

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

**September 21, 2020**

**Art Houghtaling, Superintendent**

**503-787-3521**

The Falls City School Board will meet Monday, September 21, 2020 at 5:30 pm 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).

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**REGULAR BOARD MEETING - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Chairman Young opened at 5:36 pm

**Board Members in attendance:**

Bob Young, Chairman

Larry Sickles, Director

Shanda Yother, Director

Bret Davis, Vice Chair

Jami Kidd, Director

**Staff Members in Attendance:**

Art Houghtaling, Superintendent

Donna Creekmore, Admin Assistant

Amy Houghtaling, FACES Director

Dennis Sickles, Athletic Director

Micke Kidd, High School Principal

Janell Davis, Elementary Teacher

John Gilbert, Facilities Manager

Lynn Bailey, High School Teacher

**Audience Members in attendance:**

Jackie Olsen, CFO WESD

Amber Houghtaling

**FLAG SALUTE**

**BOARD REPORT**

**Superintendent:** See report. Working out the kinks of Distance Learning. John Gilbert stepped away to go help fight fires, he has plenty of stories to share.

**High School Principal:** Staff are doing great. Things are going much smoother than anticipated. We had 90% student attendance for the first 2 days Zoom assemblies. Had a good system in place to get going. First week was for staff to get ready and set up how their classes would work. Then we had 2 weeks of student registration/orientation. First week with students was a soft start with today being the first day of instruction, seems to have worked well. We are receiving requests for people to use the gym/weight room. The board agrees that it is not a good idea. Student count stands at 63 high school students and 110 elementary students. Right now, we are one of the few schools up and running already. We have experienced tech support issues, WESD had an internet failure, which caused us to have to shut down classes. It was a good learning process for us, as some students and families have been struggling with internet issues and creates space for us to find workarounds, including HotSpots from Verizon. We have placed an order and they are on their way. Alea Littleton, is doing a good job setting up meetings with struggling kiddos. Director Kidd helped Superintendent Houghtaling brainstorm tech solutions to work as a bandaid till new tech gets here.

Director Yother mentioned that we should have communicated the school start date postponement better. Parents who had already had conferences did not receive communication about the delayed start.

**Business Manager:** Audit is almost finalized. September payroll takes a bit more work, as it is the first of the year. Next week the new Revenue Forecast for the 2021-2023 biennium will be out. More information will be coming out this fall.

**Facilities Manager:** Had a meeting to discuss the tower at the Elementary School for internet. Working out the different cleaning stages. Teachers are to email Tracy Young if they have kids in their room, by 3 pm so that she knows what level of cleaning each room needs. Alex and Tracy have been very flexible with all the new changes and are doing great. Many new cleaning devices which has made their jobs more interesting as they learn how to use them. Created sign ins for each building for Contract Tracing purposes. Tables are set up with sign-in, child and adult masks, gloves, sanitizer, wipes, and hand lotion. As Superintendent Houghtaling mentioned, I was called up to go fight the Paisley Fire, am happy to share more after the meeting.

**Athletic Director** – Boys Basketball and Football are working out a couple times a week. The Volleyball coach just got a hold of the Athletic Director to start soon.

**FACES:** Since the Board Report was submitted, 3 more home visits were completed. This is pushing the Educational Assistants out of their comfort zones, but they are enjoying it. We have received requests for lights, chairs, the old blue adjustable height chairs, that we have made available to checked out.

**Reset Room** – See Report. Corrine Symolon is doing a fabulous job.

## INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ONLY

1. Division 22 Assurances – Just putting it on your radar. Dates have been pushed up, instead of February, now it's due in October.
2. Policy Second Reading – Second Read
3. Resolution No. 2020-2021 004 – Loan Authorization. Rate change, needed to update the resolution.
4. Organizational Resolutions to Designate the Following:  
Appointment of custodian of funds: Rhonda Allen, WESD.
5. Gym Update – Working on getting electricity. Trenching and ground conduit. Did and RFP, received 2 bids, 1 phone call. Bid was awarded to Ole Bergman Excavating. Next month the framing will be done. Dirt has been delivered. Walkthrough and then release final payment.
6. Board Workshop – Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30pm. Board will order from the Boondocks.
7. Easement – Superintendent Houghtaling will touch base to get an update. Haven't heard back from the City. Bret reiterated that he never saw any language reverting the original easement back to us. It is our job to protect the interest for further generations.

## ACTION ITEMS

### 1. Approve Consent Agenda

- August 26, 2020 – Board Meeting Minutes
- August 2020 Disbursements
  - Accounts Payable: Check numbers 5208 - 5270 in the amount of \$87,885.23.
  - Payroll Expenses: Checks and Direct Deposits in the amount of \$230,972.45.

Motion made by Director Sickles. Seconded by Vice Chair Davis.

Vote: All ayes.

**2. Organizational Resolution 2020-2021 003**

Appointment of Custodian of Funds

Motion made by Director Sickles. Seconded by Director Yother.

Vote: All ayes.

**3. Organizational Resolution 2020-2021 004**

Loan Authorization

Motion made by Director Sickles. Seconded by Director Yother.

Vote: All ayes.

**4. Approve Policies as recommended by the Superintendent.**

Motion made by Director Sickles. Seconded by Vice Chair Davis.

Vote: All ayes.

**Good of the Order**

Janell Davis shared thanks for being there.

Director Yother shared appreciation for all the hard work being expended to make this school year work. Amy Houghtaling, and the FACES crew's, efforts are already showing.

Superintendent Houghtaling shared his desire to increased communication with families, and has some ideas on how to make improvements. Encourages staff to just keep trying and recognizes that it is easy to feel defeated.

Principal Kidd recognized the devastation that other Superintendents must be feeling after the fires. Distance Learning is rough, but nothing in compared to what they are facing now.

FACES Director Houghtaling wanted to share that Polk County met the required Covid-19 numbers to put us in to week 1, just 2 more weeks till we can have K-3 back in the building.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Next Regular Board Meeting: Monday, October 19, 2020 @ 5:30

Chairman Young adjourned at 6:54 PM.

