

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

July 28, 2021

Art Houghtaling, Superintendent

503-787-3521

The Falls City School Board will meet Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 5:30 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](http://fallscityschools.org).

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Vice Chairman Davis opened at 5:32 PM

Board Members in attendance:

Bret Davis, Vice Chairman

Jami Kidd, 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

John Gilbert, Facilities Manager

Alea Littleton, HS Guidance Counselor

Lynn Bailey, HS Teacher

Bryan Walton, Behavior Specialist

Audience Members in attendance:

Larry Sickles, Community Member

Steve Kelley, OSBA Director of Board Development

Nianna Pratt

& Executive Searches

FLAG SALUTE

SWEAR IN RETURNING BOARD MEMBERS; BRET DAVIS AND SHANDA YOTHER, AND NEW BOARD MEMBER DANA SCHOWALTER

GUEST SPEAKER: STEVE KELLEY WITH THE OSBA – DISCUSS SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

How the position is worded will be key. Offering a minimum of a 2-year contract with the possibility of a 3rd.

Things to be aware of include: careful wording on the mentorship expectation, how critical experience is, retired or close to retirement is ideal, small school experience preferred. Mr. Kelley handed out a draft search calendar for review and discussed how much it would cost to have OSBA's full services during the search and what all that entailed. Recommended a survey with questions on what the districts strengths are, what the challenges are, and what are we looking for. OSBA will not make a recommendation, they are there to facilitate the search and be free of bias. Need to create a screening committee that is preferably half-staff, half-community members. All 5 board members are automatically considered on the screening committee. Will need to appoint a Chair and a Vice-Chair. The screening committee helps narrow down the applicants and can be invited to the interviews to

observe and offer those observations on strengths and concerns, but cannot vote. Only the board can vote to hire. Recommend not giving decision making privileges to someone not on the board without a strong argument for why they were extended. If extended, how far does their decision-making authority extend, 1st interviews, 2nd interviews?

REPORTS

Superintendent/Principal – WESD is working on helping us to create more formal job descriptions and duties. They recommended a job description committee. There is a Polk County Collaborative Meeting on Monday with COSA, that I will not be able to attend, but Micke will. Expecting new guidance based on current COVID-19 increased numbers. We have two hires at the elementary school, Tanner Simmons for the middle school/science position, and Kimberly Ocupe for the 3rd grade position. Both will need to attain a special endorsement. We received a letter from the Dallas School District Superintendent regarding our decision to not go with them for our tech services. The school board will need to schedule their Child Abuse Training. Will need board feedback on spending the ESSR III funds. Things it can be spent on: Reopening Costs including staffing, Improvements including staff retention, Improvements to Credit Recovery, 20% is required to be spent on Learning Gaps which can be spent on after school programming. We are looking at receiving \$934,000 that needs to be spent by September 30, 2024. Our report on how we intend to spend these funds is due August 22, 2021, but can be amended after the fact. Ideas for where to spend these dollars: Mental Health, Building Projects like the lunch room - student commons area at the high school – ADA accessibility, Quality Staff Development which would fall under staff retention.

High School Principal – Been off most of July. Working on getting the Ascend (credit recovery) Classroom put together, furniture has been ordered. The Ascend class should be able to support credit recovery both in person as well as through distance learning. We can always contract that out if it doesn't work well. Looking into Decision Quality curriculum for the 9th grade on track class. Summer School is going well.

Business Manager – See Report

Facilities Manager – Sidewalk around the East side of the Enclosed Play Structure at the elementary has been completed. We are now able to go out for the RFQ for the HVAC System. We can ask 3 businesses of our choosing to put in a bid. The electrical has been approved and Pacific Power can now hook up the power. Continuing to work on the modular. ADA Ramps, Sidewalks, and Sign are coming for the elementary school. Summer crew is working away to get us ready for school. The Ascend Classroom is coming along, been working on cabinets and flooring. This is the first year we have kiddos working that aren't working for split credit/pay. I will be taking some time off for surgery soon. Alex has stepped up to Tracy's spot, and Dylan has moved up to Alex's.

Athletic Director – This is Moratorium Week. So, nothing is going on this week. After this week camps can begin. Volleyball has reserved the gym. Football camp/practice will begin then too. All things are subject to change due to continuing updated COVID-19 guidance, but as of right now we are gearing up for a regular season. Dallas donated a variety of track hurdles. We will need to remove their old stickers and apply our own. We are entering into sports physical season. Salem Health offered free sports physicals on Saturday, August 14th from 10am-2pm at their Uglow location in Dallas. They will be serving lunch.

FACES – Amy Houghtaling – FACES Program Director, Art Houghtaling – Superintendent/ES Principal, Lynn Bailey – HS Teacher and Special Programs Director, TJ Bailey – Falls City Mayor, Jeremy Gordon – Polk County

Commissioner, and AJ Foscoli – Falls City City Manager met with top three executives from YMCA. There may be an exciting partnership available. We have not filled the Site Coordinator position yet.

Teachers – Summer School has made up over 20 high school credit's so far.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ONLY

1. Strategic Goals for 2021-22 - Reviewed
2. Board Calendar – Reviewed. Please ask Vince Adams at OSBA for the rest of the sample calendar he sent us.
3. OSBA Annual Convention, November 11-13, in Salem – Reviewed upcoming OSBA events. The whole board declined the regional meeting and most will attend the Annual Convention in November.
4. Continue Zoom Availability for Board Meetings – Ask Vince Adams at OSBA a couple of clarifying questions. Are we required to continue to offer video, or is phone enough? Can we limit public comment time so that the Zoom chat is less distracted or missed?
5. Election of Board Officers – Will do at the next board meeting when all directors are present. +
6. Mid-Columbia Contract 2021-2022 – No vote needed. Of note, there is a 4% increase, masks must be worn on the busses regardless of what the state mandates are at the time.
7. Delay Pre-K Start Date – Need to decide if we delay the start date for Pre-K till the modular is up and running or we start in their current location and move during Winter Break. Parent Communication will be key throughout this process.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Approve Consent Agenda**
 - **May 6, 2021 Executive Session Board Minutes**
 - **May 11, 2021 Executive Session Board Minutes**
 - **June 21, 2021 Budget Hearing Minutes**
 - **June 24, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes**
 - **June 29, 2021 Emergency Board Meeting Minutes**
 - **June 2021 Disbursements**
 - **Accounts Payable: Check numbers 5739 - 5859, in the amount of \$229,597.90**
 - **Payroll Expenses: Checks and direct deposits in the amount of \$310,939.93**

Motion made by Director Kidd. Seconded by Director Yother.

Vote: All ayes. Chairman Young absent.

2. **Hire services through OSBA for a Comprehensive Superintendent Search**

Discussion – Questions on whether or not this is a responsible use of school resources. Decision was not made lightly. Further discussion can be had at the next Executive Session School Board Meeting.

Motion made by Director Yother. Seconded by Director Kidd.

Vote: All ayes. Chairman Young absent.

3. Declare the Superintendent Vacancy at the end of the search process.

Motion made by Director Kidd. Seconded by Director Yother.

Vote: All ayes. Chairman Young absent. Director Schowalter abstained.

4. Adopt the Superintendent Calendar as presented by Steve Kelley with the OSBA

Motion made by Director Kidd. Seconded by Director Yother.

Vote: All ayes. Chairman Young absent. Director Schowalter abstained.

Good of the Order

Superintendent Houghtaling – Going on vacation. Reminder about the board child abuse training, either Alea Littleton or Corrine Symolon can do the training.

Director Schowalter – Looking forward to working with everyone.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, August 19, 2021

VICE CHAIRMAN DAVIS CLOSED MEETING AT 8:34 PM

