

### Falls City School Board Approves Budget

(KLZA)-- No one from the public attended the Falls City Board of Education public hearings on the budget and property tax request for Fiscal Year 2015-16 Monday night.

Following the hearings, Board members approved a total budget of more than \$15.7-million which includes \$11,817,685 for the General Fund. The total property tax requirement approved was \$9,722,618 with a levy of one dollar, and seven point six cents per \$100 of assessed valuation.

Two big increases in the budget this year are due to a grant of more than \$100,000 for the early childhood program and a \$25,000 grant from Monsanto for the Middle School Math and Science program. Monsanto will make a presentation prior to the September 25th football game with Auburn.

Superintendent Tim Heckinlively said it was essential to increase the school districts cash on hand since the Falls City District will no longer receive State Aid. While a fairly significant amount of tax dollars comes to the school district in September, there will not be another pool of money come in until January. Without cash on hand a school district can't pay the bills.

In previous years schools received State Aid dollars on a monthly basis. With that cut out, the school district must now cover the costs to run federal programs such as special education since the federal funding does not come in until January. This past fiscal year, the Falls City School District was forced into an internal borrowing situation, which they want to avoid in the future.

As noted before, District 56 will receive no state-aid this year meaning 63-percent of the budget comes from local property taxes. Last year District 56 received \$414,000 in State Aid.

In the fiscal year just completed, District 56 used 95% of the money budgeted. The District collected 97.7% of the funds budgeted for.

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