

LOCALNEWS

INTERNATIONAL FALLS SCHOOL BOARD

District bullying policy to be explored and updated

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

The International Falls School Board Monday took another step towards updat-

ing the district's bullying policy.

Prompted by the Falls schools superintendent, a committee of board mem- bers was established to

grip the concept of bullying and weed out the different definitions associated with conflict.

"(Bullying) is changing so rapidly," said Superinten-

dent Nordy Nelson. "The dif- ferent definitions and possi- bilities of what bullying is ... is always changing."

Nelson said answers need to be given on where the line of bullying is drawn. He noted that conflicts could be identified as harassment as opposed to bullying.

"Our bullying policy needs to be updated," he said. "There are so many changes with society, and all that needs to be addressed."

He continued that an up- dated policy needs to be "workable for all of us."

"Communication does need to get out to the par- ents," he added.

Also Monday, Nelson dis- cussed the work by students, teachers and administra- tion to establish a weighted grading system at Falls High School.

Those involved have "put in a lot of time," he said.

A weighted grading sys- tem offers an equal credit for a lower grade in a more difficult class.

Nelson acknowledged

that the grading system has pros and cons and "de- pending on how we go about doing that ... there is a good deal of research that needs to be done. It can't happen overnight."

The superintendent con- tinued that the process will be a year-long venture to ex- plore "the whole philosophy to change what we're doing."

"Its quite a change," he said. "There are always surprises. We really need to make sure we research all possibilities out there."

The board established a committee to work with students and administra- tion to explore possibilities involved with implementing such a system.

In other business, Nelson said the construction of safety upgrades to all three of the district's schools "is on schedule and should be completed by the first part of August."

"We look forward to work- ing with that this year," the superintendent said of the upgrades, which include

locked entrances and a buzz- er system to each school.

Falls Elementary and West End Elementary prin- cipal Melissa Tate reported to the board that the current enrollment in grades 1-6 is 517 – down one student from May's enrollment fig- ures. Tate explained that kindergarten students are not yet in the school's sys- tem because "there are still parents coming in over the summer to pick up registra- tion forms." However, she anticipates 69 students will be enrolled in kindergarten in the fall.

Falls High School Prin- cipal Tim Everson said the high school's enrollment is 543 – down 11 students from last month and 13 from this time last year.

"These numbers are re- ally soft, because anyone who has moved to town is not in the system yet," he said. "I can say, we haven't had many requests from students for open enroll- ment out from the high school."

The City of International Falls Thanks Everyone Who Attended the Annual July 2 International Tug-of-War: Pulling For Peace and All Those Who Helped Pull Three Victories! We Took Back the Trophy for Team U.S.A.

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- International Falls Streets, Emergency & Law Enforcement Staff; City EDA - Thanks for the Extra Mile
- Town of Fort Frances, Mayor Roy Avis & Councilors
- Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce

www.pullingforpeace.org

RANIER CITY COUNCIL

Request to prevent freezing water lines tabled

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

The Ranier City Council Monday tabled a request from a resident to cover the cost of materials that could help prevent freezing water lines during winter months.

Barry Woods informed the council that a water line on the edge of his property at 2069 Spruce St., where there is a utility easement, is shallow and in the winter he must run water through the line to prevent the pipes from freezing. Woods said

he would like to place fill materials on top of the line to serve as insulation, with the undetermined cost to be paid for by the city.

City Clerk Kim Nuthak reported that running water through the water lines in the winter is required, regard- less if there is fill present.

Nuthak told The Journal that residents Arden Barnes and Tara Nelson voiced con- cerns that their properties, which are adjacent to Woods', could be impacted depending on the amount of fill needed.

Mayor Dennis Wagner

said language in the ease- ment says snow cannot be disturbed in the winter to keep freezing water lines from freezing. However, Wag- ner said more information needs to be gathered and the issue will be revisited when the council meets in August.

In other business Monday, the council agreed to allow Lindsey Goulet, Ranier Rec Club, to apply for a \$5,000 grant to place adult exercise equipment at the Ranier Park. In addition, the city agreed to pay \$425 toward the project.

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We apologize for reduced available appointments in July.

Due to the Independence Day holiday and a need to travel to visit a college, the number of clinic days will be reduced.

Please call early to schedule your appointment. Full service will resume in August.

Wednesday afternoon, July 17 Thursday, July 18

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