office – Election Certification
- Washington State Patrol – Transportation Department-Certificate of Achievement
- State Mandates

**BUILDING REPORTS:**

**Lisa Phelan, Elementary Principal, reports:**

Overview

- The Freeman elementary is committed to a great year. The staff and students will focus on implementing the new student growth goal language (SGG), collaboration, and communication with our parents.

Areas of Focus

- PTSG hosted another successful Craft Night for the community.
- Kindergarten and fifth grade teamed their students to have a cookie exchange highlighting cookies from different countries.
- Classroom parties are this Friday afternoon.
- Planning for January 2<sup>nd</sup> return – PBIS refresher, aimswebPLUS screener K-5, and staff PD.

Enrollment

TK-30, K-53, 1-52, 2-65, 3-54, 4-54, 5-69 = 377 (+3) Total

**Jim Straw, Middle School Principal, reports:**

Overview

- During the 2023/2024 school year, FMS staff and students are working toward our “Best Year Ever”.
- Focuses will be on the execution of the 2025 Strategic Plan, enhancing the use of Advisory time and professional development on the new student growth goal language (SGG) to support growth.

Areas of Focus

- The FSD Choir performed at Barnes & Noble during the Book Fair on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Congratulations to the Benchwarmers for winning the ASB Sponsored FMS Lunch Basketball Championship! They withstood some adversity and a great effort by We Are Better to pullout the victory! Grade level winners were 6th Grade- We Are Better, 7th Grade- Shorties and 8th Grade- Benchwarmers. Thank you to Kelsey Hollen for the organization and all of the volunteers for helping us put on the tournament!
- Two of our three teams qualified for State at Eastern Washington University on Saturday, January 27th. Noah Trucking finished second in Robot Performance and in the Overall Competition to advance to State. The Cookies won the Innovation Award and also qualified for State. Holicow had a great showing and finished just outside the top five. Great job Dawgs!!
- The FMS Big Buddy Program, organized by Mrs. Yandt, participated in a Cookie Decorating Activity yesterday.

Enrollment

6-63, 7-66, 8-69 = 198 Total

**Jeff Smith, High School Principal, reports:**

Overview

- FHS is assessing and working to improve! Specifically, we will continue to improve our collaborative work as a team while focusing on building mission, vision, values, and assessment in an effort to implement the 2025 Strategic Plan and Washington State's new student growth goal language to support student and teacher growth.

Areas of Focus

- CTE reapproval process

- ASB - Door Decorating contest for advisory classes, Pippen, planning for Golden Garment
- NHS gingerbread house building
- Choir and Band performing tonight!

Enrollment

9-82, 10-75, 11-82 (-1), 12-65 = 304 (-1) Total

**Chad Ripke, Dean of Students/HS Athletic Director, reported by Jeff Smith:**

Overview

- Winter Sports
  - Boys' basketball - currently 4-1, home game tomorrow vs. West Valley at 7:15
  - Girls' basketball - currently 2-3, home game tomorrow vs West Valley at 5:45
  - Wrestling - 1-0 in league, great win vs Newport last week, will be competing at Tri-State this weekend
  - Football - 2<sup>nd</sup> in League, top 8 in State
  - Cheer - wrapped up mini-cheer camp this last week and had their performance at Saturday's games. Team is doing a great job.

Areas of Focus

- Dinner/Athletic Auction – February 3<sup>rd</sup> at the CDA Casino – flyers are out, tickets & tables being sold
- WIAA reclassification process
- Wrapping up spring sports schedules
- Winter break tournaments here at Freeman
- WIAA reclassification process
- Golden Garment planning

Enrollment

Boys Basketball-24, Girls Basketball-22, Wrestling-13, Cheer-13

**Mike Allen, K-8 TOSA/MS Athletic Director's reports:**

Overview

- Work to improve programs and support our student athletes.
- Participate in partnership with the Greater Spokane County League.

Area of Focus

- Boys' basketball set to start January 2, 2024
- Full coaching staff:
  - Scott Moore – 8<sup>th</sup> grade head coach
  - Isaac Swillie – 8<sup>th</sup> grade assistant coach
  - Bill Brebner – 7<sup>th</sup> grade head coach
  - Nate Garner – 7<sup>th</sup> grade assistant coach

Enrollment

Basketball: 34; 7<sup>th</sup>-18, 8<sup>th</sup>-16

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Kirk Lally, Director of Maintenance and Grounds, reported:**

Areas of Focus

- Red gym is complete; exhaust fans installed and running. Exhaust fan controls to be added.
- Getting ready for Christmas break; working in the buildings.
- Working with Chad on Christmas tournaments.

Safety

- Nothing to report at this time.

**Todd Reed, Technology Director, reported:**

Areas of Focus

- Assisted with the setup of technology for the Lego Robotics competition in the middle school gym, ensuring a seamless and engaging experience for participants.
- Currently working on the configuration and installation of "Clever" software; a dashboard interface for students aiming to enhance user experience for staff and students.
- Engaged in configuring and installing "Canva Pro" to empower teachers to create and personalize lesson plans, infographics, posters, video and more.

**Everett Combs, Transportation Supervisor, reported:**Areas of Focus

- Received the two new buses this month. They will be replacing Buses 17 and 18 and will be assigned to the Hangman routes.
- Still waiting on the Washington State Patrol to show up for their mid-winter surprise inspection.
- Clark has been busy riding buses and working in the bus garage.
- Working on updating student discipline on the buses so it works cohesively with that of the buildings/classrooms.
- November Mileage:
  - To/From – 11,129 miles
  - Athletics – 3,383 miles
  - Field Trips – 208 miles
  - Activity Routes – 764 miles
  - Total – 15,484 miles

**Kent Bevers, Nutrition Services Director, reported:**Areas of Focus

- Fiscal:
  - November FHS Numbers
    - ❖ Breakfast:
      - 675 Served
      - Equals \$820.72 in reimbursements
    - ❖ A La Carte: \$891.45
    - ❖ Total = \$1712.17
      - As compared to no breakfast & minimal a la carte the last few years.
- Dec 15 Themed Meal
  - Star shaped nuggets
  - Themed giveaway for students who purchase the star shaped nuggets
- Student ASB
  - Met with FES/FMS Student Body Fri., Dec 8
    - ❖ Discussed menu
    - ❖ Educating students on the requirements of student meals
    - ❖ Discussed pricing – school lunch price vs. fast food prices
    - ❖ Took suggestions of things students would like to see; cups available for water during lunch, vegetarian Grab & Go options, and recipe request for home-made rolls.

**Jody Sweeney, SpEd Director/School Psych, reported:**Overview

- School Psychologist:
  - Initial evaluations and reevaluations within FSD – academic, cognitive, social/emotional, developmental, health, and adaptive assessments within a legal timeline.
- Special Ed Director:
  - Focused on Special Education processes, legal and team expectations.
  - Communication and collaboration with Admin/Leadership Team and Special Ed Team.
  - ELL and Highly Capable work within the district.

Areas of Focus

- Disability categories within Freeman
- Initial evaluations – 13; 5 done this week
- Reevaluations – 8
- Move out and homeschool ~7
- Transfer in with IEP – 5

Enrollment

112

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

- Dr. Russell outlined the timeline of a recent personnel decision. He reiterated that FSD cannot comment on personnel issues.
- WIAA Classification Update – Freeman will be playing where the numbers are. Chad Ripke and Randy Russell will be meeting with the 1A and 2B Athletic Directors, starting in January. There could

be 13 schools and the possibility of a north and south division. Freeman plans to be 2B in the next 4-year cycle starting next school year.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment:

School Safety, Culture, and Environment:

Partnering with Parents and School/Community:

- February 2024 Levy Discussion – A three-year renewal levy will be on the ballot February 13, 2024.
- FSD 2023/2024 Board/Superintendent Expectations were reviewed.

Fiscal and Legal Accountability:

- December enrollment graphs were shared with the board.
- Superintendent Evaluation Process – Dr. Russell’s mid-year evaluation/performance report will be reviewed at the January board meeting.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

The board is in support of transparency. The board wants to reiterate they are available and welcome communication. They will follow the law. The board will be working on getting out in the community more often and would like feedback.

**VISITORS COMMENTS & CONCERNS:**

Five visitors shared comments: disappointment in a recent personnel decision, loss of a good role model with love for the kids, confusion, attributes D1 playing to skills taught, people are divided, remember who lost out, decision criticism, fix and change disfunction, see a production process, model our mission statement, reflect and review values.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY NO. 3122 – 2ND READING

Bill Morphy moved the Board approve Board Policy & Procedure No. 3122 – Excused and Unexcused Absences, as presented. Annie Keebler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY NO. 3231 – 2ND READING

Annie Keebler moved the Board approve Board Policy No. 3231 – Student Records, as presented. Bill Morphy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY NO. 6020 – 2ND READING

Bill Morphy moved the Board approve Board Policy No. 6020 – Systems of Funds and Accounts, as presented. Nate Talbott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY NO. 6550 – 2ND READING

Annie Keebler moved the Board approve Board Policy No. 6550 – Capitalization Threshold for Leases and Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITAS) (NEW), as presented. Danielle Santman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

APPROVAL OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

Bill Morphy moved the Board approve the surplus of old/outdated library books, as presented. Annie Keebler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY & PROCEDURE NO. 3207 – 1ST READING

Annie Keebler moved the Board approve Board Policy & Procedure No. 3207 – Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying of Students, as presented. Bill Morphy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY & PROCEDURE NO. 3241 – 1ST READING

Annie Keebler moved the Board approve Board Policy No. 3241 – Student Discipline, as presented. Danielle Santman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY NO. 5310 – 1ST READING**

Annie Keebler moved the Board approve Board Policy No. 5310 – Compensation, as presented. Bill Morphy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY & PROCEDURE NO. 6605 – 1ST READING**

Annie moved the Board approve Board Policy No. 6605 – Student Safety Walking, Biking and Riding Buses, as presented. Nate Talbott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**OTHER INFORMATION:**

- The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be Wednesday, January 24th at 11:00 am at Freeman High School.
- The February board meeting will be Wednesday, the 28th, at 6:00 pm in the K-8 MPR.

**PERSONNEL ACTION:**

Certified: Jessica Sederstrom - Emergency Substitute – Pending OSPI Approval

Extracurricular: Ben Cochran - Resignation – High School Head Track Coach

Annie Keebler moved the Board approve the personnel action as presented. Danielle Santman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

No Executive Session

**ADJOURNMENT:** The board meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m. with no further action.

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Recording Secretary

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Board Secretary

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Board Chair