

FALLS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #57
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

January 20, 2022

Cory Ellis, Superintendent

503-787-3521

The Falls City School Board will meet Thursday, January 20, 2022 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 6:33 PM

Board Members in attendance:

Bret Davis, Chairman
Bob Young, Director

Jami Kidd, Vice Chairman
Dana Schowalter, Director

Staff Members in Attendance:

Cory Ellis, Superintendent
Micke Kidd, HS Principal
Amy Houghtaling, FACES Director
Jessica Turnidge, MS Teacher
Dennis Sickles, Athletic Director
Rebecca Fromherz – Kenneke
John Gilbert, Facilities Manager

Art Houghtaling, Pre-K – 8th Principal
Donna Creekmore, Admin Assistant
Janell Davis, 4th Grade Teacher
Bethany Cornutt, Pre-K Teacher
Alea Littleton, HS Counselor
Renee Smith, HS EA
Amara Houghtaling, FACES Staff and Assistant Coach

Audience Members in attendance:

TJ Bailey, City of Falls City Mayor/Parent/Community Member
Jackie Olsen, CFO, LBL ESD
Chris O’Dell, Pauly, Rogers, & CO, Accounting Firm
Tommy and Matthew Russell, student and parent
Lisa and Avery Burgess, student and parent

FLAG SALUTE

ADDITIONS OR AMEMDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

RECOGNITION OF, AND COMMENTS FROM, AUDIENCE MEMBERS/CITIZENS

Middle School Presentation on Vandalism – Avery Burgess presented first with a power point. Discussed the vandalism of the blue chairs and in general, and the extenuating costs. Apologized for his part in it. Matthew Russell presented second with a written apology that he read. They were asked what made them decide to come to the board for resolution. Their teachers have started implementing restorative practices. Lesson learned – Free isn’t really free. Someone always pays.

REPORTS

Superintendent – In the future, the board will receive an overview report from the Superintendent before board meetings. Both principals made magic happen the last 2 weeks while we've been so short staffed to make sure everything was covered. Created a fluid Covid tracker, so we can easily see what is happening with students and staff in both buildings. Discussed in-school isolation scenarios to address potential exposures in the future. We will be monitoring Covid numbers to see if we can spot potential trends. Met with all district staff last Friday during the green day. First Leadership meeting was today. Went over and outlined expectations. Working at the school equates to just 13% of your year as a staff member. Only 10% for students. Expect staff and students to give their best 10-13% while here. Recognizing we have culture and local issues. Creating a Student Advisory Committee for 7th – 12th grade. They can report on What's Hot and What's Not. They may come present at the board sometime in the future. Been on a ton of Zoom meetings, no fun.

ES Principal – The first 3 weeks since winter break have been challenging. One day last week we were down 9 staff members. This week we have just about everyone back in the building. Been covering recess duty since we are down so many staff. Take away from that is just how exhausting it is. Almost done with observations, should be done by mid-February. Amy, Nicole, Micke, Cory, and I have been super busy. Covid testing like crazy. The 4th grade is scheduled for testing on February 9th.

High School – Next week is finals week. We will have a student teacher for a couple weeks before they head to the elementary to finish out. Alea and Micke attended a training on Restorative Practices. Really good stuff and we are starting implementation. WYO Tech is coming to do a presentation. We have a student whose dad is an alumnus of their program. First semester students earned 27 college credits. English 11 students read "Night". They will be going to a Jewish Museum. Leadership Holiday Assembly was a huge success. Reports are that everyone was engaged, kids had a great time. Prom is scheduled for April 30th. Looking at the Fairgrounds as a possibility. Really like the way Munker's set up vendors to come to the students and give a presentation on their spaces. Britton Castor was awarded the MAPS Grant. Ellingson is starting a newsletter/paper at the high school. The math tutor just started, so far, it's been a success.

Business Manager – Report is in the packet. We are watching for bills that might start in the short legislation session. We don't think there is anything coming that we need to be too concerned with, just a couple of fixes, but we are continuing to watch. The district finances are looking good. Keeping an eye on our grants to make sure we are spending what's needed, where it's needed, and utilized in the best way possible.

Facilities Manager – John Gilbert, Facilities Manager, is back after a long medical break. We've moved lots of offices around. The HVAC system is moving forward at the elementary school gym. Three quarters of it is complete. The wood floor is under discussion. Update on the Pre-K modular, Micke, Bob, and I working with Lani to talk with PP&L about power for the modular. It has taken 5 months to get approval, and will end up being zero cost to the district. Santa Clause visited both schools. Every student received something and had a good time. Would like to start looking towards the summer months. Summer really is only 12-13 weeks long and it goes by much faster for facilities than you would think. Would like to receive marching orders on what the main projects will be, so he can get them lined up and ready to go, so that he could take some time off too. We have been looking at the elementary school roof, putting the modular in, and the gym floors, would like some direction on moving forward on those projects so he can get the RFP's setup and everything scheduled out. Mr. Ellis observed how long things are taking to get things done right now, we need to be aware and intentional with our planning moving forward.

Athletic Director – Covid hit the athletics' department really hard. Had to cancel a couple of games. Two of which have been rescheduled for January 24th and 29th. We aren't the only district struggling right now, the whole CASCO league is going through it. On a bright note, we have hired a track coach. The high school PE/Health teacher, Mr. Munkers, has agreed to coach track. Facilities asked to be notified before any Saturday games.

FACES – See Report – Everything is going ok. We've been having small numbers of participants, which is ok for the time being. The YMCA will be helping with enrichment classes next year, which will create some small changes. We will not have any more field trips till possibly April or May.

SEL Director – See Report

Teacher Updates – Middle School teacher, Ms. Turnidge, reports that she has never had a group of kids with as much trauma and drama as she has this year. She is grateful for the additional EA support in the classroom. Making it possible for staff to better serve their students in the moment.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ONLY

1. Strategic Goals & Financial Brainstorm – This is a standing item set as a reminder that it's time for it to be reviewed. Mr. Ellis reformatted the Financial Brainstorm document so we can mark things off as we go. The current gym floor is going to need repair. Having all the students take all their meals in the cafeteria is negatively impacting the floors.

2. Email from the Eagle Point Board Chair – Review the Eagle Point email and Resolution in your packet. This might not be necessary at this point, since more control is coming back to the local body. Read, review, and decide if we want to move forward with something like this. Vice Chair Kidd suggested using some of the Steve Kelley time allotted to us to review or formulate our own response. Mr. Kelley can also help us better understand if there is an agenda, beyond our own represented. Discussion about not using what was sent to us, but the potential for drafting our own.

3. Organizational Resolution 2122-004 – This is to add Rhonda Allen at the LBL ESD, who was inadvertently left off last month's resolution. Director Young asked if those with access to our accounts through LBL were bonded. Yes, they are bonded through LBL.

4. COVID Mitigation and Distance Learning – Looking at the last couple of weeks with staff out and no subs, the question of a forced quarantine has arisen. What would that look like for our staff, and how different that looks for our certified than classified. Certified staff were able to teach virtually with an EA in the classroom for supervision. EA's don't have that ability and have to use sick time if they have it, time off without pay if they don't. When covid first hit, there was a Covid leave option for staff. Maybe we should consider something for staff who are forced to quarantine. Especially given the lack of equity between the options for certified vs. classified staff. Vice Chair Kidd agreed with Mr. Ellis on the disparity. Added that the support staff have consistently kept our district afloat. Staff that could go elsewhere, receive more pay and benefits, but stay anyway. Are there ways for classified staff who have to quarantine to maintain engagement/relationship with students while out? What would that look like, is it even feasible. Mr. Ellis reiterated that if teachers have the ability to not use sick time, then support staff shouldn't have too either. The board requested that Mr. Ellis put together some language along that line and present it to the board at the next board meeting, with the possibility of it being retroactive. Director Young asked what the cost would be to the district to do that? Discussions on how to do it cost effectively and equitably. Salary staff out for the rest of the year? How difficult would that be to implement?

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approve Consent Agenda

- December 16, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes
- December 2021 Disbursements
 - Accounts Payable: Check numbers 6172 - 6228 in the amount of \$100,878.82
 - Payroll Expenses: Checks and Direct Deposits in the amount of \$305,566.49

Motion made by Director Young. Seconded by Director Schowalter.

Vote: All ayes. Director Yother absent.

2. Approve the Organizational Resolution 2122 – 004

Motion made by Vice Chair Kidd. Seconded by Director Schowalter.

Vote: All ayes. Director Yother absent.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Director Schowalter – Welcomed Mr. Ellis

Director Young – Welcomed Mr. Ellis

Vice Chair Kidd – Welcomed Mr. Ellis

Chairman Davis – Appreciates everything Admin has been doing to keep school in session.

Superintendent Ellis – Has enjoyed participating in school events and is excited for the rest of the year.

ES Principal Houghtaling – Agrees with Mr. Ellis, he's excited.

HS Principal Kidd – HS English class just finished a section on the Holocaust. Would like permission to view *Schindler's List* as a class. Our policy only allows for PG and PG-13. There are only 4 kids in the class and parental approval would be sought beforehand. The board agreed and considered reviewing the policy in the future. If it is decided to change the policy, we will need to document what needs to be done in order to show a higher rated film.

Facilities Manager Gilbert – Reported that the Fire Department distributed 81 Food Boxes and Gifts to 182 children. These programs directly benefitted students and families in our district. Vice Chair Kidd asked that the board secretary be tasked with getting a thank you card for the board to sign and send to the Fire Dept. Director Young sked if she could also get a card for Sammy Steinhauer, a past employee who lost their father.

Mayor Bailey – Asked everyone to not get discouraged. That other districts are struggling with the lack of subs and staff being out. We are doing great considering.

Rebecca Fromherz – Kenneke – Honored to a volunteer with Americorp. Very emotionally impacted by working with our students.

Jessica Turnidge – Thank you for your support.

Janell Davis – Excited for the 4th grade testing. We are going to rock it.

Donna Creekmore – Thanked Jessica Turnidge for going above and beyond to offer support to her daughter through trying times.

Bethany Cornutt – Thanked Bob Young, John Gilbert, and Micke Kidd, for continuing to work on the modular project and for updates.

Chairman Davis closed the meeting at 8:10 pm

School Board Chairman Signature: _____