

## League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman School Board Date: 22 April 2020  
Observer Reporting: Ndambuki Length of Meeting: 1 hour 40 minutes  
Members Present: Jim Evermann, Allison Munch-Rotolo, Susan Weed, Amanda Tanner, Nathan Roberts, Bob Maxwell, Roberta Kramer, Diane Hodge, Joe Thornton, Amy Browne-Minden (Design West)  
Members Absent: \_\_\_\_\_  
Others Present (e.g., media, public): No public permitted at school board meetings at this time; held over zoom

### Business pertaining to League Positions or topics of interest:

#### Quality Instructional Programming:

- Due to the district school board passing a resolution at the request of the Superintendent to **suspend certain policies** that would allow him to make decisions in emergent situations occurring due to the pandemic. This resolution has a sunset date that was requested to be moved from April 24<sup>th</sup> to June 19<sup>th</sup> since the Governor cancelled in-person school until the end of the school year. Some constituents have contacted their board members out of concern for this suspension of policies.
  - Since no policies have had to be suspended, there has been no need to keep track of constituent feedback.
  - However, they have a complete list of policies of concern communicated by one constituent.
- **Emergency Waiver for graduation credits**, will sunset at the end of July 2020.
- There is some feedback from teachers that **some students are not engaging in learning**.
- Working on language to provide teachers with guidance and documents for parents as well, has been a moving target over the last three weeks.
- As a district **moving toward a competency base rather than “seat time”**, as a system moving toward this but not ready to make temporary policies a permanent option yet—wording is WAASDA written with the idea of keeping it as a policy moving forward if districts so choose:
  - Keep records of whether or not and how much these credit waivers under the covid-19 pandemic will have been used
  - Discuss at retreat
  - Phase in over time b/c it takes significant time to put into place working with the departments on what competence is and how should it be determined
- District nominated by OSPI and awarded by the US Department of Education for **Green Ribbon School District Sustainability Award** (the first in Eastern WA to have received).

### Responsible Use of Public Funds:

- **Whitman County Transportation Center**
  - Dependent on getting the state grant which will be announced in July
  - Assuming that it is received, it will pay for \$4.5 million of the total cost and PSD funds would pay for \$3 million.
  - There are currently seven different bid options which are designed to get the most out of the funding and provide the district with various options, it is anticipated that more options will present themselves as the construction design continues.
  - There has been a clarification about the west access road, it turns out that the power pole is not in the way, so the utility and cost of that road is much lower now than was the original concern.
  - Some out-buildings were moved to the back of the building to change the necessity of grading the site, there are currently some hilly parts. This will reduce the cost of the site preparations considerably.

- Architect has worked continuously with the Department of Transportation to ensure that the design meets/exceeds requirements and expectations.

**Public Meetings of interest to League:**

Special Board meeting to consider the bids that come in for the Lincoln Middle School Project on Monday, April 27, 2020 at 5:00 PM.

**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.