DRAFT

Freeman School District

Minutes

FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Date and Time
Thursday February 19, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Location
PRTC - 14815 S Jackson Rd, Rockford, WA 99030

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

Directors Absent
N. Talbott

Guests Present
Aimee Hoyt, Amanda Kazmi, Carli Kadzejs, Desiree Hendrickson, Everett Combs, J. De Peralta, Jaxs Kadzejs, Jeff Smith, Kent Bevers, Kirk Lally, L. Phelan, Lila Kadzejs, Mike Allen, R. Russell, Rudy Kadzejs, Stacey Rawson, T. Reed

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

A. Keebler called a meeting of the board of directors of Freeman School District to order on Thursday Feb 19, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Desiree Hendrickson led us in the flag salute.

D. Establish Quorum

There is a quorum present.

II. Consent Agenda

A. February 2026 Consent Agenda Items

Dave Teague moved the Board approve the February 2026 consent agenda, as presented. Bill Morphy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

III. Board Recognition

A. Above and Beyond Award

Carli Kadzejs was presented with the Freeman Above and Beyond Award. Carli is hardworking, dependable, and takes pride in everything Freeman. She goes above and beyond to support students who need extra help and advocates for the classified team by committing to serve as the union president, all while raising a family and going to school to become a teacher! Freeman is blessed to have Carli on our team!

IV. Pace Character Trait

A. HONESTY

Sincerity and reverence or love for the truth.

V. Building Reports

A. Lisa Phelan, Elementary School Principal-Assistant Superintendent

Overview

For the 2025-26 school year, Freeman Elementary School will continue to strengthen our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) across academic, behavioral, and social-emotional domains. Our focus will be on refining practices within all three tiers to ensure

that each student receives the support they need to thrive. Equally important, we are committed to fostering a strong sense of belonging for all students, staff, and community members.

Areas of Focus

- Lisa announced that Mike Allen will become our new elementary school principal, effective 7/1/26! The interview process included students, staff, and parents, as well as admin/leadership team and district office staff. The student panel included four fourth-grade students and one fifth-grade student who did a great job.
- The annual President's Wax Museum was on Friday, February 13th, and Mr. Turk and Mr. Newcomb spent the day with Lisa to experience being the Principal for the Day.
- Professional Learning Building PD on February 4th was spent reviewing the updated math standards that go into effect during the 2026-27 school year.
- Kindergarten and First grade celebrated their 101st and 100th day of school and had Valentine Parties the same week! First graders dressed up as dalmatian dogs.
- The staff and MTSS team are planning for upcoming profile meetings and parent teacher conferences. The growth that Kindergarten has is an obvious reflection of our TTK program. Lisa and Randy will be advocating in Olympia for the TTK funding next week.

Enrollment

TK = 39 and P3 = 5 K = 65 1st = 50 2nd = 65
3rd = 57 4th = 72 5th = 57= **410** (adding 2 more after spring break)

B. Jim Straw, Middle School Principal

Mike Allen presented on behalf of Jim Straw who is out of town.

Overview

For the 2025-26 school year, Freeman Middle School will continue to strengthen our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) across academic, behavioral, and social-emotional domains. Our focus will be on refining practices within all three tiers to ensure that each student receives the support they need to thrive. Equally important, we are committed to fostering a strong sense of belonging for all students, staff, and community members.

Areas of Focus

>TK-8 Learning Walks with Liberty starts next week - we are sending staff to Liberty to observe, and Liberty staff are coming here to observe - really nice to have this partnership with one another to learn tips and tricks
>WSU Partnership in February

- 7th grade is a medical partnership where WSU med students are here on campus to engage with our students, which isn't always easy with this age group
- 6-12 grade is participating in the Peer-to-Peer partnership program - 8th Grade Mentorship
>Preparing for Student Led Conferences on April 2nd & 3rd - spending advisory time in March helping students get ready for their presentations - Mr. Cochran has been leading this charge
>Dawg for a Day program with FHS is in full swing with two sessions under our belt - 8th grade students spend time in HS classes in preparation for next year when they will be in that building
>The 6th Grade Math Is Cool team finished 2nd in their division and may advance to the Master's Competition in Moses Lake. Working out logistics.

Enrollment

6th- 57 7th- 73 8th- 64 Total- 194

C. Jeff Smith, High School Principal

Overview

For the 2025-26 school year, Freeman High School will continue to strengthen our Multi-Tiered
System of Supports (MTSS) across academic, behavioral, and social-emotional domains. Our
focus will be on refining practices within all three tiers to ensure that each student receives the
support they need to thrive. Equally important, we are committed to fostering a strong sense of
belonging for all students, staff, and community members.

Areas of Focus

- Registration is underway for the 2026-2027 school year with student course requests being collected in the next few weeks - looking to add an AP Stats course, as well as a Reading and Film comparison course - more to come
- FBLA update - 23 students qualified for State competition
- FHS Knowledge Bowl team is the Bi-County Champions for 2025-26 - off to regionals tomorrow, 2/20
- SkillsUSA Metal competition - Micah Hodges and Marshall Patzlaff both placed
- FFA Trap - Squad 1 and 2 each finished 1st and 2nd at the last two competitions
- 17 students have qualified for instant college acceptance (SCC-7; EWU-4; WSU-6) - thanks to Heidi Youseph for helping to organize this opportunity for students
- Second semester observations are underway
- FHS staff continues to work with FMS staff at assessment in PLCs during Late Start days

- We've had a school-wide review of lock down procedures, which has been incredibly helpful for students who may be in transition to our campus - SOARS, running start, etc.
- Kassie Broers attended the ESD 101 regional art competition and placed 3rd!

Enrollment

9th = 68, 10th = 55 (-1), 11th = 73 (-1), 12th = 78 (-1) . Total: 273 (-3)
2 moved out of state, and 1 shifted to online courses

D. Chad Ripke, High School Assistant Principal-Athletic Director

Overview

Winter Sports

- Girls Basketball – played in the semi finals of the district tournament vs. Reardan this week and lost. Top 4 advance to state from districts. We play Colfax Friday night in a lose or out game.
- Boys Basketball – played in the semi finals of the district tournament vs. Colfax this week and lost. Top 4 advance to state from districts. Play Liberty tomorrow night in a lose or out game.
- Wrestling – placed 2nd at the league dual team championships on 2/7, and then we hosted the state qualifying tournament on 2/13 and 2/14 here at Freeman. Top 9 from each weight class advance to state in Tacoma on 2/20 and 2/21. We have 13 boys headed to state! Our team is League and Regional/District champions, and we have a great chance at state!
- Girls Wrestling - Elle is a regional champion and is also advancing to the state tournament!

Areas of Focus

- Winter sports post season tournaments.
- Dinner/Auction on March 14 at the CDA Casino.
- JV baseball coach hired.
- JV volleyball coach hired.
- Working on fall non-league schedules.
- Spring sports sign-ups were are on 2/10.

Enrollment

- Baseball - 22
- Boys Golf – 28/Girls Golf - 13
- Boys Tennis – 1/Girls Tennis - 6
- Softball – 15
- Boys Track – 34/Girls Track - 26
- 145 athletes signed up in final forms for spring sports

E.

Mike Allen, K-8 Principal Assistant-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

Boys Basketball:
Red Varsity: 3-5 Red JV: 2-6 (red is combo of 7th and 8th grade)
Blue Varsity: 5-4 Blue JV: 5-4 (blue is combo of 6th and 7th grade)

Enrollment

- FMS Girls Basketball - 29 - trying to recruit some more to be able to have 4 teams
- Other teams in our area are struggling to make the 4 teams as well

VI. 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 our students.

Areas of Focus

1. **Switching Nutrition Software Provider**
    1. From LINQ to Health-e Pro
    2. Free production records and menu planning for two sites with US Foods premier contract
        1. K8
        2. FHS
    3. Will pay only $400 per year for online menu and webhosting annually
    4. For the 2025-26 SY, we paid a total of $2,397.50 to LINQ for production records, menu planning and web hosting combined.
    5. Savings of approximately $2,000.00 annually with Health-e Pro
    6. Nearly 40 districts in our region are using Health-e Pro.
    7. Health-e Pro is also more robust and much easier to use than LINQ, while providing hundreds, if not thousands, of commonly used ingredients and recipes
2. **Valentine’s Day Themed Meal**
    1. Black Bean Brownies
    2. Strawberry Magicx Straws
    3. Heart Shaped Erasers
    4. Bento Boxes With:

1. Strawberries
2. Carrots
3. Deli Turkey
4. String Cheese
5. Goldfish Crackers

5. Chris made a PowerPoint slide for our digital displays

B. Everett Combs, Transportation Director

Overview

- "The students of Freeman are the heart of our community and the reason we serve. The Freeman School District Transportation Department is dedicated to providing safe, reliable, and respectful transportation for all TK–12 students. We are committed to connecting home, school, and community, ensuring every student arrives ready to learn and thrive."

Areas of Focus

- The second ridership report of three was due at the end of January. The combination of the three reports will determine our transportation allocations for the year. These allocations are for to/from transportation. The ridership count for this second report was 875. This is a combination of am/pm routes. It's down slightly from last year.
- To/From Mileage: 13,726 miles
- Extra Curricular: 1,836 miles
- We are currently at:

11 Regular Ed Routes
1 SPED Route
1T/K Route
2 McKinney-Vento Routes

C. Kirk Lally, Maintenance-Grounds Director

Areas of Focus:

1. FES boiler repair has been completed.
2. Working on superintendent change for legal paperwork for wastewater. Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR) are now submitted online with electronic signature, so we are getting ahead of the change so that Lisa is authorized before she starts as superintendent on 7/1/26.
3. DOH lead/copper sampling will be conducted February 25, 26, 27 starting @ 5am each day. Elementary on 2/25, HS on 2/26, and MS/Portables on 2/27.

Safety:

Randy, Todd and I attended the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) workshop for the I love u guys foundation at ESD 101. It was informative, and wishes he would have attended this before talking to the staff about it. It was a four-hour training with more to come. We are hosting a Table Top in March to review the emergency procedures/manual.

D. Stacey Rawson, Interim Director of Student Services

Overview

For the 2025-26 school year, Freeman Student Services Department will strengthen our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) across academic, behavioral, and social-emotional domains. Our focus will be on refining practices within all three tiers to ensure that each student receives the support they need to thrive. Equally important, we are committed to fostering a strong sense of belonging for all students, staff, and community members.

Areas of Focus and Enrollment

Special Education

- Looking into better curriculum alignment K-12 for our students with complex cognitive needs. Not a huge cost as we don't have a large population needing this, but it's important for consistency across all three buildings.
- Our team continues to be incredibly creative and resourceful as we get more students in our district with unique and complex needs.
- Completed Excess Cost Progress Report for OSPI with Alan.
- One opportunity with OSPI we are considering for the future is applying for Special Education Safety Net funding to help us cover costs for students with special needs above our typical per pupil allotment. Currently researching for possible application in the 26-27 school year.
- 114 Students

Multilingual Learners (MLL)

- WIDA (annual language development testing) complete this month. Results inform eligibility for services for the following school year.
- 3 students

McKinney Vento/ Foster Youth

- Completed mid-year progress update with OSPI on our Federal McKinney Vento grant. We are in year 1 of a 3-year grant cycle. We receive $18,000 per year to cover high costs associated with supporting our students experiencing homelessness.
- 19 students/ 1 students

Title 1/ Learning Assistance Program (LAP)

- AimsWeb screening for academics is completed K-8. in the next few weeks, we will spend time diving into the data with teachers to understand student learning and create action plans to improve student outcomes.
- 72 students (K-8)

Highly Capable

- Highly Capable Screening is completed. Scores will be shared with families at spring conferences and students will be identified at that time. This is for 2nd and 3rd graders.
- Thank you for approving our district's annual HiCap plan.

E. Todd Reed, Technology Director

Overview

Provide the highest quality technology-based services, in the most cost-effective manner, to help facilitate the FSD mission

Areas of Focus

- We are continuing our work with CRG on our school safety mapping project. Our completed maps have now been submitted, and we are currently awaiting their site visit to finalize the process. It will take about 2 months and we should have our new maps.
- We are currently working on getting Minecraft Education set up for Mr. Neely's elective class for the STEM Superstars competition. This will provide students with engaging, hands-on learning opportunities that support creativity, collaboration, and STEM skill development.
- Assisted with the learning lockdown drill designed to familiarize staff and students with the exterior blue LED flashers so everyone understands their purpose and what they signal during a lockdown situation.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

B. School Safety, Culture and Environment

Emergency Procedures Update - Dr. Russell presented the board with the most updated version of the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) one-page emergency response categories that has been through several revisions with involvement from staff and students. The final version will be set for approval at the March meeting.

- Dave Teague commented that he liked this new format so that we have specific categories for emergency situations that don't require us to go into lockdown every

time. This is likely to become the state standard, so kudos to Freeman for doing the work in advance.
- The CRG mapping that Mr. Reed talked about also ties into this right around the same time, and is also likely to become the state standard, so Freeman is adding another platform of early adoption that we should be proud of.
- We are working on flashers for the crosswalks to enhance safety on campus.
- Danielle expressed gratitude for the work being done with staff and students regarding these safety and security updates. It really brings this to life when the entire campus is involved.

C. Partnering with Parents and School/Community

D. Fiscal & Legal Accountability

- WA State Legislative Update - Randy and Lisa are heading to Olympia next week to advocate for school funding (specifically TTK) as we are keeping a close eye on several bills that could have tax implications for everyone that lives in WA state, which may impact our future levy goals
- The legislative session is supposed to wrap up March 13, so we will have an update at the 3/23 board meeting
- Cash Flow - projected to be 4.5% in reserve at the end of fiscal
- Capital Projects cash flow - first collection in April (pay for next LGO bond payment and summer work for safety and security)
- We have provisions built in for equipment and maintenance needs, plus a traffic flow study that was promised to our taxpayers
- We need to be very clear that just because we pass the levy in one year doesn't mean that we get the money that year - it's delayed
- We are hearing from the state that they may require the passing of a levy with a minimum projected tax rate of $2.50 per $1,000 in order to qualify for levy equalization funds
- Enrollment graphs were shown

VIII. Unfinished Business

A. Approval of Board Policy No. 1630 - 2nd Reading

Dave Teague moved the Board approve Board Policy No. 1630 - 2nd Reading - Evaluation of the Superintendent, as presented. Bill Morphy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Board Policy 1820 - 2nd Reading

Dave Teague moved the Board approve Board Policy No. 1820 - 2nd Reading - Evaluation of the Board, as presented. Bill Morphy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

C.

Approval of Board Policy No. 1005 - 2nd Reading

Dave Teague moved the Board approve Board Policy No. 1005 - 2nd Reading - Key Functions of the Board, as presented. Bill Morphy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

D. Approval of Board Policy No. 5400 - 2nd Reading

Dave Teague moved the Board approve Board Policy No. 5400 - 2nd Reading - Personnel Leaves, as presented. Bill Morphy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IX. New Business

A. Approval of WIAA 2026-2027 Resolution

Dave Teague moved the Board approve the 2026-2027 WIAA Resolution, as presented. Danielle Santman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Board Policy No. 1821 - 1st Reading

Bill Morphy moved the Board approve Board Policy No. 1821 - 1st Reading - Standards For Individual School Directors, as presented. Dave Teague seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

C. Approval of Board Policy No. 2170 - 1st Reading

Bill Morphy moved the Board approve Board Policy No. 2170 - 1st Reading - Careers and Technical Education, as presented. Dave Teague seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

D. Approval of Board Policy No. 3425 - 1st Reading

Bill Morphy moved the Board approve Board Policy No. 3425 - 1st Reading - Accommodating Students With Adrenal Insufficiency, as presented. Danielle Santman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

E. Approval of Board Policy No. 5000 - 1st Reading

Bill Morphy moved the Board approve Board Policy No. 5000 - 1st Reading - Recruitment, Selection, and Evaluation of Staff, as presented. Danielle Santman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

X. Other Information

A. Future Board Meetings

Future Board Meetings

- The next board meeting will be on Monday, March 23, 2026 at 6:00 PM. Dave Teague will be gone. Cory Plager will be here to discuss levy planning.
- The following meetings will be on Monday, April 27, 2026 at 6:00 PM, and Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

XI. Personnel

A. Personnel Action

Administration: **Mike Allen** - Elementary School Principal TK-5

Certified: **Drake Worthington-Frare** – Substitute Teacher

Extracurricular: **Brittany Tilleman** – HS JV/Assistant Volleyball Coach
Caleb Morton – HS JV/Assistant Baseball Coach

Dave Teague moved the Board approve the Personnel Action - addendum, as presented. Bill Morphy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. De Peralta
Recording Secretary _____

Board Secretary _____

Board Chair _____