

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

October 21, 2021

Art Houghtaling, Superintendent

503-787-3521

The Falls City School Board met on Thursday, October 21, 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 was available on the district website at fallscityschools.org.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Chairman Davis opened at 5:34 pm
Went into executive session at 5:34pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION – CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

(ORS 192.660(2)(j): "To review and evaluate the performance of the superintendent or any other public officer, employee or staff member, unless that person requests an open hearing."

"a quorum of the board may be in attendance at this session but will not be acting on district business as a board"

Discussion

Chairman Davis closed executive session at 6:25 pm

Break

OPEN SESSION – 6:33

Board Members in attendance:

Bret Davis, Chairman

Bob Young, Director

Shanda Yother, Director

Dana Schowalter, Director

Staff Members in Attendance:

Art Houghtaling, Interim Superintendent

Donna Creekmore, Admin Assistant

Amy Houghtaling, FACES Director

Bryan Walton, Behavior Specialist

Dani Simington, Kindergarten Teacher

Janell Davis, 4th Grade Teacher

Judy Scheet, Elementary Secretary

Micke Kidd, HS Principal

Corrine Symolon, SEL Director

Dennis Sickles, Athletic Director

Bethany Cornutt, Pre-K, EA

Alea Littleton, HS Counselor

Lynnell Van Patten, 5th Grade Teacher

Tia Scruton, Reset Room Assistant

Audience Members in attendance:

Jackie Olsen, CFO LBL ESD

FLAG SALUTE

ADDITIONS OR AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Add 11. Preschool Discussion to the Information & Discussion Only list.

RECOGNITION OF, AND COMMENTS FROM, AUDIENCE MEMBERS/CITIZENS

Audience members Judy Scheet and Lynnell Van Patten came to discuss their concerns over the weekly COVID-19 testing offered for free for staff that are unvaccinated. Ms. Scheet shared about her medical condition that makes her sensitive to most things and the reaction she had after doing the COVID-19 at home test that was mailed to her as a requirement per her exemption from the vaccine mandate. Asked if there was another test that could be used. If she could get weekly at Urgent Care at the District's expense. Ms. Van Patten was concerned by the intrusive nature of the questionnaire attached to the weekly required test. As well as disappointed by the Superintendents response to their concerns. Director Young reminded everyone about the liability the district has to uphold. Interim Superintendent stated that he will reach out to our attorneys to see what other options may be available for testing that still adheres to the legal requirement. Ms. Van Patten requested follow up, to be notified of the attorneys counsel.

REPORTS

Interim Superintendent/Elementary Principal – See Report. Ethos has provided us with a music teacher once again. Rebecca Fromherz started this week and is doing well so far. We interviewed 3 people for the Elementary EA (Educational Assistant) positions. All 3 were offered the jobs and accepted. Xander Bailey is one of our new EA hires and started this week by shadowing another EA. The others are scheduled to pick up their paperwork, so we can get it processed and they are able to start. Which will free Tia Scruton up to work in the Reset Room, which will free Corrine Symolon up to push into classrooms and create circle times. We have posted for our Custodial and Kitchen staff needs. We have a couple of applicants already. Met with Linguava. This company is able to offer interpreters, both for signage and at board meetings if necessary.

High School Principal – It's Homecoming Week. We had a bonfire last night, game is tomorrow, with the dance on Saturday. Leadership started a Character Traits Student of the Month. October 13th was a long day. WOU came out for a visit and many of our students were accepted. We had PSAT and ASVAB testing, and Lynn Bailey and Alea Littleton hosted a FAFSA night. MAPS is a new tool that will allow us to if are students are showing academic growth. Kings Valley came out to visit our Ascend Room. They've heard about it and are interested in offering their students a similar resource. Interviewed students and were well received by all. We had a Pink Out Volleyball Game. We sent 3 staff to Asist Suicide Prevention Training; Tia Scruton, Anna Iker, and Bryan Walton. We had a criminal trespassing incident. Our Sheriff liaison officer was on sight and responded to our call. Found a male adult stealing electricity and smoking meth down by the football field. This person received a ticket for \$150 and moved to the church next door. We processed a trespass on the individual and so did the church. This incident as raised the question of the possible merits of fencing the front of the property. Further discussion on what that would look like and best possible options.

Business Manager – See Report. State School fund will rebalance in November. The yearly audit is nearly finalized. Ms. Olsen asked if we would like the Auditor to be present to give the report, or would we like her to present it. There is no additional cost for having them come give the report. With that in mind, the board decided it would like the auditor present to give the report.

Facilities Manager – Kitchen in the Ascend room is complete. The Handicap Accessible Ramp at the East end of the elementary school has been inspected and needs 3 things, 2 of which fall back on the manufacturer. The

item that we need to address is signage, which I will take care of when I get back. Met with FNW Fence on Wednesday to discuss fence repairs needed. They are compiling a quote for us. TRC Environmental came to do our testing for lead in our drinking water per state requirements. Found 5 elevated sources. Forbes Plumbing has been notified and are working on it. Signage has been placed so that no one will drink from those faucets. We have 74 faucets in the district and only 5 areas of concern. Completed the annual IPM testing and satisfied that requirement as well as did the 6-month asbestos inspection and updated the books as well as forwarded the information to Mr. McDowell to be placed on the district website.

Athletic Director – Volleyball season has come to an end. Football has 2 more games yet, both are home games, 1 of which is Homecoming. We will host an athletic award night sometime in November. November 2 we are having a Football vs. Volleyball game just for fun. Basketball practice starts November 15th. High School Coach is on board and ready to go. Mask requirements will be in place. All spectators must be masked, but there are no spectator limitations this year. Players won't have to wear masks, but if they are on the bench then they will. Each school is allowed a bit of control, Oregon School for the Deaf have already stated that players will have to be masked while playing at their school. They are being very accommodating though and are willing to play all games at our gym so our players don't have to wear masks. We may run into some bussing issues. So far, Midco is only guaranteeing bus service to locations within their service area. Principal Kidd said that Kings Valley called, they are co-oping with Alsea for bussing service. There is another bus company out of Corvallis we are looking into as well. We are working on it, but aren't alone, other districts are struggling with the bussing issue as well. We even have a new bus driver ourselves. High School Girls will have a team. It will be small, young, and inexperienced. The new music teacher reached out ask about singing the National Anthem and inviting students to sing with her.

FACES – We are 2 weeks in. We have a lot of kids, many of them older kids which we've struggled to have in the past. We're all working hard, because we are understaffed. We will start enrichment next week. We will also have our first class working with the YMCA, that will be new. We are offering football, 3D Printing, and music.

SEL – No written report. Everyone here already touched a little on what I would have shared. We are averaging about 40-45 visits per day from students. Ascend Room is going well. Bryan Walton, Tia Scruton, and Anna Iker were all recently ASIST Trained. ASIST Suicide Training is one of the best training programs we've experienced so far.

Teacher Updates – WESD, Communities of Practice, have been concentrating on the transition from Preschool to Kindergarten. From what our preschool teacher, Bethany Cornutt, has seen so far, Falls City is really far ahead of the curve with what we are doing now.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ONLY

11. Preschool Discussion - Last time we had questions around the preschool teacher's salary. No movement so far, it's important to keep it on the agenda and on everyone's radar. Received Notice of Assignment and didn't want to sign it until there was some clarity on the issue. Interim Superintendent Houghtaling reached out to 2 private preschools, Grace Christian and Faith Christian School to ask about compensation. Interim Superintendent Houghtaling suggests working with the Classified Council directly, to ensure the discussion is about the position, not the person. How do the figures from Grace and Faith compare to public school preschool teacher position? Bethany Cornutt has the pay scale breakdowns from Preschool Promise for comparison. Preschool Promise would provide financially for staffing expenses. At this time preschool is not a state requirement. The board would like to stay involved and be updated on progress as we move forward. Ideally, we would like to retain all of our community kids, and not have them having to look outside our city

for preschool services. The modular is done, we've been sent pictures, and they are storing it for us till be are ready for installation. We are waiting on the Plot Plan and need an update on the power pole.

1. Strategic Goals & Financial Brainstorm – Standing review. Director Young asked about funding. Ending Fund Balance is the General Fund monies. Discussed ESSR III dollars, what they can and cannot be spent on. Could we use the Health and Safety to cover the cost of testing for Judy Scheet? If so, we would need to be careful that we make it equitable to all. Discussed the gym funding. There may be a way to juggle funding. ESSR can cover Health and Safety, but the plan has already been submitted. We would need to do an amendment. As soon as the Fire Alarm is in, we can start using the building. We need to look at it more closely. Go over the budget and the expenditure criteria, how and where those monies can be spent.
2. Division 22 Standards – Needs to be approved and submitted by November 1. We have a couple places that are out of compliance which we knew about in advance. State Testing is one of those areas. We chose not to test last year, like many other districts, due to COVID. We just need to have a plan in place for students to complete testing the following year. Physical Education was another area for similar reasons. Again, just need a plan to ensure it is done the following year. The last major area of concern is Instructional Hours. Again, COVID, have a plan in place to address it.
3. Student Handbooks – Review. Elementary School, only changes were the staff numbers. High School was edited to remove things they no longer use and had additions for anything new.
4. Review Policy CBA – Reviewed.
5. Review VLN as an Online K-8 Educational Resource – We were looking at Edgenuity, but found that they didn't have coverage for Elementary that we needed. VLN were able to provide a computer, textbook, printer/scanner, and teacher for our online students. They will begin on Monday. They will provide weekly check-ins and lessons can be watched live, or as a recording later. Students are able to set up personal meeting times as well. Cost is \$12,000.
6. Review 3rd Grade Teacher Hire – Our new teacher is doing amazing. We are recommending them for hiring.
7. Interim Superintendent Goals – Reviewed and emphasized the need for communication.
8. Review Super Search Calendar – Reviewed Calendar. Discussed the lunch with the candidates and the Community Center use.
9. ES Gym Update – We've already reviewed much of this in earlier conversation. A new set of plans have been turned into the County for review. There was a mistake that needed fixed. John Gilbert received quotes for the bathroom partitions. We will need to work out the layout, so that we can install the blocks for the partitions.
10. Review Interim Superintendent Duties – Standing item to discuss expectations. Reviewed.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Approve Consent Agenda**
 - **September 13, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes**
 - **September 16, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes**
 - **September 21, 2021 Special Board Meeting Minutes**
 - **September 2021 Disbursements**
 - **Accounts Payable: Check numbers 5816 - 6009, in the amount of \$251,859.65**
 - **Payroll Expenses: Checks and direct deposits in the amount of \$311,532.40**

Motion made by Director Young. Seconded by Director Yother.

Vote: All ayes. Vice Chair Kidd absent.

2. Approve Division 22 Standards

*Motion made by Director Yother. Seconded by Director Schowalter.
Vote: All ayes. Vice Chair Kidd absent.*

3. Approve VLN as an Online K-8 Educational Resource

*Motion made by Director Schowalter. Seconded by Director Yother.
Vote: All ayes. Vice Chair Kidd absent.*

4. Approve Hiring Dustin Platt for the 3rd Grade Teacher Position

*Motion made by Director Young. Seconded by Director Yother.
Vote: All ayes. Vice Chair Kidd absent.*

5. Approve Interim Superintend Goals

*Motion made by Director Yother. Seconded by Director Schowalter.
Vote: All ayes. Vice Chair Kidd absent.*

Good of the Order

Vice Chair Kidd – Text in an apology for being gone this evening. She had a family emergency.

Board Secretary Creekmore – Thanked the board for approving the hire of Dustin Platt. She has been cultivating his relationship with the district with the hopes of an eventual hire. This feels like a win.

HS Principal Kidd – Received an email from Polk County about low caliber shots to vehicles parked in front of the school, noticed there was a bullet hole in the window of the room we were currently using. Further discussed the fencing.

Discussed the possibility of a gate across the drives instead, to deter people from driving onto school property while schools in session. Discussed our school policy and the possibility of reaching out to the people working on the Safe Schools grant people. They may have some ideas and/or funding.

Director Young – Concerned about only having 2 candidates to interview.

Director Schowalter – Thanks for working to get us a music teacher.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Superintendent Candidate's Day in the Community: Wednesday, November 3, 2021

Next Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, November 18, 2021

Executive Session at 5:30 PM

Open Session at 6:30 PM

VICE CHAIRMAN DAVIS CLOSED MEETING AT 8:36 PM

