

LOCALNEWS

Board expected to hire coaches; implement grading system

Meeting is set for 5 p.m. in the Falls High School library

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

A number of ongoing items are expected to be finalized Monday when the Falls School Board meets at 5 p.m. in the Falls High School library.

Among a number of items on Monday's agenda, the board is scheduled to hire a boys and girls golf coach, hire a girls basketball coach and consider implementing a weighted grading system.

The board will consider hiring Kelly Blair as the head boys and girls golf coach for the 2014 season. Blair, a 2012 Falls High graduate, will replace Bill Mason, who resigned from the position in August after 18 years as the coach.

In addition to Blair, the board will consider the hire of Steve Johnson as the assistant boys and girls golf coach.

Also on Monday's agenda is the consideration of rehiring Jay Boyle as the assistant girl's basketball coach.

Boyle's rehiring had initially been put on hold during the summer when a committee comprised of school administrators and three board members was formed to look into the implications of teachers who coach three consecutive sports, taking them out of the classroom too often.

Board members voted in June to rehire Shawn Gilbert as the head girls basketball coach when they held off making a decision on the assistant coaching position, which was then posted for anyone to apply.

Then in September, the board agreed to remove from its agenda the recommendation to rehire Boyle

for the position because another applicant wasn't given an interview. The position was then reposted a second time.

The board will also consider implementing a weighted grading system beginning during the second semester of the 2013-2014 school year.

A weighted grading system offers an equal credit for a lower grade in a more difficult class. Upperclassmen in these classes would have 0.5 points added to grades A-C.

The student-generated idea has been researched by students and presented at several past board meetings. A committee was established to fine tune the idea and selected a model it felt would best work for the district.

Also Monday, Beth Shermoen, sixth grade teacher at West End Elementary, is expected to present a report on legislation and progress of a bullying policy. A referral

form is expected to be presented to the board for its adoption.

Jennifer Windels, a Blue Ribbon Panel member, is scheduled to present a proposal to a consulting firm to address long-range planning for the district.

The Blue Ribbon Panel, is a made up of 22 community members who meet to brainstorm ideas to better the Falls school district. In August, Windels suggested that a professional consultant be hired to best discuss what kinds of goals need to be set for the district and how to communicate those goals with community members.

Superintendent Nordy Nelson and principals of each school are also expected to give reports.

At the beginning of each regular school board meeting, an open forum allows members of the public to fill out a comment card and address the board on any topic they choose.

DISTRICT COURT

The following people have been sentenced for aggravated misdemeanor or felony crimes in Koochiching County District Court. This information is provided to The Journal by court staff.

■ Jessica R. Palmer, 22, International Falls, was sentenced Oct. 7 for felony first-degree burglary — dwelling occupied, and felon check forgery — false endorse. On the burglary, she was sentenced to 21 months at the Minnesota Correctional Facility, Shakopee, which was stayed on court conditions and she was ordered to serve 60 days local confinement. She was placed on five years supervised probation and ordered to serve 24 hours with the Sentence to Serve program. She was ordered not to consume alcohol or drugs and must submit to random testing. On the forgery, she was sentenced to one year at the Shakopee facility and 60 days local confinement. She was placed on five years supervised probation and must serve 24 hours with the Sentence to Serve program. She was ordered to pay \$200 in fine and fees and must submit to random testing and searches. She may not enter places where alcohol or drugs are being used or served. The sentences are to be served concurrently.

■ Michael P. Morin, 37, International Falls, was sentenced Oct. 4 for gross misdemeanor domestic assault — subsequent violation. He was sentenced to one year jail and \$150 fine and fees. All but 275 days of the jail time was stayed on court conditions and he was placed on one year supervised probation. He was ordered to serve 24 hours with the Sentence to Serve program and must complete recommendations of an evaluation.

■ Katherine M. Schneider, 27, International Falls, was sentenced Oct. 7 for gross misdemeanor driving while intoxicated — operate motor vehicle under influence of alcohol. She was sentenced to 90 days jail and \$4,300 fine and fees. All but \$2,500 was stayed on court conditions and she was placed on three years supervised probation. She was ordered to serve 120 hours with the Sentence to Serve program and may not use alcohol or enter places where it is being used or sold. She must submit to random testing and searches and follow the recommendations of an evaluation.

VIDEO GOES VIRAL



Staff at the University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital in Minneapolis recently made a YouTube music video featuring several patients, including an International Falls resident, Karlyann Bennett. Karlyann, 4, pictured with her favorite nurse, Brittany Bloemke, was diagnosed with a Wilms' tumor Oct. 26, 2012. According Karlyann's mother, Dayna Bennett, the toddler said she is a movie star after seeing the video online and on a Minneapolis news station. The video has been viewed more than 334,000 times and can be watched by visiting www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8xnLkyKgsE.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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(Lola & Bitty Kitty too!)





A Bridal Shower

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MISS KATIE ANDERSON
(FIANCE' OF JOHN WINKEL)


Thursday, October 24th
At 7:00 pm
Pittsford Lutheran Church

HAPPY 6TH BIRTHDAY

To Our Sweetheart

Ava!

Love Papa and Gramma



GET OUT YOUR PLAIDS.

The Logging Camp Christmas Fundraiser for Koochiching Aging Options is coming **December 6.**

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To learn more about our outpatient rehabilitation therapy services, call (218) 283-1310.



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