

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman School Board

Date: 28 October 2020

Observer Reporting: Ndambuki Length of Meeting: 1 hour 55 minutes Zoom

Members Present: Jim Evermann, Allison Munch-Rotolo, Susan Weed, Amanda Tanner, Nathan Roberts, Bob Maxwell, Roberta Kramer, Diane Hodge, Joe Thornton

Members of the Public: Amanda, Holly, Desiree, Waylon (one a staff member in the district—specialist at an elementary school), Troy Henderson (Director of Whitman County Public Health), Michelle Hyde (District Lead Nurse)

Members Absent: none

Others Present (e.g., media, public): No public joined via zoom as previously signed up

Business pertaining to League Positions or topics of interest:

Quality Instructional Programming:

- Major concerns about re-opening education in person in two weeks' time, what is the plan, when will the FAQ answers going to be shared, the preference is the sooner the better
 - The Superintendent will respond personally via email to all the visitors present
 - Clarification on return date, it has NOT been decided yet
- **Re-opening in-person learning**
 - Asking for Board to approve the stages of re-opening
 - Not asking to approve a date
 - Slow-start model
 - Only with ability for 6-foot distancing, at secondary would have to be hybrid
 - Well above 25 cases per 100,000
 - As of October 22nd, primary family survey
 - K, 1, 2—primarily in person
 - 3, 5 – almost equal in person v. distance, and also same amount say undecided
 - Have been serving some students in person since June
 - Very, very successful
 - 20 Kindergarteners
 - 15 first graders, etc.
 - Students served in Special Education, ELL, and students without access to internet
 - 161 secondary students
 - Health and Safety Protocols
 - Each building has a Covid supervisor
 - Wellness screener and daily temperature checks
 - Face coverings and physical distances, cleaning protocols and handwashing protocols all in place
 - Videos teaching these things produced or being produced
 - Quarantining regulations that guide decisions about if only student or whole class
 - Commonly asked questions
 - Scheduling at least one week in advance
 - Responding to potential exposure
 - Substitute pool
 - Questions from Board
 - Henderson believes that January, February, and March will be worse than what we are seeing today
 - Still believes that primary age children are at least risk, support in-person at that age group, hybrid over that
 - Two cases in school appears to be that the students brought it in with them, the survey/temperature checks along with double masking and distance with quarantine is working

- If there is an infection in a secondary school, we would recommend that the school close for two weeks to stop the spread
- Less important is the community spread
- Positivity rate not as accurate as he would like but the CDC recommendation below 5%, we are at 10%, it's not great, it's not terrible, is a good reflection of the activity rate in our community
 - A lot of cases in college demographic
 - Those numbers have gone down a lot
 - Assisted living, stable, some leveled off, some new
 - Community spread has been steadily increasing, suspects will trend upward through the winter, incredible challenge for the nation and for Whitman County
- Rapid testing, no cost, less reliable, maybe use with staff
- **Approved re-opening plan with acknowledgement that an additional meeting may be necessary to determine date**

Responsible Use of Public Funds:

- Accept the commission report for **Kamiak Elementary**, includes all the field reports making the report longer than usual—report approved
 - Includes all reports by outside oversight professionals

Your additional comments/opinions:

- District is doing a great job of making the zoom board meetings smooth, it is actually easier to see materials from the board packet in the zoom format.