

**FALLS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #57
BOARD WORK SESSION WITH STAFF
December 10, 2007**

Board Members Present:

Jackey Jones, Chair
Larry Sickles, Director
Robert Young, Director

Bruce A. McCallum, Vice Chair
Thomas Huyler, Director

Board Members Absent:

Staff Present:

Sid Hobgood, Principal

Aaron Hale, Principal

Staff Absent

Dr. Peter Tarzian, Superintendent

Lynn Love, Deputy Clerk

Open meeting at 3:30pm

Introductions of people present: Sid Hobgood, Tom Huyler, Bob Young, Larry Sickles, John Gilbert, Nick Asay, Lisa Johnston, Jocelyn Labrie, Jessica McGuigan, Mrs. Kirchner, Paulette Carey, Jane Conkle, Lynn Bailey, Michael Rodriguez, Art Houghtaling, Roxi Kempfer, Pam Hassler, Shanda Yother, Shelly Hansen, Debbi Hutchins, Jami Kidd, Aaron Hale

The board addressed the audience welcoming them to the workshop and asking that everyone share needs with the board, understanding that the board may not be able to implement all requests but information gathered will be evaluated during the upcoming budget process.

John Gilbert commented that as a parent he is very happy with the commitment of staff. From the point of view of maintenance staff his first concern is safety in the district, next is condition of roof, windows, gutters, heating and years of deferred maintenance district wide.

Bob Young requested to have a window that works in the multi purpose room at the elementary school.

Shanda Yother commented that the windows have no screens.

Nick Asay would like to see the district set up consistent upgrades on technology to keep kids up to date. His biggest concern is the libraries are lacking in reading material from grade 5 and above, he recommends to vamp up reading adoption due to lack of titles or series for upper grades (he was specifically targeting middle school novels).

Lisa Johnstone feels the school and her position is going well. She would like to see more time for H.S. students to work on Debbi Hutchins "Rewards" reading program.

Michael Rodriguez suggested that we implement the "Rewards" program in the learning academy.

Debbi Hutchins would like to hold a "Rewards" reading program during the summer break.

Jocelyn Labrie is happy with the crew, kids are great and she is thankful for the support. She expressed concerns with continued stripping of services at the elementary building. She expressed concerns with loss of P.E. and music program, lack of textbooks, no Health or Social Studies currently she has 7 outdated books that kids share. The library is underdeveloped and books are old and low in quality. Library has big concerns, she purchases books on own for students. She commented that Debbi Hutchins has paid for her "Rewards" reading program out of her pocket, Debbi confirmed. No librarian staff time, and what will P.E., Music, and counseling look like next year? With the loss of a reading specialist last year leaves her feeling that the building is understaffed by 2 personnel. When asked to prioritize needs her comment is 1st staff at the 5th-6th grade level due to the differing benchmark goals 2nd updated textbooks.

Nick Asay reiterated need for another staff and expressed that Aaron and Jessica have been a great help.

Lynn Bailey reiterated the importance of the "Rewards" reading program, she needs books from the recommended reading list and we have no contemporary literature books, she also asked for a supply of books on tape.

Nick Asay commented that you can copy books on tape as a MP3 download with the appropriate license purchase.

Lynn would like the school to purchase inspiration software which would bring better resources to students in literature and technology.

Nick Asay gave the audience more details on the inspiration software, he recommended that we view a 30 day trial at [inspiration .com](http://inspiration.com), or [kidspiration](http://kidspiration.com) for younger students.

Jessica McGuigan feels overwhelmed; her focus with the H.S. students is transition from H.S. to next goal, she feels once she starts to make progress she has to leave. She has the same feeling at the elementary school, once she starts to make progress in one building she has to leave to go to the other. She feels a need to bring more exposure to out side of falls city situations to students which would take even more time.

Tom Huyler asked how much time she spends on mental health counseling, being that it is his opinion that the Falls City community is depressed.

Jessica commented that she refers students to outside services for counseling above day to day issues. She finds it better for students to have a place outside of the school to work on issues that may bring strong feelings. It is not productive to bring up such feelings and then place students back in the classroom.

Bruce McCallum brought up that as a community we are moving in a positive direction and we need to focus on positive as well.

Lynn Bailey commented that senior project is a problem because of lack of exposure; students do not have many experiences out side of falls city. Even phone calls are intimidating to some. She emphasized the need for students to have educational experiences outside of falls city.

Michael Rodriguez said students are paralyzed by the time of graduation; they are overly focused on financial rather than lifestyles.

Pam Hassler brought up that the Corvallis pen pals will be visiting tomorrow and there is much excitement from the Falls City students.

Gretchen Kirchner commented that math and technology resources are lacking and limited. Difficulty to provide for students; extra time is needed to pull together resources. Integrated math "stinks" redundant. She spends more time on specific topic, teach concepts longer from H.S. to E.S. She wants to go back to a traditional math model and get away from integrated math teaching.

Jami Kidd commented that the stress of trying to fund quality programs is overwhelming, she encourages board and community to get involved with lobbying for schools when the opportunity presents itself.

Paulette Carey commented that there is lots of work to do.

Jane Conkle EAS at elementary, increase # of hours, and/or # of EAS, need more instructional assistant time to be supported.

Michael Rodriguez feels very supported over the years. Great lab and facilities; mini bus to do things in field, great science program. Having Sid here is a tremendous improvement at the H.S.. Wants to see pizza party, college and trade school preparation i.e. electrician school. Increase awareness of steps toward post secondary school requirements. Science room is cold, would like to green his room with more natural light. Sees improvement in student culture

Honor roll instituted is GREAT! Gave suggestions to taking the next step in our school programs such as reorganizing schools without grades, i.e. time is the variable model like Alsea elementary; Nick asked for sub time to begin to design science lab like the high school science lab.

Art Houghtaling has new textbooks. Rosetta Stone – Spanish; hands on. Need for technology, grant writer Kathryn Bartlett for technology grants.

Roxi Kempfer again need for technology, providing kids with outside experiences. New staff Sid & Aaron and improved collaboration and unity between schools. H.S. Mentors – helping to see the future.

Pam Hassler food program is working with a tight budget now that food and milk costs continue to go up. Kids are loving the hot lunch. Currently evaluating the menu again to provide more quantity of food at minimal cost such as more mashed potatoes and gravy.

Shanda Yother sees value in the food program, our school is unique, something special to know kids individually, serious eaters – hungry. They are warm and well fed at school. We have an awesome staff, students know we care about them. When we have time off many kids don't eat. School is lacking – empty bulletin boards- posters. Small storage (suggest enclose the stage) desks are stored in the same room as rooms of instruction. Upgrade on tables/furniture lunch room tables are too old to set up, missing seats, maybe the district could purchase a new table each year.

Shellee Hansen

- updated textbooks
- current materials need supplement
- more prep time
- food program meets basic needs

Debbi Hutchins

- firm foundation needed in pre-k
- misbehaviors seem connected with low reading skills
- jump in textbooks at 5th / 6th level