

**FALLS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #57  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
March 10, 2009**

**Board Members Present:**

Jackey Jones, Chair  
Larry Sickles, Director  
Thomas Huyler, Director

Bruce A. McCallum, Vice Chair  
Robert Young, Director

**Board Members Absent:**

**Staff Present:**

Aaron Hale, Principal  
Lynn Love, Deputy Clerk

Dr. Peter Tarzian, Superintendent

Chair Jones called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:36 PM.

The flag salute was given.

**Additions or Amendments to Agenda**

Director Huyler told the meeting he will not be filing for candidacy for the upcoming May ballot as he feels he can not serve effectively with all the time he is in Portland.

Director Young asked Board members if they knew of someone who would be good. There are a few people Director Young said he would talk to. Director Sickles also said he would talk to a couple of people.

Director Huyler said his sister Barbara can not be on the Board as she is an employee of FACES.

All Board members thanked Director Huyler for his time on the Board.

**Audience Recognition**

None

**Information & Discussion**

**Local Option**

Dr. Tarzian went through the letter he proposed to send out as a first mailer on information to the community of the Board's plans.

Director Sickles said he does not like the statement of a scaled down athletic program. Vice Chair McCallum replied but it is true. Dr. Tarzian agreed.

Director Huyler asked why are we doing this. Dr. Tarzian and Chair Jones explained the e-mail sent to the Board ended up in the city's newsletter; we think Barb Spencer put it in the newsletter thinking she was helping. Dr. Tarzian said the e-mail was taken out of context to what really happened at the board meeting. Now we must put our best foot forward and keep our message neutral at the same time.

Director Sickles said he does not want to tell the community we are scaling down athletics or any program; our athletic program has been successful. Director Sickles said if we are asking for money we want the community to know they are supporting successful programs.

Dr. Tarzian asked about the library statement; I understand you do not want any negatives in the letter. Director Sickles said we need to let the community know we need their support to continue our successful programs.

Vice Chair McCallum said to list the Board members and their phone numbers on the letter and to create a cheat sheet for Board members to use so they are all saying the same thing.

Dr. Tarzian asked what else do you want. Chair Jones said all press is good press; people only remember the most recent thing they see. Director Sickles asked how easy would it be to get an article in the Itemizer on the local option. The Itemizer has had several positive articles on FACES and the Rodriguez project. Chair Jones said the Itemizer will publish anything we get to them. Director Sickles suggested an article addressing the current local option and what a new local option can do for the community. Vice Chair McCallum said if the Itemizer comes out they will write what they see; if we write it we get what we want said. Dr. Tarzian said it is the truth if the local option does not pass we will lose programs.

Director Young said what about FACES we will need local option money to replace grant monies as the grant amount declines. What if we take out any mention of heating and deferred repairs and replace with FACES activities; voters will believe it will be worth the approximate \$200 a month.

Director Huyler said we need to relate things will be at risk without the local option. Director Sickles said we need the local option for programs. Chair Jones said people need to know what is at risk. Dr. Tarzian said let's talk about "at risk" programs which are central to educational success.

Director Sickles said people will focus on athletics, library, and FACES; voters will not understand core requirements. Dr. Tarzian said we can talk about textbooks. Vice Chair McCallum said to mention the bronze award the high school won. Director Young said people will not see what \$78,000 will buy only how much is it going to cost them.

Dr. Tarzian said he knows now what you want and will re-work the letter and have a fact sheet for you before the letter is mailed out. Dr. Tarzian said John Gilbert wants to talk to you about the local option; Mr. Rodriguez was unable to make it tonight.

John said we need to put more effort into the local option election this time such as yard signs and flyers; we need to get the information out to the public. John stated the firemen's association will give \$100 for signs and flyers; we'll know Friday whether the teachers will give any money. John said he would like to keep the donations under \$300 so he does not have to form a political action pac just report the monies. John asked the Board if they would like to donate.

Dr. Tarzian suggested contacting groups in the community. John said he would like to address the arts council and church leaders in town. Dr. Tarzian said the biggest problem with a small community is that the groups talk amongst themselves and between groups.

John suggested a logo of "our kids, our schools, our community" vote for the local option. Dr. Tarzian said wait until you know the measure number before you make the signs. John said a lot of people didn't even know the local option was on the ballot last time.

Director Young suggested an article in the Itemizer about state school funding and our school support is being cut. Dr. Tarzian said the Itemizer is doing an article on each school in Polk County. Dr. Tarzian reminded everyone as district administrators we can not talk about supporting the local option we can only talk about resources and give the facts. Director Young asked can you say how much we are being cut. Dr. Tarzian said that is the plan; we should know by mid April how many school days and programs we'll need to cut.

Director Young said cutting school days is one thing but does not want to cut any programs.

Director Huyler asked if the teachers can write letters. Dr. Tarzian said absolutely; the Board needs to talk to all the different groups in town.

The Board went into executive session at 7:25 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Chair

April 21, 2009  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date