

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman School Board Meeting Date: 27 January 2021
Observer Reporting: Ndambuki Length of Meeting: 1 hour 26 minutes
Members Present: Jim Evermann, Allison Munch-Rotolo, Susan Weed, Amanda Tanner, Nathan Roberts, Bob Maxwell, Roberta Kramer, Diane Hodge, Joe Thornton, Hannah Talbot, Maxwell Cordova, Colin Bannister, Maddie Weber
Members Absent: none
Others Present (e.g., media, public): No public joined via zoom as previously signed up; held over zoom

Responsible Use of Public Funds:

- **HVAC upgrade** opened on January 21st, four bids spread over 30% (usually the difference is no more than 10%) but due to Covid, that may explain. The low bid came from TW Clark Construction who did the addition on Franklin and are the current company on the transportation co-op so they are being recommended to the board
 - Moved to action item
 - Approved

Quality of Instruction:

- American Medical Association and CDC recommendations still support OK for **schools to open** as long as precautions are planned and continued
- Sustainability Committee, **trees at Franklin**, delayed due to pandemic but now have a plan to plant this spring (students had presented to Board last spring), working with Palouse Conservation on local varieties that require low water
- **Whitman County Department of Health is no longer making school-specific recommendations about re-opening**
- **English Language Development (ELD) program** report, up in enrollment this year
 - Virtual family literacy night in December and another one planned for spring resulted in an increase in participation b/c of online format
 - Spanish is now the top language of students second to English, used to be Arabic
 - Reflects the changing demographics of our community
- **4th and 5th return as of February 1st** to hybrid learning with support of Whitman County Department of Health
- **K-5 five day a week** with physical distancing in the planning stage, keeping an eye on the community spread numbers
- **Planning for hybrid** in-person for middle and high school in the planning stage as well
- **Wastewater testing** for each of the elementary schools twice per week which WSU is testing free of charge, this will be extended to middle and high school once they are back
 - No positive results in the month of January
- **75-100 staff members** have received or are scheduled to receive their **first vaccine shot**, ahead of other counties so pleased with that
- Working with the **Teachers Union** with regard to staffing especially so that the District can continue to offer online learning for those families that want it
 - This is especially complex at the high school level where the schedule is already very complex
- **High school transportation** will also be very difficult b/c they take the city bus which is still limited to ten people per bus, may have to come up with our own transportation and start secondary an hour later for example to do an elementary run and then a secondary run