

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 358
May 8, 2014

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 Vice-Chair Annie Keebler. There was a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Cashmere, Neil Fuchs, Annie Keebler, Randy Russell, and Jan Davis. Excused absence: John Zingg.

GUESTS: Debbie Morphy, Ken Spiering, Marley Pratt, Annie Henson, Jamie Weingart, Ben Ferney, Jim Straw, Brian Parisotto, Brady Unfred, Clark Halvorson, Craig Riley, Ed Parry, Bryony Stasney, Kirk Lally, Paula Watkins, Travis Campbell, Don Henderson, and Sara Henderson.

FLAG SALUTE: Ken Spiering led the audience in the flag salute.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes – March 27, 2014

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

WATER QUALITY AWARD: Department of Health Office of Drinking Water representatives Clark Halvorson, Craig Riley, Ed Parry, and Bryony Stasney presented “Grace Under Pressure” awards to Dr. Russell, Mr. Lally and Freeman School District as a celebration of Drinking Water Week. “We were impressed with how transparent the District was in communicating tetrachloride issues to the community, and how responsive they were in finding solutions to treat the water. Freeman set an outstanding example of engagement and decisive action.” Facilities Manager Kirk Lally said the Department of Health staff was great to work with as the District unsuccessfully drilled for a new well, sought grants, and ultimately installed a water stripper to remove carbon tetrachloride.

ASB REPORTS: Middle School ASB President Marley Pratt reported on spirit week, ASB elections and spring sports. High School ASB President Brady Unfred reported on the success of the mock crash, which included a funeral service and court trial.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

REPORTS

BUILDING REPORTS: High School Principal Jim Straw said the mock crash was very emotional and had a huge impact on our students. ASB elections will be coordinated with the middle school. Testing is underway, and the master schedule is being finalized so students can register on line. The band, cheerleaders and float will be in the Lilac Parade, as well as math teacher Peggy Wells, who was nominated by Freeman's Lilac Princess Mackenzie Claeys. "We're excited about our new hires in math and social studies," he stated.

Middle School Principal Ben Ferney reported on spring sports, ASB elections, Aimsweb screening, and the math placement process.

Elementary Principal Lisa Phelan reported on testing activities and the box top drive which has collected 11,000 box tops so far. Proceeds will go toward the preschool playground. One full-time continuing and one half-time non-continuing kindergarten positions have been posted.

Athletic Director Brian Parisotto reported 34 students were tapped for National Honor Society. Baseball is undefeated in league, and two freshmen golfers are number one in the area. State tournaments are after Memorial Day this year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND

ASSESSMENT: Dr. Russell reviewed the 2014-2015 calendar. Staff will attend professional development on August 25 and 26. The required 1080 hours are met for next school year. Staff is working on the 2015-2016 calendar, he stated. Because the Dept. of Education withdrew an ESEA waiver, adequate yearly progress comes back into play for math and English. School districts that do not meet AYP must notify parents they have a right to attend a different school.

SCHOOL SAFETY, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT: Dr. Russell reported safety and security items are being finalized on the north campus.

PARTNERING WITH PARENTS AND SCHOOL/COMMUNITY: Dr. Russell stated the Freeman School Board has submitted a proposal to present a session at the state school conference. The ESD has asked if the Board is interested in presenting at the national conference. A Board leadership work session has been scheduled all day on August 14 to do a validation check of the Freeman 2020 strategic plan. "This will drive out goals for the next school year," he stated.

FISCAL AND LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY: Director of Fiscal/Administrative Services Jan Davis reported May enrollment 855.89 with an annual average of 849.15. The budget was built on 830 FTE, and next year's budget will begin with 825. There will be a renewal resolution at the next meeting for the proposed bond refunding if target savings of 5.25 percent can be met. A resolution was passed last March, however, the

savings target was never realized. The district's bond counsel has indicated the bond market is changing.

VISITOR COMMENTS/CONCERNS: High School Art Teacher Ken Spiering invited the Board to attend the Art and Soul Celebration on May 15. "The arts are thriving here at Freeman," he stated. Thanks to several grants, a ceramics program will begin next year. Don Henderson demonstrated an art magic trick.

OTHER INFORMATION: The next Board meetings are May 27 and June 12.

PERSONNEL: Dr. Russell recommended the following personnel action:

Resignation: Denise Pratt, Child Nutritionist III, effective May 16, 2014

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

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m. with no further action.

Recording Secretary

Board Secretary

Board Chair