APPROVED

Freeman School District

Minutes

FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Date and Time
Monday April 28, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location
Palouse Regional Transportation Cooperative

Vision Statement
Continuing Our Tradition of Excellence in Education

Mission Statement
The Freeman School District is the center of a unique, rural community. With pride, commitment and caring, we provide a safe environment for all students to experience meaningful, rigorous learning opportunities that allow them to dream and develop into capable, confident and ethical members of the 21st Century.

Directors Present
A. Keebler, B. Morphy, D. Santman, D. Teague, N. Talbott

Directors Absent
None

Guests Present
A. Steinolfson, Amanda Kazmi, Chad Ripke, Chris FgFay (remote), D. Morphy, Elaine Reed, Everett Combs, Gena Hawk, Heidi Youseph, J. De Peralta, Janessa Stamper (remote), Jeff

Smith, Jim Straw, Joel Reed, Kaela Holm, Kent Bevers, Kirk Lally, Mike Allen, R. Russell, Stacey Rawson, T. Reed

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I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

D. Teague called a meeting of the board of directors of Freeman School District to order on Monday Apr 28, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Mike Allen let us in the flag salute.

D. Establish Quorum

There was a quorum present.

E. Approve Minutes

A. Keebler made a motion to approve the minutes from FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING on 03-24-25.
B. Morphy seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Consent Agenda

A. April 2025 Consent Agenda Items

Annie Keebler moved the board approve the April 28, 2025 consent agenda, as presented. Bill Morphy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

III. Board Recognition

A. Above and Beyond Award

Joel Reed was presented with the Above & Beyond Award. He was recognized for donating both his time and personal equipment to support the school district with various projects, which has made a meaningful impact. He was nominated by Adam Branon.

B. Annual Counseling Team Report

Heidi Youseph, College and Career Counselor presented highlights from each school regarding some of her work.

- Elementary School - the 5th graders had a presentation from EWU, and they were all given sweatshirts.
- Middle School - students attended a Future Ready event at the HUB (job fair concept) and were able to tour the WSU medical facilities in Spokane.
- High School - she helped manage the North Palouse Industry Fair that we hosted on Freeman's campus.

Stacey Rawson, K-8 Counselor presented that their counseling team continues to meet students at all levels. Stacey coordinates small groups for Tier 2 counseling, which is more than the basic all student counseling presence in classrooms throughout the year. This can be for academic, behavioral, social or emotional needs as requested by staff or parents. She manages the crisis response needs as well, and unfortunately, we've had more CPS reports this school year than typical years.

Kaela Holm, High School Counselor presented that her focus continues to be on CCR, SEL and academic support. All three counselors have full time interns supporting their work for this school year, which has made a tremendous difference. It's allowed Kaela to do more academic check-ins with students. As a result, we have only 11 failed classes right now and are on track for a 99% graduation rate. Working on final details to get to the finish line.

They presented a one-page FSD Comprehensive School Counseling Program document.

IV. Pace Character Trait

A. TRUSTWORTHINESS

Inspiring complete reliability and confidence in his/her truthfulness, integrity and discretion.

V. Correspondence

A. Scottie Bagpiper

Dr. Russell presented the board with a copy of the Scottie Bagpiper (high school newsletter), which is the first edition for this school year.

B. Valleyford Park Free Library Box

FHS Senior, Rowan McGarity made a proposal to Dr. Russell regarding the installation of a Free Library box at the Valleyford Park. With approval, she will now be working with her family to build it and coordinate installation with the park manager.

VI. Building Reports

A.

Jim Straw, Middle School Principal

Overview

During the 2024-25 school year, FMS staff and students are focused on our academic programs as we implement a seven-period day, incorporating social emotional learning into content classes and the consistent, constant growth of our positive learning community and culture.

Areas of Focus

>Year-end events and processes are running.

*ASB Elections April 18th to May 9th *Master Schedule Work
*Registration *State Assessments
*Staff Evaluations *Aimsweb Benchmarking

>Student Building Transitions are in process.

*Rising 6th Grade Parent Night Wednesday, April 30th 6:00 pm
*5th Grade Advanced Math Placement Test Friday, May 2nd 11:45 am
*5th Grade Meet the 6th Grade Teachers & Tour Wednesday, May 28th

>Nathan Longhurst Assembly Thursday, May 1st 12:13-12:43 pm

>FMS Student Led Conferences- 197/201= 98% (4 no shows)

>Student Activities- WSU 6th & 7th Grade Parent Night Tuesday, April 29th, STEM Superstars CTE Competition Saturday, May 3rd, Moonlite Gala Dance Friday, May 9th, Lilac Parade Saturday, May 17th, Band & Choir Concert Tuesday, May 27th 7:00 pm

Enrollment

6th- 71 7th- 61 8th- 69 Total- 201

B. Jeff Smith, High School Principal

Overview

FHS is continuing to improve. As a team, we are specifically focusing on Tier 1 MTSS Instruction, Assessment in PLCs (Professional Learning Communities), and PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions & Support).

Areas of Focus

- New ASB Officers: Greta Van Gemert, President; Cooper Florence, VP; Avery Boswell Secretary; Emma Dreyer, Historian; Trenton Sandborn and Rylee Russell, Spirit Commissioners
- Congratulations to FFA Trap - 2025 State Champions and Colin McPhillips, Boy's State Champion!!
- SAT at FHS - 19 completed the exam; ASVAB - 5 completed the exam
- SBA & AP testing is set
- End of Year Evaluations underway
- Several last-minute course offerings at FHS: Sports History, Drama, Core Plus Construction

- Senior Trip
- Staffing at FHS for 2025-26

Enrollment

9th = 61, 10th = 75, 11th = 76, 12th = 78. Total: 290

C. Chad Ripke, HS Assistant Principal-Athletic Director

Overview

- Softball is 18-1, ranked #1 in the RPI. League Champs. Post season will start on May 14th at Merkel Field.
- Baseball 16-1, ranked #2 in the RPI. League Champs. Post season will be on May 15th at Gonzaga University. Team will play at 11 am in the semifinals, top 4 advance to the state bracket.
- Track is having a very successful season so far, with a number of kids ranked in the top 5 for their events in the state. Post season starts on 5/22 at Whitworth University.
- Tennis girls are having a successful season, down to one boy and he is doing good as well. Post season starts on May 10th at East Valley.
- Both boys and girls teams are doing very well. Girls team is first in league and has won all the league events so far. Post season starts for boys on April 28th and girls on April 29th with sub districts. Latah Creek hosts districts on May 5th starting at 10 am.
- Shout out to the band for all their support and noise during the winter season. Shout out to the cheer squad for all their support as well through the fall and winter.

Areas of Focus

- Golf tournament at the Links on August 16th
- Working on fall and winter schedules for next year

Enrollment

- Baseball - 20
- Golf – Boys 18, Girls 13
- Tennis – Boys 2, Girls 14
- Track – Boys 37, Girls 23
- Softball - 27

D. Mike Allen, K-8 TOSA-Athletic Director

Overview

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

Areas of Focus

- FMS Track and Baseball of to a great start. Baseball has two teams, 8th and 7th. Track will host two home meets and participate in GSCL All-League.
- Working on Fall Sports Staffing and Scheduling.

Enrollment

- FMS Baseball - 35
- FMS Track - 29

E. Lisa Phelan, Elementary School Principal/Assistant Superintendent

Areas of Focus

- It was a very successful conference season!
- The Round-Up event last week went well with 25 TK and 13 Kindergarten students that went through assessment.
- We had a productive professional development day for the staff with thoughtful presentations.

Enrollment

- Enrollment is up four students - one in each grade for 5th, 4th, 1st and K.

Respectfully reported by Mike Allen.

VII. Department Reports

A. Kent Bevers, Nutrition Services Director

Overview

Freeman SD Nutrition Services supports the philosophy of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs and will provide wholesome and nutritious meals for children in the district's schools.

Areas of Focus:

Working on introducing new recipes into the menu.

1. On March 7, 2025, OSPI received a termination notice for the Local Food for Schools and Local Food for Child Care program project agreement.
    1. As a result, OSPI will continue to offer these programs. However, the cost burden will be transferred to the schools.
    2. Currently unsure how much this will affect us.

3. Through this program, USDA had been awarding funds to states for food assistance purchases of domestic local foods for distribution to schools and child care programs.

2. The FDA just released a Transparency Tool for Easy Check of Contaminate Levels in Foods. I learned of this through School Nutrition Association Newsletter
    1. Here is the link to the article: https://www.healthday.com/healthpro-news/nutrition/fda-unveils-transparency-tool-for-easy-check-of-contaminant-levels-in-foods
    2. Here is the link to the tool: https://www.hfpappexternal.fda.gov/scripts/fdcc/index.cfm?set=contaminant-levels
3. Still working on negative balances for all grade groups.
4. Pastries with Parents will be on Friday, May 9th.

B. Everett Combs, Transportation Supervisor

Areas of Focus

- We just received one of the two new buses today. It has a lift and will be put on a SPED route.
- We will start training a couple new potential drivers soon.
- We will be hosting a School Bus Safety Competition (Roadeo) on May 17th. Contestants from all over Eastern Washington will be competing.
- Mileage for March:
    - To/From – 16,369 miles
    - Field Trips – 79 miles
    - Club Trips – 526 miles
    - Extra-Curricular Trips – 1,856 miles

Total – 18,830 miles

- Students transported in March:
    - Morning riders – 7,888
    - Afternoon riders – 8,040
    - 2nd PM Route – 287

Total – 16,215 students

- We are currently operating:
    - Regular ED bus routes 12
    - Program Bus routes 2
    - After school 2ND PM Routes 2
    - McKinney-Vento Routes 2

TOTAL ROUTES: 18

C. Kirk Lally, Maintenance-Grounds Director

Areas of Focus:

1. Spring break, they installed metal on the north side of elementary pod.
2. Working on mower situation for summer use.
3. Working on completing evaluations for the school year.
4. Custodial did some tile patching in Elementary school.

Safety:

1. Nothing to report at this time.

D. Todd Reed, Technology Director

Areas of Focus

- Approaching the SAT and state testing season. It's crucial to ensure that all testing technology is updated, fully functional, and ready for use. This includes installing necessary testing applications, and familiarizing students with the digital testing environment to ensure a smooth and successful testing experience.
- Met with Dr. Russell to go over needs for summer projects; including updating server operating systems and updating client workstations.
- Due to weather conditions and other variables, there has been a need to replace several security cameras around campus that have failed. We have been working diligently to replace faulty cabling and cameras to ensure the integrity and effectiveness of our security system.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

A. Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- The principals and directors are doing great work right now and we are in a major sprint to the end of the year.
- April 28th - LID Day - great day, and so nice to have staff stepping in for presentations to get involved. There was an excellent AI presentation. Mike had a great section on discrimination education. Our speech pathologist had an amazing presentation as well.
- 2026-2027 School Calendar - the calendar committed indicated that the survey results showed the vast majority of the staff were positive regarding continuing to explore the balanced calendar. 77% wanted/neutral the committee to review ideas for adding a mid-winter break, or a couple of shorter breaks between January and spring break. The staff do not want the school year to start any sooner than the

current calendar. The leadership team will take this into consideration and will bring a draft for review to the next board meeting.

B. School Safety, Culture and Environment

C. Partnering with Parents and School/Community

- High School teacher Jim Rae and some of his students are taking on a project with the Rockford Lions Club to restore and refurbish the Rockford Lions Club fire engine.

D. Fiscal & Legal Accountability

- Enrollment has stayed steady
- Cash flow

1. State legislature has wrapped up their state budget
2. They did not rearrange apportionment
3. They did fund TTK
4. They have guaranteed funding for TTK for next year at the same enrollment numbers as the current school year
5. Anticipate 3.75% fund balance at the end of the year
6. Danielle Santman inquired about the solar project - Dr. Russell said that the project is in a holding pattern right now until we get more specific details from Inland Power & Light

IX. Board Comments

A. Board Comments

- Annie Keebler announced that Annie Schiene (High School Senior) will be cheering next year at Montana State University

X. Unfinished Business

A. Approval of Board Policy and Procedure No. 3210 - Second Reading

Annie Keebler moved the Board approve Board Policy and Procedure No. 3210 - Second Reading - Nondiscrimination, as presented. Danielle Santman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Board Policy and Procedure No. 5010 - Second Reading

Bill Morphy moved the Board approve Board Policy and Procedure No. 5010 - Second Reading - Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action, as presented. Nate Talbott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

C. Approval of Board Policy No. 5400 - Second Reading

Bill Morphy moved the Board approve Board Policy and Procedure No. 5400 - Second Reading - Personnel Leaves, as presented. Danielle Santman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XI. New Business

A. Approval of Lutherhaven 5th Grade Field Trip

Annie Keebler moved the Board approve the Lutherhaven 5th Grade Field Trip, as presented. Bill Morphy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. Approval of FHS Senior Trip

Bill Morphy moved the Board approve the FHS Senior Trip, as presented. Danielle Santman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

C. Approval of FMS 8th Grade Field Trip

Bill Morphy moved the Board approve the FMS 8th Grade Field Trip, as presented. Annie Keebler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

D. Approval of Surplus Mower

Bill Morphy moved the Board approve the Surplus Mower, as presented. Nate Talbott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XII. Other Information

A. Future Board Meetings

- The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 28th at 6:00 PM at the PRTC.
- The following meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10th at 3:00 PM at the PRTC, followed by the FMS 8th Grade Promotion at 6:00 PM in the Middle School.

- The board meeting on Wednesday, June 25th has been cancelled.

XIII. Personnel

A. Personnel Action

Certified: Josie Moore – Resignation – School Psychologist

	Caleb Morton – HS Math/CTE Applied Math – 1.0 Continuing – Pending OSPI Approval
Classified:	Greg Geiser – Substitute Bus Driver/Substitute Custodial - Pending OSPI Approval and Bus Driver Training Completion
	Tina Freter – Retirement – Paraeducator/Library Coordinator
	Josh Robins – Resignation – Paraeducator
	Anke Coston – Resignation – Paraeducator
Internship: 2025-2026	Joanna Yearta – Ed.S/School Psychologist – Full Time Internship for School Year
Extracurricular:	Kelly Jahns – Elementary Math Is Cool Advisor
	Megan Robertson – Resignation – HS Assistant Soccer Coach
	Jackson Clark – Resignation – HS “JV” Boys Basketball Coach
	Nate Dahlin – MS Assistant Baseball Coach – 7th Grade

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

XIV. Executive Session

A. Evaluation of complaint or charges brought against a public office or employee.

The board moved into Executive Session at 7:00 PM for the purpose set forth in RCW 42.30.110. specifically, the following: Evaluation of complaint or charges brought against a public office or employee. Such session is estimated to be approximately thirty minutes in length. Action is not expected upon return. The board returned to open session at 7:33 PM.

XV. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There will be no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
D. Morphy
Recording Secretary _____

Board Secretary _____

Board Chair _____

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
D. Morphy
