

**FALLS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #57
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

November 15, 2021

Art Houghtaling, Superintendent

503-787-3521

The Falls City School Board will meet Monday, November 15, 2021 at 6:30 pm in person and virtually on Zoom. The public is welcome to attend the open portion of any meeting as posted. A link to the Zoom meeting is available on the district website at fallscityschools.org.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Chairman Davis opened at 6:34 PM

Board Members in attendance:

Bret Davis, Chairman

Jami Kidd, Vice Chairman

Bob Young, Director

Shanda Yother, Director

Dana Schowalter, Director

Staff Members in Attendance:

Art Houghtaling, Superintendent

Micke Kidd, High School Principal

Donna Creekmore, Admin Assistant

Amy Houghtaling, FACES Director

Janell Davis, 4th Grade Teacher

Jessica Turnidge, MS Teacher

Bryan Walton, Reset Room Supervisor

Bethany Cornutt, Pre-K Director

Dennis Sickles, Athletic Director

Alea Littleton, HS Counselor

Amara Houghtaling, Assistant Coach/FACES Employee

Audience Members in attendance:

TJ Bailey, City of Falls City Mayor/Parent/Community Member

Cory Ellis, Superintendent, Konawa School District

Jackie Olsen, CFO, LBL ESD

FLAG SALUTE

ADDITIONS OR AMEMDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

8. Elementary School Principal Contract

9. OSBA Elections

RECOGNITION OF, AND COMMENTS FROM, AUDIENCE MEMBERS/CITIZENS

1. TJ Bailey – Bitty Ball has historically served 1st-5th graders and will be starting soon.

REPORTS

Interim Superintendent/ES Principal – Music teacher has started, is well liked and doing great. SIA is in the packet for your review. We have completed all hiring and are at full staff. Been working on the Bus Narrative. We are on our 3rd bus driver for the year. New driver's name is Derek. I laminated a student check off list for him to use so he knows who is on the bus at all times. We have a staff member, our Covid-19 employee Nicole Clark, who rides the bus for pickup in the morning and first run drop off in the afternoon. I have begun observations and hope to be done by February. As discussed at our prior meeting, reached out to our attorney about employee Covid-19 testing for unvaccinated staff. The attorney was adamant that the school not pay for outside testing and was concerned about outside lab validity. We are still working on it. Amy Houghtaling, HS Covid-19 employee stated that she and Nicole both thought they had opted in for test pickup, but it doesn't appear so. There may be options for other types of testing, but it would still need to go through the OHA. Director Yother asked "How are employees testing now?" Some are using the free testing option. Just gave some additional information to another employee today about test options.

High School – Homecoming Week included the bonfire and went well. Kicked off a Don't Give Up campaign that offers awareness and resources. College and Career opportunities are going well, lots of visits and trips. Sgt. DeGrout has been a positive addition and well welcomed. We played a Powderpuff game against Perrydale at the Dallas Turf Field. It went very well, everyone had a great time. Students and staff gave great feedback. Global Studies is working on a Big project. We will have some staff out in January, we've arranged for long term subs. We've had 2 applicants for the math tutor position, both are alumni.

Business Manager – Finalized the audit. The Auditor will come to the December Board Meeting to go over their full report. Was finally able to roll the general fund balance over. The State School Fund came in within \$15,000 of what we were expecting. Director Schowalter asked where the money for the new Superintendent would come from? Ms. Olsen reminded the board that they did have \$200,000 rolled over to this year that could be used. We will have to look at our options.

Facilities Manager – Out Recovering from Shoulder Surgery. Sending good thoughts, you are missed.

Athletic Director – Falls Sports are done. Moving into Winter Sports. The music teacher sang the National Anthem at the Homecoming Football game, it was very nice. Last Spring, we talked about the football field lights needing replaced. It is getting pretty bad down there and is starting to become dangerous. May cost around \$30,000 to be adequately replaced. Halogen appears to be the best option and will save us money in the future. There is money in the local option to replace them. Just giving you a heads up that we will be moving forward on it. Basketball is getting started. Girls have 7 players, it's low, but doable. We will be having transportation issues. Volleyball had to drive to all of their games, looks basketball will have to do the same. We paid the coaches a stipend to drive the minibus. Would like to look at the Student Athlete Contract. Currently it states that if a kid is kicked out of a game, they must pay a fine of \$50 and come speak to the board. We think this should be pulled from the contract. OSBA already has a policy that says a kid must miss a game after being kicked out of a game. We feel that is enough. We have filled all the coach positions for all sports.

FACES Coordinator – We applied for a GO Kids grant to fund the partnership with the YMCA. We received the grant in the amount of \$10,000, which is good for 2 years. We are hoping this will allow for swim lessons this summer. We have more and more students joining FACES every day. We are working on the possibility of a Spring concert. Vice Chairman Kidd asked about Family Nights. Mrs. Houghtaling expressed the lack of staff makes it not possible at this time.

SEL Director – No Report.

Teacher Update – No Report.

Falls City Teachers Association – No Report

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ONLY

1. Strategic Goals & Financial Brainstorm – Standing discussion. Director Young asked where is the Preschool Building at? The building is built and they are storing while we get the site prepped for it. What will it take to get installed? We need to get water, sewer, and power figured out. They will pour the concrete and set the building. We will need a bid for the entrance ramp and concrete walk. Mr. Kidd will get the Preschool plans to Director Young. Do we have the money to complete the project? Yes, we do. We need to get the figures to finish the project to Ms. Olsen, so that she can work out the funding piece. This project needs to be finished.
2. ES Gym Update – Just picked up the revision plans from the county. These were to change the mezzanine load, as it looks like it will only be housing duct work. We are waiting on heat, we are also waiting for the plumbers to switch the showers that were installed backwards. After that is done, sheet rock will go up and then we can start using it as a fully enclosed play shed.
3. Review Interim Superintendent Duties – Standing review.
4. SIA Report to the Board – The SIA Report is in the packet. It's a Report of the SIA Plan, also a place for public comment. We have asked for help from WESD to create a survey to engage focal groups for the SIA Plan.
5. Discuss Superintendent Selection Contract – Contract is headed back to the attorney for 2 reasons. First is there is no "e" in Cory Ellis's first name. Second is the moving expense benefit. We originally expressed cutting a check for the entire amount and receiving receipts after the fact. The Contract states reimbursements upon receipt. This will need to be corrected. We can approve the contract with stipulated amendments. Discussed pushing December's Board Meeting out to the 21st, so that our new Superintendent could attend. Can't be pushed back, as the Auditor is already scheduled for the 16th. Mr. Ellis will need an email assigned, as well as keys and an opportunity to get a lay of the land. Mr. Ellis stated that he could potentially be here for the board meeting on the 16th. He would prefer a quick turnaround on the contract so that he can move forward with getting here as soon as possible.
6. Safety Concerns – When an "All-Call" goes out over all the phones, not all of them receive the call, or you can't hear it. Even with the volume turned all the way up. This is an ongoing issue. Mrs. Creekmore was directed to email Josh Wilson with Square W, to have the phones audited and replaced as needed. Follow up with Jennifer Hamilton to let her know what action was taken.
7. Pay Proposal from Classified Council for the Pre-K Position – You will find this in the packet. Question if this is for the Preschool Aid position or the Preschool Teacher? It shows the current rate of pay and the proposed rate of pay for the currently held position. Cannot call it "teacher" as that they don't have a license. Where will our current employee land given their years of experience? Step 1? They will start at step 9. The title for the position needs to reflect the position and honor the work that is being done. How does the step scale compare to a teacher's salary? A first-year teacher might start at about step 8 or 9 on this scale. New title: Director/Coordinator? We will need to review again once the building is onsite. There will be an elevated level of expectation. The building will most likely not be in and usable till next fall. Plan to support the program with High School student aids. We will need a budget. Will need direction from board to figure out where the money will come from to support the proposed pay increase. The Interim Superintendent needs to look over the budget and make recommendations to the board for funding possibilities. Questioned if a new aid for preschool would be hired at a regular EA pay scale? Need to make sure we are using the appropriate scale when budgeting for the future. General approval of proposal. What will it cost? If we have the money, go for it, if not, we need to rethink it. Followed by a discussion on funding.

8. Elementary School Principal Contract – There are some concerns. The Interim Superintendent contract needs to be resigned before the new ES Principal contract is signed or the new Superintendents. School Boards don't typically negotiate Principal contracts, but we are in a special situation. Asked the attorney to create a contract to complete the current contract, till the end of the school year. Which would allow the new Superintendent to evaluate the principal and negotiate the new contract. Industry standard is to offer a 3-year probationary contract. Discussion around the definition of probationary.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approve Consent Agenda

- October 12, 2021 – Special Meeting Minutes
- October 13, 2021 – Special Meeting Minutes
- October 21, 2021 – Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- October 2021 Disbursements
 - Accounts Payable: Check numbers 6010 - 6074 in the amount of \$158,297.47
 - Payroll Expenses: Checks and Direct Deposits in the amount of \$286,532.00

Motion made by Director Yother. Seconded by Director Schowalter.

Vote: All ayes.

2. Approve the Superintendent Contract and the Hiring of Cory Ellis upon Contract Acceptance with Discussed Amendments.

Discussion – Clarified Corrections

Motion made by Director Yother. Seconded by Director Young.

*Vote: Director Yother - aye, Director Young – aye, Vice Chairman Kidd – aye, Chairman Davis – aye
Director Schowalter – abstained.*

Good of the Order

Tabled OSBA Election till next month.

Bethany Cornutt – Will the preschool piece be addressed at the next board meeting?

Bryan Walton – Will she be back paid? She is currently without a signed notice of assignment.

Interim Superintendent/ES Principal Houghtaling – It can be addressed tonight, just be aware that it is coming out of the General Fund.

Agreement was made to retroact the position pay scale to September.

Director Yother – Kudos for being patient and speaking up.

Director Young – Appreciate both of you. As well as everyone else who works for the kids.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, December 16, 2021

CHAIRMAN DAVIS CLOSED MEETING AT 8:20 PM