

FALLS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Minutes of the November 11, 2024  
School Board Meeting

The Falls City Board of Education met at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 11, 2024 in the Superintendent's office at the Middle School in Falls City, Nebraska.

1.0 BUSINESS ITEMS

1.1 ROLL CALL AND OPEN MEETINGS ACT NOTICE – School Board members present were: June Bowers, Scott Hollens, Anthony Johansen, Teresa Olberding, Dan Jones and Cassandra Goff. President Teresa Olberding presided at the meeting. President Olberding announced that the open meetings act notice is posted on the wall of this meeting room.

1.2 APPROVAL OF ABSENCES – None

1.3 VERIFICATION OF ADVANCED PUBLICATION – It was moved by Dan Jones and seconded that it is hereby determined that this meeting was preceded by publicized notice in the Falls City Journal and is hereby declared to be duly convened in open session. The voting was as follows: Bowers, yes; Olberding, yes; Goff, yes; Hollens, yes; Johansen, yes; Jones, yes. Motion was declared passed and adopted and the following proceedings were had and done at said meeting in open session.

1.4 APPROVAL OF AGENDA – It was moved by June Bowers and seconded to approve the agenda. The voting was as follows: Bowers, yes; Olberding, yes; Goff, yes; Hollens, yes; Johansen, yes; Jones, yes. Motion carried. The agenda is as follows:

1.0 Business Items:

- 1.1 Roll Call, Open Meetings Act Notice, and Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.2 Approval of Absences
- 1.3 Verification of Advanced Publication
- 1.4 Approval of Agenda
- 1.5 Approval of Previous Minutes
- 1.6 Approval of Claims
- 1.7 Public Comment
- 1.8 Approval of Treasurer's Report

2.0 Informational Items/Reports:

- 2.1 Staff/Student/Organization Reports: 1) FFA Land Judging Team; 2) Julie Bauman CPA, P.C.
- 2.2 Principal's Reports:
- 2.3 Board President's Report:
- 2.4 Superintendent's Report:
  - 2.4a Legislative & Organization Update
  - 2.4b School Improvement & Strategic Plan Update

2.4c School District Resources/Budget

2.4d Policy Governance

2.4e Superintendent Meetings

2.4f Board Member Meetings

2.4g Other

2.5 Board Committee/Member Reports:

2.6 Board Member Reports:

3.0 Old/New Action Items:

3.1 Final Reading on Policy Reviews and Revisions

3.2 District Audit and Financial Report, August 31, 2024

3.3 Strategic Plan Goals 2024-2025

3.4 Resignation

3.5 Other

4.0 Executive Session: Requested by member, approved by majority, as per statute

5.0 Adjournment and Next Meetings: The next regular monthly Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 9, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. in the Central Office in Falls City Middle School. Regular and special meeting agendas are kept in the Office of the Superintendent. Board Committee meetings to be determined.

1.5 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES - It was moved by Cassondra Goff and seconded to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2024. The voting was as follows: Bowers, yes; Olberding, yes; Goff, yes; Hollens, yes; Johansen, yes; Jones, yes. Motion carried.

1.6 PUBLIC COMMENT: None

1.7 APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT: It was moved by Scott Hollens and seconded to approve the October 31, 2024 treasurer's report which shows a balance in the General Fund of \$2,486,860.05 in the Student Fee Fund of \$14,095.00; in the Depreciation Fund of \$128,129.52; in the Special Building Fund Investment Account of \$1,612,469.84; in the Special Building Fund of \$25,000. The voting was as follows: Bowers, yes; Olberding, yes; Goff, yes; Hollens, yes; Johansen, yes; Jones, yes. Motion carried.

The Board received a written High School Current Cash Balance Report, a Middle School Activity Account Report, an Elementary Activity Account Report and a School Lunch Account Report.

1.8 APPROVAL OF CLAIMS – It was moved by June Bowers and seconded to approve the claims as presented. Discussion was had by the board on various claims. The voting was as follows: Bowers, yes; Olberding, yes; Goff, yes; Hollens, yes; Johansen, yes; Jones, yes. Motion carried.

## 2.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/REPORTS

2.1 Staff/Student/Organization Report: The Falls City FFA Land Judging Team including Bowdy Jones, Dayton Snethen, Malori Kuker and Taiylah Moore, accompanied by program sponsor Brian Miller, provided the audience with an informational presentation on land judging competitions. The presentation revolved around the importance of land judging in agriculture, which involves evaluating soil to determine its capability to grow crops sustainably. Key aspects include soil thickness, erosion, slope, soil texture, and soil depth. The land judging contest has two parts: judging the soil and applying these evaluations to sustainable land management. The Falls City FFA Chapter excelled this fall, with Bowdy Jones winning the district championship, Dayton Snethen scoring 4th in the state competition, and the overall team placing fourth at the state competition, qualifying for the national event. The team's success involved extensive practice and memorization of land judging aspects and scenarios. The presentation also touched on the challenges faced during the contest and the importance of team effort.

At the November 11, 2024 Falls City Public Schools Board of Education meeting, Julie Bauman, CPA, P.C., made a presentation explaining the district's audit report for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Julie Bauman discussed the audit process for Nebraska school districts, focusing on the federal single audit required for districts spending over \$750,000 in federal funds. Key points included the timeline for audit completion (November 1 for AFR, November 5 for the audit report), the importance of accurate financial coding, and the need for 50% coverage in AFR submissions. The district's cash financial summary as of August 31 showed a total cash balance of \$6,317,273, with a significant portion in the county treasurer's balance. The depreciation fund and school nutrition fund were also highlighted. The audit prioritizes the importance of compliance and control, particularly in federal grant management.

2.2 Principal Reports: Submitted a written report

2.3 BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT: None

2.4 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

2.4a Legislative and Organizations Report: The NASB/NASA State Education Conference is November 20-22 in Omaha. The Annual Delegate Assembly will be Friday, November 22 at the State Conference. June Bowers will represent FCPS at the assembly meeting. The 2025 Legislative session will begin on January 8, 2025. The tentative session schedule is included in the packet materials.

2.4b School Improvement & Strategic Plan Update: The Falls City Public Schools Board of Education and Administration engaged to project on the future direction of the school district and the factors which may/will support and challenge the school district in moving to the next level of effectiveness. The process allowed the Board of Education and Administrative Team to effectively identify specific goals and initiatives to address them. The 2024-2025 Strategic Plan goals are on the agenda for approval.

The prioritized district-wide categories identified in this process are each connected to the overall focus on raising student achievement by analyzing, prioritizing and implementing initiatives to support and enhance student learning, and include:

1. Student Achievement & Demographics
  - a. Language Arts and Math Performance:
  - b. Special Education (SPED) and Behavioral Supports:
  - c. Extracurricular and Youth Activities:
  - d. Student Safety and Well-being:
2. Facilities Master Planning Process
  - a. Educational Alignment:  
Align district facilities with best practices in teaching and learning to support educational goals.
  - b. Building Grade Configurations and Space Planning:  
Evaluate building configurations and plan for space reconfigurations, renovations, and potential additions.
  - c. Safety, Security, and Compliance:  
Assess current safety conditions, security measures, and adherence to codes and life safety standards.
  - d. Master Planning for Future Facilities:  
Develop a master plan for facility usage, renovations, and potential additions, with a focus on expanding Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Early Childhood Education space.
  - e. Community and Stakeholder Engagement:  
Engage staff, students, and the community to gather input and build support for future projects.
3. Address Educator Shortage
  - a. Implement strategies to attract and retain high-quality teachers and staff to mitigate the impact of the educator shortage.
4. School Finance and Resources
  - a. Sustain strong district programs and initiatives despite uncertain public education funding and the impact of recent legislation on school finance.

NRCSA Para to Teacher & Transition to Teaching Scholarships are now available for the spring 2025 semester. The scholarship provides opportunities for two programs that are helping to alleviate the teacher shortage in rural schools: (1) a “Para to Teacher” program such as those offered by Chadron State, Peru State and Wayne State, and (2) a transitional program in which a candidate is employed as a teacher while working to attain his/her teaching certification in a program such as that offered by the University of Nebraska-Kearney. The colleges or universities attended must be within Nebraska. Candidates must be currently employed by an NRCSA-member school district or ESU. Three \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded for the fall semester and three scholarships for the spring semester each year. FCPS’s Tabitha Nelson was a scholarship recipient in the fall of 2024.

2.4c School District Resources / Budget: A review of the collective bargaining timeline:

- September 1 – Teachers association requests recognition as exclusive bargaining agent.
- October 1 – Board must respond to request.
- November 1 – Negotiations must begin.
- February 8 – If there is no agreement, parties must submit to resolution officer.

March 25 (or within 25 days of state aid certification) – Negotiations, fact-finding, and mediation must end.

The initial meeting between the BOE Negotiations Committee and the FCEA is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13.

2.4d Policy Governance: Board policies up for review include:

- 1) 6410 Volunteers: Review only and no revisions.
- 2) 7116 Student Health: Edit to add SIS (PowerSchool) registration profile in place of "enrollment cards" that are no longer utilized.
- 3) 7117 Chronic Infectious Diseases/Students: Review only and no revisions.
- 4) 7119 Drug-free School Environment: Review only and no revisions.

2.4e Superintendent Meetings: NRCSA Scholarship & Recognition Committee, November 20, 2024, Omaha; Nebraska Schoolmasters Meeting, November 20, 2024, Omaha; NASB/NASA State Education Conference, November 21-22, Omaha; NASB New Board Member Workshops, December 11, LaVista.

2.4f Board Member Meetings: NASB/NASA State Education Conference, November 20-22, Omaha; NASB New Board Member Workshops, December 11, LaVista.

### 3.0 ACTION ITEMS

3.1 Final Reading on Policy Reviews and Revisions: 1) 6410 Volunteers; 2) 7116 Student Health; 3) 7117 Chronic Infectious Diseases/Students; 4) 7119 Drug-Free School Environment. It was moved by Scott Hollens and seconded to approve the final reading on policy reviews and revisions. The voting was as follows: Bowers, yes; Olberding, yes; Goff, yes; Hollens, yes; Johansen, yes; Jones, yes. Motion carried.

3.2 District Audit and Financial Report, August 31, 2024: It was moved by June Bowers and seconded to approve the District Audit and Financial Report for August 31, 2024. The voting was as follows: Bowers, yes; Olberding, yes; Goff, yes; Hollens, yes; Johansen, yes; Jones, yes. Motion carried.

3.3 Strategic Plan Goals 2024-2025: It was moved by Anthony Johansen and seconded to approve the Strategic Plan Goals for 2024-2025. The voting was as follows: Bowers, yes; Olberding, yes; Goff, yes; Hollens, yes; Johansen, yes; Jones, yes. Motion carried.

3.4 Resignation: Linnette Fankhauser, 26 years – Middle School Counselor, 18 prior years educator experience. It was moved by June Bowers and seconded to approve the resignation of Linnette Fankhauser. The voting was as follows: Bowers, yes; Olberding, yes; Goff, yes; Hollens, yes; Johansen, yes; Jones, yes. Motion carried.

#### 4.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

For the protection of public interest, at 8:10 P.M. Scott Hollens made a motion and seconded to go into executive session at 8:10 P.M. to hold a strategy session on teacher negotiations and compile the Superintendent evaluation documents. The voting was as follows: Bowers, yes; Olberding, yes; Goff, yes; Hollens, yes; Johansen, yes; Jones, yes. Motion carried.

It was declared to leave closed session by President Olberding at 9:20 P.M.

It was moved by June Bowers and seconded to re-enter open session at 9:22 P.M. The board reports discussing Negotiations with the FCEA and compiling the Superintendent evaluation documents. The voting was as follows: Bowers, yes; Olberding, yes; Johansen, yes; Goff, yes; Hollens, yes; Jones, yes. Motion carried.

#### 5.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Dan Jones and seconded to adjourn at 9:23 P.M. with no further business. The voting was as follows: Bowers, yes; Olberding, yes; Goff, yes; Hollens, yes; Johansen, yes; Jones, yes. Motion carried.

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President

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Secretary