

Freedom Academy Governing Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 7, 2008
7:00 PM in the Library

Meeting called to order by: Ken Parkinson, CAO
Facilitator: Ken Parkinson, CAO

Those in attendance: Ken Parkinson, Gary McConnell, Rory Howard, Monica Critchlow, Andrea Perri, Kyle Bateman, Lynne Herring, LaMarr Nielsen, Lynda Golding, Tim Ellsworth, Christy Brandley, Joy Herring, Amy Torgesen, Aaron and Seiko Skabelund, Tiffany Alexander, Matthew and Jenny Spadafora, Karen Smith, Suzanne Bailey, Raylynn Weaver, Melissa Christensen, Laura Downer, Roseann Croshaw

Pledge of Alliance: Monica Critchlow
Welcome: Ken Parkinson, CAO
Prayer: Gary McConnell

Ken: Defined the meeting as a “public”, open forum, fact finding meeting concerning the sixth grade. Afterwards, an Executive session was held.

Monica: Clarified that physical, character and mental health issues concerning an employee would be reserved more for the Executive session. She made the motion defining that any member of the general public could enter the Executive Session but it was not seconded.

Parent comments:

Jenny Spadafora: Presented a letter written by parent (name withheld) to the Board encouraging the sixth grade to have rotations.

Tiffany Alexandra: Questioned why we were even having a meeting.

Jenny Spadafora: Explained that after visiting with about 10 parents, she felt there was a concern about the sixth grade not rotating English, language arts and history as before and a teacher issue. She previously called about 75 parents (spoke with 15) and e-mailed Lynne Herring. She described that the letter she received back as political and non responsive. She emphasized that parents want to be heard.

Monica: Explained that the Board takes personnel and privacy issues of an individual very seriously and always takes necessary steps.

Ken: Commended the fact that the issues were presented to Lynne first and then recognized that the Board needs to develop a grievance policy. He stated that he appreciated the Charter School atmosphere of parents being able to work right with the “top”.

Andrea: Asked for clarification on Lynne’s behalf.

Lynne: She felt there was a lot of misinformation. At the end of the year, teachers are moved as best fits their needs. New teachers get to know each other and how they work best together as a team and individually. They need to be matched in ability/creativity. Different rotations are piloted. They discover specialties and build them into the learning plan. Presently, the students are away from their main teacher two times a day which still allows the main teacher to have accountability. Freedom will always be trying new ideas, what is best for a certain year/students and teachers. We need to trust the teachers while giving them liberty.

Ken: Clarified then if the decision has been made not to rotate.

Lynne: Explain, “No, teachers are still working it out”. All of our teachers are wonderful; they will find the best solution.

Suzanne Bailey: Concerned about this decision being more influenced as to what is best for the teachers...not students. She felt personality conflicts are solved through rotations. She questioned at what point is something done by administration?

Monica: Explain; “At first concern”, school administration responds at first concern.

Melissa Christensen: Has no issue with a teacher. She previously was concerned about rotation, but appreciated the explanation given in the meeting.

Amy Torgesen: Came to support Mr. Ellsworth. She reminded the attendees, that you only fill out a teacher request if you have academic concerns about a teacher.

Aaron Skabelund: Clarified sixth grade rotation for math and specialty were adequate so they felt no further concern.

Tiffany Alexander: Shared feelings for Mr. Ellsworth in his ability to help her son feel good about himself on a daily basis.

Joy Herring: Reported she wrote a letter on two issues and felt reply received was too generic. Wished parents were informed that there is no decision on rotation at this point; that would have answered her concern.. She feels issues of parents are not being heard. She was feeling school rules are not upheld in the classrooms, but has no personal issue with Mr. Ellsworth.

Jenny Spadafora: Concerned that sixth grade teachers haven't jelled. Feels the personality of teachers is causing the rotation decision to be delayed which plays out into a "no". Instead, teachers should be trained.

Tim Ellsworth: Expressed his desire to teach ALL subjects, no opposition to more rotation or no rotation.

Lynda Golding: Explained that the general model of K-6 is one teacher all day long. If a teacher wants to teach one subject, they would have completed a degree in secondary education. Been at Freedom for five years and seen rotations/no rotations work well. She was bothered by discontent over an issue that has not yet been decided.

Tiffany Alexander: Came to Charter School because she trusted those who started the school

Laura Downer: Decision to rotate or not should not be based on one teacher's fears.

Monica: Commented that Lynne was an excellent team builder. She likes to let adults get together and work it out. Her forte is when they don't get along...she guides them to the solution on their own.

Raylynn Weaver: Explained that her son is especially difficult but was wonderfully guided by Mr. Ellsworth. After observing family/friends, feels rotations are best and result in more homework and variety...which is good.

Christy Brandley: Feels rotation in sixth grade did not work at all last year.

Monica: Asked, “What happens developmentally in fifth and sixth grade?”

Lynne: Explained, “students still need shepherding, role models, boundaries. They are not ready to be a seventh grader”.

Monica: Reason she loves the model of this school is because it make school more comfortable for the students. Fewer rotations allow children to feel safer.

LaMarr: Watching his nine children go through school, he would prefer security bonding to one teacher.

Christy Brandley: Expressed a negative experience with Mr. Ellsworth concerning inappropriate topics being discussed the in the classroom and micromanaging of students.

Karen Smith: Shared names of families who have left Freedom over issues discussed in the meeting. Stated her daughter did not understand what was going on in Mr. Ellsworth’s classroom much of the time.

Ken: Invited any more comments.

Kyle Bateman: Stated that he appreciates charter schools because of parent involvement. It is impossible for one school or one teacher to satisfy everyone all of the time.

The Board determined that they would meet Christy Brandly, Joy Herring and Tim Ellsworth in the Executive Session.

Ken: Concluded the meeting and then adjourned to Conference Room for Executive session. He expressed appreciation for a good cross section of concerns expressed.

Adjourned to an Executive session about 9:00 PM.

Reconvened back into public session at approximately 11:15 PM.

Two motions made:

Ken: Opened floor for a motioned to override or modify actions of Lynne Herring regarding 6th grade rotation plan. No second.

Ken: Opened floor for a motion to override or modify the issue to retain Mr. Ellsworth. No second.

These motions were made as result of discussion in the closed session. All board members were in agreement with Lynne's handling of the situation and felt no action needed to be taken.

Adjourned at approximately 11:30 PM.

FREEDOM ACADEMY GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

September 24, 2008

6:00 PM

Meeting called to order:

Ken Parkinson, CAO

Pledge:

LaMarr Nielsen

Prayer:

Chris Helvey

Those in attendance:

Ken Parkinson, Gary McConnell, Kyle Bateman, Monica Critchlow, Andrea Perri, Nancy Ashby, Lynne Herring, Chris Helvey, LaMarr Nielsen, Lisa LaFleu, Brooke Bascom, Ben Peterson, Nate Mitchell, Katherine Webster, Jennifer Young, Trent Schoonmaker, Roseann Croshaw

Welcome:

Ken Parkinson, CAO

Approval of minutes:

Changes suggested for June 18th and August 7th have been corrected in both instances.

Public Comments: None

PTO Update:

Fundraiser has gone very well. They anticipate making between \$5,000 and \$6,000. (Final results was over \$16,000!) It was discussed how this compares to cookie dough and chocolate. Future activities planned are:

Book Fair during Parent Teacher Conferences

October – Red Ribbon Week

November 5 – Blood Drive

November 14 – Junior Engineering

December 5 – Family Christmas Party where ornaments will be offered for sell

There was a discussion on the carnival and possible Luau for next fall and spring, respectfully. Ken expressed appreciation for the efforts of our PTO.

Budget Update:

Referring to the budget presented by Chris, a discussion was had on salaries and how to read them. Ken asked Chris to investigate with the State if teachers can choose the option of a 9 month or 12 month salary disbursement. Enrollment at the present is 661 with 8 more probably coming and phone calls out for more. (Final count is 659) Monica questioned the possibility of taking field trip expense out of PTO funds. It was explained that travel expenses are mostly used for special education. Parent donations, if all made would increase our budget by \$60,000. Chris informed the Board that the audit should be completed and financial statement available for next meeting and that water shares and the possibility of making application for the five eligible shares on our property were being investigated.

Policies:**Criminal background check:**

Changes were made in proposed document. See Attachment #1.

Monica made the motion to make these changes with approval of school attorney. Motion seconded by Nancy Ashby. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Grievance Procedures:

Ken read the policy he authored. It will replace the section in the handbook 09-10. *Kyle motioned that the Board accept the text as read adding the “discretion of director” and “harassment”. Motion seconded by Nancy Ashby. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.*

Building use:

A policy for building use was created by Mark. It was presented and suggested that this policy be discussed further in our next meeting. Until then, the administration can make decisions on this policy in the best interest of the school. *Kyle made the motion to accept the first six pages of the policy until the January Board Meeting. Motion seconded by Andrea. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.*

Dual Enrollment:

State requires Charter Schools to develop a policy on this. The discussion formulated around a child wanting to come to FA on a part-time basis; would we allow it? Lynne shared a proposal which she will run past Mark, FA attorney, for approval and then present at next meeting.

Vending Machines:

Chris shared the State letter asking us to respond to our vending machine policy. Chris penned a policy representing our school which he will further refine and submit. Please refer to Attachment #2. *Monica motioned to pass the vending machine policy as presently written. Andrea seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.*

Tuition:

FA has a tuition policy in place but Lynne wanted to present a current proposal to the Board because of the large amount of money requested. Mrs. Andersen was making application for a tuition grant. Discussion was had and even a suggestion of paying 90% now and 10% at completion of the degree suggested. *Ken motioned that the Board accept Mrs. Andersen’s application as written. Nancy Ashby seconded. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.*

Travel:

It was decided that the Board take this policy home and review it. It was basically changed to give the Director authority to give approval of all in-state travel and the Board to approve any out-of-state travel (over night). On May 12-19, 2009 some FA students and teachers/parents will be traveling to Washington, D.C. The Board is aware of this activity (as it is already moving forward) but Ken expressed a serious need to have more

detail on the trip. There will be a presentation in the January meeting concerning this event. Two concerns that Chris would add at this time are:

-Instances where a teacher goes free because of a certain number of students enlisted.

-Trips must be advertized as completely optional with regular class in session for those not traveling

Kyle motioned to grant the Director authority to authorize student field trips within the state of Utah. Nancy seconded it. Discussion concerned Mark advising on other policies that should be included. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. It was decided that Lynne would write this policy up for further consideration.

Bylaws Committee Update:

Andrea presented changes suggested in the bylaws. *Kyle motioned to accept the changes as submitted. Monica seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.*

Donation Money:

A discussion was had with Board members stating their personal opinions of “needs”. Chris felt it would be encouraging for parents to vision a tangible outcome by naming a purpose. Different “wants” were discussed. Monica volunteered to form a committee to determine the current cause. The following names were mentioned: Rob Green, John Moody, Kelly Stillwell, Dena Lane.

Elections:

No elections this fall. It was suggested that a page be developed showing all who have been on the board, their length of term, etc.

Director Update:

Lynne shared a gift from England and thanked everyone for her three week vacation. She reported that the accelerated reader program, a diagnostic program, has been a great boost to the school. She explained the beginnings of our gifted and talented program (G.A.T.E.) which involves one morning/week for second through sixth grades. We are looking for help with our seventh and eight grades. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in a class preparing them for the National Geography Bee..

Meeting adjourned: 9:15 PM

ATTACHMENT #1

Proposed Criminal Background Check Policy

1. Freedom Academy shall require criminal background checks on all potential employees, volunteers and interns who will be given significant unsupervised access to students at the school. All employees who work during school hours will be given criminal background checks.
2. Where possible, background checks will be completed prior to engaging an employee, volunteer or intern. Where completion of the background check is not possible prior to employment or engagement, the employee volunteer or intern shall be given written notice the position is dependent on the outcome of the criminal background check.
3. Where reasonable cause exists, Freedom Academy may require an existing employee or volunteer to submit to an additional criminal background check.
4. All criminal background checks that identify information about an applicant shall be reviewed by the Freedom Academy Director.
5. The Director shall notify the background check applicant in a timely manner that arrest(s), conviction(s), or both, were reported as a result of the background check.
6. The Director shall give the applicant a reasonable opportunity to respond to any information received as a result of the check.
7. The Director shall review the background check information, considering only those convictions which are job related. In considering whether to hire, retain, or limit an applicant's duties the Director shall consider the following factors:
 - A. Whether the nature of the conviction is relevant to the applicant's position;
 - B. How much time has passed since the conviction;
 - C. If the conviction has been pardoned or if the sentence has been commuted or reversed on appeal; and
 - D. if, at the sole discretion, the Director feels the arrests or convictions pose risks to Freedom Academy, Director shall have responsibility of final hiring and retention.
8. Freedom Academy shall attempt to maintain the applicant's confidentiality throughout the application process.

ATTACHMENT #2

Vending Machine Policy

Freedom Academy does not allow vending machines for student use. Vending machines for teacher use are permissible but must be located in the faculty lounge out of student sight. These types of machines will be contracted through an outside vending machine company and will be maintained and stocked by said company. Students are not allowed to purchase items from these machines.

Sale of food items to students outside the cafeteria is permitted only in accordance with the Wellness Policy and after approval of the Director. (example – PTO Fundraiser, Student Council, 7th & 8th grade fundraising.)

Freedom Academy Governing Board Minutes
January 21, 2009
7:00 PM

Meeting called to order:

Ken Parkinson, CAO

Pledge:

Prayer:

Nancy Ashby

Those in attendance:

Ken Parkinson, Cary McConnell, Kyle Bateman, Monica Critchlow, Andrea Perri, Nancy Ashby, Lynne Herring, Chris Helvey, LaMarr Nielsen, Lisa LaFleu, Brooke Bascom, Nate Mitchell, Buddy Ivie, Coby Newton, Paul Winward, Lesha Schnebly, Roseann Croshaw

Approval of Minutes:

It was mentioned to change “motioned” to “moved” in the September 24, 2008 minutes. *Nancy moved to make the change. Monica seconded. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.* These changes have been made.

Public Comments:

Stacy Cowley representing the Recess Monitors expressed concern for the snow mounds and a need for direction from the Board on safety issues. After discussion, it was determined that any play equipment or snow hill could result in injury and she was encouraged to use her discretion. The Board supports the administration on this matter.

Letters were read from parents Mary White and Jenny Spadafora with concerns about snow hills.

PTO Update:

Spelling Bee was successfully completed. Upcoming events will be:

Feb 5	1-4:00 PM	Charter School Day at Utah State Capital building
March		Scholastic Book Fair
End of March		Love of Reading Week
May 8		End of Year Party
Fall 2009		School Carnival

Nancy questioned the possibility of PTO donating to an ongoing surplus fund for solid fixtures in our school. Ken expressed appreciation for our PTO.

Washington DC trip:

Buddy Ivie and Coby Newton (World Strides) explained and answered questions concerning our student trip on May 12th. There are 16 students enrolled with final payment due in February. LaMarr Nielsen and his wife will also be traveling with the group. Mr. Newton explained the security protection for students and success rate of 41 years serving students and teachers. Next week our students will begin assignments in preparation for the trip. Lynne expressed desire to have a scholarship in the future for students unable afford such an adventure. Chris made sure it is public knowledge that

this activity is not a required or sanctioned school event, not sponsored by the school. He also posed the question about terrorism insurance. There was discussion about Buddy's time off for this event.

FY 2009 USOE Budget Cuts:

Presentation of FY 2008 Audit

Paul Winard from Squire and Company reported on the audit. He said that though it shows a \$356,000 deficit, it is not alarming to auditors or the State because that amount is mostly represented in the depreciation of the building. It is not a cash deficit. It was suggested that all field trips be paid in advance to alleviate opportunity for fraud. Housing a Special Education Program in Price was explained. Ken asked the auditor if there was anything the Board should be concerned with and Paul reported that he was not aware of any fraud or misappropriation. Chris suggested writing a letter to Squire thanking them for their excellent work.

Approval of FY 2009 Amended Budget Changes:

The State has requested schools present proposals or scenarios for 4 ½ % and 7 ½% decrease in current budget. The enclosed budget shows a 7 ½ % decrease. As it is not decided by the Legislature what the percentage will yet be, we will have to deal with the numbers they give us. Chris asked the Board to approve a 7 ½ % budget cut. He reported that there is a \$18,000 justification for being a Charter School but no further allowance. The Board suggested that Chris e-mail to Board members the budget cuts highlighted to show the changes the Administration proposes.

There was discussion about possibly getting more service hours out of parents and the option of administration and staff also teaching. Lynne explained that the school likes to send teachers to two conferences/year but will not be able to fund the second one for this year. It is good that FA is getting to their fixed state of physical needs so monies in that direction will diminish. An electronic meeting was suggested but since the budget is still just a proposal/draft it may not be necessary to vote on decisions at this time. *Ken moved that to adopt a policy on electronic meetings, we must follow Utah Code 52-4-207 allowing meetings to be conducted electronically if one or more cannot attend but want to participate in all or part of the meeting. It must be at a central location, posted at the school, public invited (so they can make comments) and the anchor must be in a place out of the building. Kyle seconded. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.*

It was suggested that there be another Board Meeting when the Legislature defines what will be the percentage cut and also look up more information on electronic meetings.

Chris suggested that the following line items be approved:

4627	page 2
10.897	page 3
10.641	page 3
26.737	page 6
26.725	page 6
26.830	page 6

Monica moved that the above adjustments be made to the budget and Kyle seconded. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Andrea moved to accept the 2008 audit by Squire and Company and it was seconded by Monica. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Testing update – Tina Hansen, coordinator:

Tina referred to graph charts showing student science, language arts and math test scores at Freedom since 2007. The Iowa testing in the fall is for grades 3, 5 and 8. She indicated that charting will get better for the following reasons; teachers are stimulated by seeing results, this year we will have practice tests much earlier and from third grade up, tests are administered on computers. Eventually these visuals will show student trends. Tina was complimented on her presentation and appreciation was expressed for her efforts now and in the future.

Policies Review:

Six new policies going to the State;

#9 – Vending Machines – *Andrea moved to adopt this policy and it was seconded by Nancy. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.*

#11 – Truancy – Ken suggested that we table this policy to revisit for consideration in the future.

#12 – Teacher Purchases – *Kyle moved that we adopt this policy. Andrea seconded. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.*

#14 – Watch List – *Kyle moved that we adopt this policy and it was seconded by Nancy. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.*

#15 – Before and After School Classes – It was suggested that the word “club” be changed to “class” in paragraph 5. *Kyle moved that we adopt this policy with the change of wording. Andrea seconded. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.*

#16 – Student Electronic Devices – Discussion was made concerning cell phones. It was suggested that as of July 1, 2009 this policy include: “With parent permission a student will be allowed to bring a cell phone to school but it must be put away and stored during school hours. If lost, the school is not to be held responsible.” *Kent moved that this policy be changed as stated. Kyle seconded. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.*

GB Member Appointment for staff liaison:

Nancy suggested the possibility of one board member assuming the representation of faculty on the Board. Monica wondered about actually having a teacher on the Board. It was discussed that the staff needs to be reminded that there is a grievance policy in place (in the Employee Handbook) if one feels their needs are not being recognized. It was decided that no new policy was needed at this time.

Director Update:

Monica suggested that the report be broken up into categories when e-mailed to members. There was a small discussion on the four day school week. Ken will look up Public Meeting Law for next meeting.

Study Items – Executive Disclosure

Monica suggested the Board and Director fill out Conflict of Interest Disclosure forms but after discussion, it was decided that if an issue were to come up, they would do so.

Kyle moved that the meeting be adjourned and Ken seconded. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 PM

Freedom Academy Governing Board Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2009 - 6:00 PM

Meeting called to order: Ken Parkinson, CAO
Pledge: Rory Howard
Prayer: Nancy Ashby

Those in attendance:

Ken Parkinson, Cary McConnell, Andrea Perri, Nancy Ashby, Rory Howard, Kyle Bateman (by cell phone), Lynne Herring, Chris Helvey, LaMarr Nielsen Tom Torgersen, Trent Schoonmaker, Kim Flewallen, Lisa LaFleur, Brook Bascom, Tina Hansen, RaieGene Robison, Alisse Shiles, Cheryl Frey, Ally Perkins, Nate Mitchell, Buddy Ivie, Ben Peterson, Rachel Ahlstrom, Byron Christensen, Lynda Golding, Juanita Beavers, Ashley Schoessow, Irene Tullis, Debbie Labrum, Alisha Walters, Corynne Armstrong, Jerry Timothy, Shari Burns, Rebecca Chalk, Libby Sharp, Mary White, Cheryl Frey, Michelle Curtiss, Andrea McConnell, Jed Bichsel, Roseann Croshaw. Monica Critchlow was not in attendance.

Approval of minutes: Ken suggested “moved” instead of “motioned”. *Andrea moved to make the change. Rory seconded.*

Public Comments:

Lynne reported on progress of school growth, high number of lottery applications, concern for future due to legislative restrictions and the survey of parents.

Alisse Shiles: supports expanding Freedom to coordinate activities, help families and allow older children to assist younger.

Tom Torgersen: new at school but expressed desire to proceed with caution for financial and quality of education reasons.

Mary White: questioned one or two campuses, the financial situation of the school and inquired if “enhanced” applied only to high school curriculum.

Irene Tullis: expressed the positive affect enlargement would have by eliminating academic and social adjustments from charter to public schools.

RaieGene Robison: expressed support for the expansion idea

Michelle Curtiss: suggested two schools instead of three.

Rebecca Chalk: encouraged rigorous learning attitude through schools all schools if we expand and with middle school better preparing students for high school.

Tina Hansen: speaking as a parent, wants more successes instead of failures.

Kim Flewallen: supports the charter school model and wants to make last what we have now.

Libby Sharp: excited to have schools she can trust after students leave Freedom.

Tom Torgersen: encouraged Freedom to highly consider opportunities and potential of our school now.

Chris Helvey: wanting to move ahead, figure it out as we go.

Mary White: feels PHS could offer more to our students than a charter high school.

Board Discussion:

Kyle expressed he could not support expansion until we have reached our potential here and now.

Andrea expressed she was absolutely not in favor of the expansion. She would like to see us have three years of consecutive excellence as it could be a great disservice to our present students. There would have to be too much attention given to growth. She supports the K-8 model as it covers the years students get lost in. Should support the two charter high schools we have or we could end up getting their leftovers.

Nancy questioned our parental support through donations and service hours. She is concerned about Freedom taking such a big step from where we are now and felt K-8 should give students sufficient foundation. She also felt since Merit and Karl Maeser are not yet full, it would further water down the effectiveness of a high School charter choice.

Ken expressed financial concerns if we were to lose our 7/8 grade students. He felt that to be a K – college school would be wonderful. We are a good school now and want to be an excellent school testing score wise. He felt a single board over both schools would be difficult. He would support sticking our foot in the door to see if we could put it together in the future.

Rory expressed that he was initially against the proposal. He stated that we are doing well, let's get better. As he thinks about it, it is a lot of work with many unanswered questions.

Cary questioned if we made application and it is accepted, do we have to proceed? He is also concerned that if we don't do anything and legislation puts a cap on Charter Schools, there would be no possibility in the future. What would it hurt to make application?

Nancy asked for a time line.

Lynne stated that Core Knowledge is a K-8 design so it continues to be outside of this campus. If we move students out of our building, we can bring more in off the waiting list. We would increase out K-5/6 creating more numbers to filter into the middle school. We would have to seek a strong steering committee not involving any administrators or board members as we want continued success at Freedom.

Kyle wondered if the board could start the process and then when we reach certain benchmarks, move forward.

Lynne explained that if we take out 7/8th, we would have enough room to move to 725 for K-5/6.

Kyle moved to not authorize Freedom Academy to move forward with the April 1st deadline of making application at this time. Andrea seconded. Voting was unanimous with 3 in favor and 2 against. In favor: Nancy, Kyle, Rory. Against: Ken and Cary.

Kyle lost phone reception and did not vote on further issues of the meeting.

The public was thanked for coming.

PTO

Lisa reported that they were in the process of finishing “love of reading” and will be giving a book to each student. The carnival is scheduled for fall. Andrea suggested

the PTO call families with lists of things to do volunteer wise. Lynne reminded the group that there will be many spring projects coming up.

Budget Update: Chris and Cary

Legislature ruled a 4% budget cut. Board looked at line items. It was reported that about 19% of parents have paid their donations.

Andrea suggested a thermometer visual to identify paid donations next school year.

Questions concerning textbooks, aides, electricity and the 9 versus 12 month salary schedule were discussed.

Andrea moved to approve changes in the budget with a 6.7% decrease for 2009-10. Nancy seconded. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Calendar

Calendar for 2009-10 is very similar to current year. Discussion was had on beginning school on a Wednesday and whether a spring break for one week would be too long. It was explained that the testing window is for the first two weeks with the third week as make-up. *Ken moved to accept the calendar as drafted. Rory seconded. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.*

Special Education and Procedure

Lynda reported that the proposal has been approved by the state and is awaiting ratification. She explained the new policy. *Ken moved to ratify the policy. Andrea seconded. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.*

Driveway

Various options as to how to solve our pick up issues were discussed. The idea to create another entrance to the school grounds near our Freedom sign would cost approximately \$50,000. This would have to be in the future. Another concern is along 1250 West where there is no sidewalk. Our cost of helping with this sidewalk is \$13,000. More discussion was had on how we can encourage the good neighbor reputation while solving these issues.

Ken suggested having a meeting with homeowners, the governing board and Provo City. Nancy was defined as the board member who would carry this responsibility. In executive session it would be further discussed.

Disclosure Form

Refer to previous meeting minutes.

Board Retreat/Training

Discussion on a June 9th event concerned Ken making assignments and having a full day retreat beginning with an hour or two of training. The location will be the Corporate Alliance Board Meeting Room. I was questioned whether the public needed to be invited.

Andrea remembered a binder containing Board training which could be used as direction for this retreat. The retreat will begin at 9:00 AM..

Director Update

Graduation on May 21st at 7:00 PM

Decided to table truancy policy

Monica had requested the up coming Board elections to be considered on June 24 meeting

Chris and LaMarr's contracts need to be renewed.

Meeting dismissed: 9:25 PM

Freedom Academy Governing Board Meeting
Minutes
June 24, 2009
Corporate Alliance Building
East Bay, Provo, Utah

Meeting called to order: Ken Parkinson, CAO
Pledge: Morgan Ivie
Prayer: Kyle Bateman

Those in attendance:

Ken Parkinson, Kyle Bateman, Monica Critchlow, Cary McConnell, Rory Howard, Nancy Ashby, Lynne Herring, LaMarr Nielsen, Chris Helvey, Zulma Castaneda, Buddy Ivie, Morgan Ivie, Roseann Croshaw

Approval of Minutes:

Kyle moved to amend the minutes by adding names of those voting “for” and “against” not authorizing expansion to meet the April 1st deadline. Nancy seconded.

Public Comments: none

PTO Update: none

Discussion Items:

Washington D.C. summary – Buddy Ivie

14 students participated in the trip with Buddy, LaMarr and Diane Nielsen as leaders. Students were given a journal/workbook to complete if they desired ½ HS credit. Final cost was \$1685.00. Next year it would be approximately \$1800. So far three students have signed up for next year with another three who appear very interested. Nancy suggested that the trip be aggressively advertized in advance. A unique moment: Eli Holt reading plaques at the WWII Memorial... “I think I get it.”

International Experience – Zulma Castaneda

Zulma feels this travel experience would help Freedom students improve their Spanish, appreciate America, appreciate the heritage of our Spanish students, participate in service projects and see first hand life around the world. Freedom has been invited by Lincoln Academy to participate in a trip to Peru through EF Educational Tours. Two options/costs were presented, one in March/April and one in June. This would be a 9 day trip for 7th and 8th graders. There was discussion on fund raising and alternating this opportunity with the D.C. trip. *Ken moved to authorize Zulma to investigate an optional trip such as this. Kyle seconded. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.*

Budget Update – Chris Helvey

Chris presented the budget for 2008-09, budget for 2009-10 and Conflict of Interest form. He said the 501c3 was done. The budget for 2008-09 was a balanced budget with carry over provisions. Freedom has been told by the State to save as much as we can through 2010-11 year. *Kyle moved to approve the 2008-09 budget. Andrea seconded. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.*

For the year 2009-10 there are 680 students presently on board. Budget is based on a student load of 650. It is down \$25,000 in total income. Expenses predicted are 4.49 million. The budget is moving constantly with changes from the state, but this budget needs to be approved by June 30th. *Kyle moved to approve the 2009-10 budget. Nancy seconded. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.*

Monica requested governing board members receive regular updates as to the budget when significant changes are being made. Nancy expressed appreciation for Chris and Cary's expertise.

Kyle moved to adopt Policy 21. Andrea seconded. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. Conflict of Interest Policy, Policy 21 was signed and submitted by each Board member.

Board Elections

It was decided that Freedom should publish to parents that there will be three board seats open for an election the second week in November. *Nancy moved that further discussion on this matter be tabled until the September 23rd meeting. It was seconded by Andrea. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.*

Board Communication

Discussion was had on the need for e-mail addresses to be changed for easier more thorough communication. A paper was passed around for preferred e-mail addresses to be listed. *Kyle moved that the Board receive a report in the September meeting on I-map and forwarding possibilities. Monica seconded. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.*

Neighborhood Follow-up – Nancy Ashby

Freedom met with neighbors who's first issue is their property, secondly the students. Cones placed on 1250 West seem to be working as there is safer passage for students and parents seem to not be parking there as much but still a great safety concern. *Kyle moved for Freedom to retain students for pickup unless parents have signed an agreement releasing the school of liability or students must use a path or streets with sidewalks...not 1250 West. Ken seconded. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative.*

Ken called the question. It will be put on agenda for next meeting with further discussion.

All other issues were tabled and Kyle moved to adjourn. Seconded by Andrea. Meeting was dismissed at 11:55 AM.