



Freeman School District

Minutes

FREEMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Date and Time

Monday September 21, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Location

PRTC Building
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.

Freeman Strategic Plan Pillars:

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
School Safety, Culture and Environment
Partnering with Parents and School/Community
Fiscal and Legal Accountability

Directors Present

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

Directors Absent

None

Guests Present

A. Steinolfson, Chad Ripke, Emma Dreyer, Gena Hawk, Heidi Youseph, J. De Peralta, Jeff Galloway, Jeff Smith, Jim Straw, L. Phelan, Lily Lagreid, Mae Rawson, Mike Allen, 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 Monday Sep 21, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

C. Additions to the Agenda

- ASB Reports
- Personnel Action Addendum

D. Pledge of Allegiance

Stacey Rawson led us in the flag salute.

E. Establish Quorum

There was a quorum present.

II. Consent Agenda

A. September 2026 Consent Agenda Items

D. Santman made a motion to approve the September 2026 Consent Agenda Items.

D. Teague seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

III. Board Recognition

A. ASB Reports

HS ASB President - Emma Dreyer

2026-2027 FSD Commitments:

1. Strengthen a cohesive TK-12 system by aligning our practices, expectations, and student experiences across all schools.
2. Build a culture of belonging through strong relationships, collaboration, and respectful communication.
3. Strengthen our TK-12 Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) to ensure every student receives the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional support they need to thrive.

Areas of Focus:

GOALS: Commitment

- Do what we say were going to do
- Work together as a team
- School quote: Lead with COURage (Cour - root word is heart)

Activities we've done as an ASB team:

- Freshman orientation
 - Tour of the high school
 - Scavenger hunt
 - Donuts and pizza
- Club Fair
 - Each club had a table
 - Students can sign up on the spot for the club they want to do
 - Great turnout/success
- Tailgate night
 - 2 food trucks before the first home football game
- POWER week
 - Events to recognize each word every day of the week

Currently:

Homecoming planning

- Weekly themes and assemblies (3)
- Hallway decorating and music videos
- Macho volleyball, girls kickball, corn hole, spike ball - looking for chaperones
- Hoco football game - 10/2 - looking for old cars
- Royalty lap
- Neon theme

ES/MS ASB President - Lily Lagreid

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- What do we want this year to be known for - THE BEST YEAR EVER!
- Decorated outside for the first day of school and had signs and music welcoming students back
- Guest announcers for daily updates, which has been great to empower kids and get them out of their comfort zone
- Attended the Valley Chamber meeting - really great experience with Trapper Collins, Mrs. Phelan and Ms. Youseph
- There will be a Spirit Friday each month this year to allow students to dress up and get out of their comfort zone - different spirit day of the month - first one was jersey day, and it was very popular
- Doing a soccer tourney this week at lunchtime
- Designed the Scottie Dash t-shirts and working with the PTSG to make it a great event
- Made our own themes for Homecoming that are different from the HS
- Halloween dance coming up in October - hoping for a great turnout
- Looking for guest speakers for this school year to motivate the students

B. Above and Beyond Award

We are pleased to recognize our Business Manager/Director of Finance, **Alan Steinolfson**, and our Payroll and Accounts Specialist, **Regina Simon**, for their exceptional dedication to fiscal responsibility. Through careful oversight of expenditures, commitment to strengthening financial processes, and focus on identifying cost-saving opportunities, they have played a key role in helping the district improve its financial position. Thank you for your professionalism, expertise and attention to detail!

IV. Pace Character Trait

A. RESPECT

Recognizing, considering and properly honoring the worth of one's self and others.

V. Correspondence

A. WASBO

We received a letter from WASBO Executive Director, Brianne King announcing that Alan Steinolfson, our Director of Finance & Administrative Services has officially earned the designation of Certified School Business Administrator, CSBA, which was awarded on 8/26/26. Congratulations, Alan!

B. North Palouse Chamber Business of the Month

It was announced at the most recent North Palouse Chamber meeting that Freeman SD and Liberty SD are being recognized as the "North Palouse Business of the Month". We were given a framed award that was shown to the School Board. The award is in recognition of local businesses, organizations and individuals for their contribution and service to our communities.

VI. Building Reports

A. Mike Allen, Elementary School Principal

2026-2027 FSD Commitments:

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Areas of Focus:

1. POWER Week success, 9/18 Assembly, GOAT class competition
2. Scottie Dash kick-off, collection days and Oct 2nd date
3. Finished our third rotation of PLC/Collaboration meetings, process and success
4. Math Adoption Committee formed, meeting schedule 2-Oct, 1-Nov, 1-Dec
5. Certificated and Classified beginning of the year meetings
6. Preparing for profile meetings October 12-16 & Conferences October 22-23

Enrollment:

TK: 34 (P3 =4) **K:** 58 **1:** 67 **2:** 51 (-1) **3:** 67(+2) **4:** 55 **5:** 75 **Total:**
406

B. Jim Straw, Middle School Principal

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Areas of Focus:

- >FSD Welcome Back Assembly @ FHS
- >Teaching Crisis Drills
 - >Evacuation- Monday, August 24th
 - >Lockdown- Thursday, September 3rd
- >Back to School Night- Wednesday, September 9th
- >Scottie Dash
 - >Kick-Off- Wednesday, September 9th
 - >Collections- September 15th, 21st, 25th & October 2nd
 - >Event- Friday, October 2nd
- >Scottie POWER Week- September 14th-18th
 - >Daily Teacher Presentations
 - >Student to Student Recognition
 - >Card Writing Station This Week
 - >Bulletin Board Throughout the Year
- >Student Support Meetings
 - >504- completed by end of September
 - >IEP- throughout the year
 - >FMS Student Assistance Team- Friday mornings throughout the year
- >Robotics- 27 students for 4 teams (2 last year)
- >Goal Meetings w/ Certificated & Classified Staff

Enrollment:

6th- 60	7th- 57	8th- 76 (+1)	Total= 193
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C. Jeff Smith, High School Principal

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Areas of Focus:

Increasing student ownership/voice and verify school experiences

- Met with 6 students - going to invite more to create a larger cross-section of students

Increasing academic press, specifically rigor, relevance and feedback

- Collaborated about “what does rigor look like?” at recent staff meeting. Emailed potential “looks like” list to staff to use for walkthroughs

Increasing staff efficacy and trust

- To begin Staff celebrations at this week’s staff meeting
- 1st PLC collaboration this week

FHS Highlights

- ASB Club Fair was a big success!
- All District Assembly
- ASB Tailgate
- POWER week
- HOCO on the horizon!

Enrollment:

9th = 61 (62), 10th = 69 (71), 11th = 49 (51), 12th = 61(72). Total: 240 (256 - 15 to FCE)

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

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Areas of Focus:

- 1st Coaches meeting of the year on 9/18 - fundraising review and Kristal presented on ASB law - zoom option for coaches and it's recorded
- Fall preseason/goals meetings with all my fall head coaches
- Hiring of HS boys assistant wrestling/head girls coach - in personnel action for approval
- Interviewed for MS head wrestling coach - didn't hire, so working on next plan
- Football and VB jamborees went very well
- Kenny Davis Rip A Shot VB tournament was excellent – FHS VB 4th overall

- WASBO conference 9/21
- Homecoming week coming up the Week of September 28th-10/2
- XC Jamboree @ NWC – Micah Bessire and Audrey Santman set new course records
- Mini Cheer Camp this past week, 30 campers and did a great halftime performance

Enrollment:

- Football 46
- Boys XC 23
- Girls XC 13
- Volleyball 23
- Soccer 14 – 5 8th graders
- Cheer 16

MS ATHLETICS UPDATE

Final numbers for fall sports

36 - football

19 - XC

29 - softball

Both football teams are 1-0 to start, 8th softball has started 1-1-1, and 7th grade softball is 2-1. XC hosted it's first home meet of the season with some great performances. Next home meet is 9/30/26.

Final Form projections for the next MS season (early winter)...

55 volleyball - will likely need 5 teams (flex coach possibility) if these numbers hold

17 boys wrestling

2 girls wrestling

Reminder of the March 13th athletics fundraiser at the CdA Casino.

Danielle Santman responded positively to the concept of the regular coaching meetings that we've set up for this year.

VII. Department Reports

A. Stacey Rawson, Student Services Director

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Areas of Focus and Enrollment:

Special Education

- Great first month of school with new staff Melisa Collins, Lauren Burrows and Kelsie Carter.
- Recommending to the board the hiring of Sophie Leeper- paraeducator
- All services have begun for the year and IEP/ evaluation meetings are already in full swing. New processes include standards-aligned goals and evaluation drafts.
- IEP online software has changed and has presented many challenges. Hoping to see improvements over time.
- 114 Students

Multilingual Learners (MLL)

- MLL beginning of the year outreach to families completed, informing them of continued services
- Working with foreign exchange students to ensure support
- 4 (screening 2 this month)

McKinney Vento/ Foster Youth

- McKinney Vento intakes completed.
- We are welcoming 3 new foster students to our district this month!
- Working with secretaries for immediate enrollment in these unique situations
- 11 McKinney Vento/ 3 Foster

Title 1/ Learning Assistance Program (LAP) MTSS

- Consolidated grant application completed for Title I, Title II
- Program funding applied to staff/ payroll, consistent with their time and effort
- End of Year LAP report completed from 25-26
- AimsWeb Screening completed at FES, MTSS intervention groups began 9.15
- FES: Reading- 49, Math- TBD
- FMS: TBD

Highly Capable

- Beginning of the Year assurances completed, funding allocation should begin next month
- 113 students

B. Heidi Youseph - CTE/FCE Director

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Areas of Focus & Enrollment:

Flexible Learning Options: Freeman ConnectEd

- Students have been working since the first day of school.
- We have a new entity and all FCE students will be in it by the beginning of October.
- We will start a wait-list for transition points (end of 1st semester or beginning of 1st semester 2027)
- 37 students/2 choice pending with enrollment/5 on wait list

Career & Technical Education

- CTE 4 Year Plan is part of your reports I sent over.
- Spokane Valley General Advisory Council met on September 17. Meeting in different locations in the valley.
- CTE Programs we have:
 - Agriculture
 - Business and Marketing
 - Family and Consumer Sciences Educators
 - STEM
 - Skilled and Technical Sciences
- FHS CTE numbers are down a bit from last year.

District Assessment

- Nothing at this time

College & Career

- Spokane National College Fair Oct. 13 - advertising to students and will take a bus
- Instant Decision Days have been scheduled
- Senior Information Night - Sept. 23 6pm - Reece is taking the lead

Danielle Santman asked how many students live outside of our boundaries that choice in for FCE - answer is 5. The rate we get from the state for FCE is nearly the same as the funding for a student that attends in person. Slightly less, but not significant.

C. Kent Bevers, Nutrition Services Director

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Areas of Focus:

1. Working on a plan to address meal debt with Lisa and Alan - debt is around \$7,000 right now and we may need to rethink an approach with collections after phone calls, letters, certified letters, no response.
2. Still have not yet heard from OSPI regarding our annual sponsor application.
3. I will be working on the adult meal pricing tool OSPI released last week.

D. Everett Combs, Transportation Director

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Areas of Focus:

- We should be receiving our new bus any day. Hoping to have it in the Rockford Parade on Saturday.
- Finishing up training with a new driver. Hopefully will get him tested in a couple weeks
- Borrowing a bus tomorrow to cover all of our activities.
- We are starting the year with the following routes:

11- Gen Ed routes

1- SPED Wheelchair lift route

1- T-K/K route

2- PM 2 routes

- August Bus Miles:

To/from-6034

Trips-217

- August Riders:

To/From-6860

Trips-71

E. Kirk Lally, Maintenance-Grounds Director

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Areas of Focus:

- Weed/Feed fertilizer was applied to all FSD grass on Friday Sept 4th a no school day, the last application of this year.
- On Sept 9th, Andy O Niel from Dept of Ecology helped me sample metals for the Biosolids in the lagoons for analysis. This is due by Jan 2027 a new state rule.
- Chad, Lisa, and I have been talking and meeting with Triumph and Qualite on the stadium light issues. This is a Qualite issue not a Triumph issue, but communication between all has been clear this needs to be resolved ASAP.

Safety:

- New Emergency manuals have been sent out to staff electronically, and hard copies are being made and will be distributed soon. Finalizing reunification before we go to print. Thank you, Joanna and Lisa.

F. Todd Reed, Technology Director

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Areas of Focus:

- All six district generators underwent biannual maintenance, with all systems checking out successfully
- Following a successful demonstration and evaluation of Verkada Guest, the district has implemented the system at each school to replace Raptor as our visitor management platform. Verkada Guest provides a streamlined visitor check-in process while continuing to support our focus on maintaining safe and secure school facilities.
- The Chromebook check out process was concluded efficiently within the allocated time slots. Chromebook Checked out - FHS-204 | FMS-187

G. Alan Steinolfson, Finance Director

- Enrollment graph was shown for September - down 30 from last year, but anticipated/projected to be down 50 so we are doing better than expected - 822 total
- We have 30 TK students, but we are only funded for 20
- Cash Flow for General Fund (2025-2026) - total revenues \$14.97M, total expenditures \$14.72M, ended just over \$1M in cash flow (6.85% - just under goal of 7%)
- Capital Projects update - wrapping up expenditures from this summer

VIII. Superintendent's Report

A. District Priorities

- Consistency is the biggest priority in an effort to simplify things and fix what 'needs' to be taken care of (it's not the time for 'wants' right now).
- Monthly Coaches Meeting - working to align the MS and HS athletics program with monthly meetings. The coaches asked great questions at the first meeting as they went over the ASB rules and laws. It was good for unification. The board may have ideas for discussion topics, which Lisa is happy to relay, and she welcomed the board to attend meetings via zoom.

B. School Safety, Culture and Environment

- Emergency Procedures Update - the updated electronic version is out to the staff, and we are making final updates to the reunification piece as the last step before it will go to print in October to replace the emergency binders around campus

C. Partnering with Parents and School/Community

- Solar Project Press (TV interview) with KXLY was successful - we always welcome positive press
- Upcoming 3rd Grade Field Trip to Rockford Businesses on 9/25 with a preview of the SE Spokane County Fair
- HUB event is coming up on Thursday - a couple of students will be there to help out
- North Palouse Chamber Meeting Update - fun for Mrs. Phelan to connect with a lot of new people, in addition to the GSI and Valley Chamber groups that she is involved with

IX. Unfinished Business

A. Approval of Board Policy and Procedure No. 2022 - 2nd Reading

D. Santman made a motion to approve Board Policy and Procedure No. 2022 - 2nd Reading.

D. Teague seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Approval of Board Policy and Procedure No. 2161 - 2nd Reading

D. Santman made a motion to approve Board Policy and Procedure No. 2161 - 2nd Reading.

D. Teague seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

C. Approval of Board Policy and Procedure No. 3124 - 2nd Reading

D. Santman made a motion to approve Board Policy and Procedure No. 3124 - 2nd Reading.

D. Teague seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

X. New Business

A. Approval of Freeman School District Music Program Anonymous Donation of \$10,000.00

B. Morphy made a motion to approve the Freeman School District Music Program Anonymous Donation of \$10,000.00.

D. Teague seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Approval of FSD CTE 4-Year Plan

D. Teague made a motion to approve the FSD CTE 4-Year Plan.

N. Talbott seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

C. Approval of Updated Valleyford Community Park Agreement

D. Santman made a motion to approve the Updated Valleyford Community Park Agreement.

B. Morphy seconded the motion.

Discussed this is an \$8,000 obligation plus the garbage expense. We have a garbage truck that we will utilize. Thanks to our levy support we can fund this and keep things going as usual as the Valleyford Park is an important part of our community.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Approval of Surplus Freeman High School "March Book One" Books

B. Morphy made a motion to approve the Surplus Freeman High School "March Book One" Books.

N. Talbott seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Approval of the Surplus Middle School Science Textbooks

B. Morphy made a motion to approve the Surplus Middle School Science Textbooks.

D. Teague seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

F. Approval of Surplus Air Compressor

B. Morphy made a motion to approve the Surplus Air Compressor.

D. Teague seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

G. Approval of Board Policy No. 2230 - 1st Reading

D. Santman made a motion to approve Board Policy No. 2230 - 1st Reading.

D. Teague seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

H. Approval of Board Policy and Procedure No. 2410 - 1st Reading

B. Morphy made a motion to approve Board Policy and Procedure No. 2410 - 1st Reading.

N. Talbott seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

I. Approval of Board Policy No. 3120 - 1st Reading

D. Teague made a motion to approve Board Policy No. 3120 - 1st Reading.

N. Talbott seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

J. Approval of Board Policy and Procedure No. 3246 - 1st Reading

D. Santman made a motion to approve Board Policy and Procedure No. 3246 - 1st Reading.

D. Teague seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

XI. Other Information

A. Future Board Meetings

The next board meeting will be on Monday, October 26, 2026 at 6:00 PM in the PRTC Conference Room (Advance Work Session at 5:00 PM). The following meetings are scheduled for Monday, November 30, 2026 at 6:00 PM, and Monday, December 14, 2026 at 4:00 PM (Advance Work Session at 2:00 PM). Reminder that the Winter Concert is at 5:30 PM on Monday, December 14, 2026.

XII. Personnel

A. Personnel Action

Administration: None

Classified Director:

- None

Certified:

- Madelyn Dunham – Substitute Teacher
- Wallace Doud – Substitute Teacher
- Brian Blessing – Substitute Teacher, pending OSPI Cert clearance
- Jessica Clemons – Substitute Teacher

Classified:

- Sophie Leeper – Paraeducator/Special Education – One Year Only
- Morgan Odenthal – Substitute Paraeducator

Contract:

Extracurricular:

- Alex van Vlymen - High School Assistant Wrestling Coach – Girls' Position

- Brooke Forkner – Middle School Girls 7th Grade Head Volleyball Coach

Resignations/Retirements:

- Nate Garner – Middle School 7th Grade Girls Assistant Basketball Coach
- Nate Garner – Middle School 7th Grade Boys Assistant Basketball Coach

Extended Leave Requests:

- Kimi Kirkland – 10/28/26 – return date TBD
- Barb Gady – 11/5/26 – 12/11/26
- Kayleen Archibald – 11/16/26 – 3/1/27

D. Teague made a motion to approve the Personnel Action - addendum, as presented.

N. Talbott seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

XIII. 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 7:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. De Peralta

Recording Secretary _____

Board Secretary _____

Board Chair _____