

Falls City School Board Approves Budget, Tax Request

(KTNC)--The Falls City Board of Education approved the district's budget for the 2014-15 school year Monday night.

The total budget is just over \$13.6 million dollars, increasing 3.8-percent from last year. The largest portion of the total budget is the General Fund, which grew two-percent to approximately \$10.8 million, which includes \$2.3 million in Necessary Cash Reserves.

The budget also includes \$613,000 in the Special Building Fund, \$515,000 in the Bond Fund, \$593,500 in the School Lunch Fund, \$290,000 in the Depreciation Fund, \$419,724 in the Activities Fund, and \$262,300 for the Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund.

The largest increase in the General Fund is in Special Education, which increased by more than 16-percent. A big part of that, according to Superintendent Tim Heckenlively, is due to contracted services and the addition of a couple para-educators to assist high-needs students one-on-one.

Federal law requires schools to provide services for handicapped children, and Heckenlively says 20-percent of students in District 56 qualify with some type of disability.

The board also approved the property tax request Monday night.

The tax request for the General fund is \$7,726,723; the request for the Bond Fund is \$444,444; the tax request for the Special Building Fund is \$267,676; and the tax request for the Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund is \$212,121.

The total property valuation in District 56 is over \$813-million, a 15-and-a-half percent increase from last year. The higher property valuations will result in a reduction in the mill levy of approximately 3.5-cents.

The board approved both the budget and property tax request resolution unanimously.

The board also decided Monday night to not fund any early separation applications for the 2014-15 school year.

Many Signals Communications