

Pullman School District  
School Board Meeting  
July 8, 2015

Janice Brown, a Pullman citizen approached the board and asked for the school district to pay for a Pullman City Police Officer to serve as a DARE Officer for the school district. Ms. Brown objects to the citizens of Pullman paying for a DARE Officer when the Pullman police department is financially strapped.

High School construction is moving right along.

**All Day kindergarten**

Starting with school year 2016-2017, it will be required that every school district in Washington State offer full-day kindergarten.

The state budget was passed on June 30, 2015. Partial funding for all day kinder for Franklin and Sunnyside was included in that budget for **this coming school year**. Jefferson did not make the cut....Jefferson might qualify if money comes available – and it might. Many schools will not be able to accept state money because they do not have the facilities for all day kinder. Jefferson would need to add 4 to 5 classrooms which could be accomplished by moving some computer labs etc.

Under this newly passed state budget, partial funding is available. The Pullman School District would need to pick up the remainder and has the capacity to do so. Next year, school year 2016-2017, full day kindergarten will be fully funded by the state.

The district must indicate by July 9, 2015 what their intended plan is. The district can implement full day kinder at Franklin and Sunnyside and hope Jefferson gets funding **or** the district can deny all funding until all three schools can be funded at the same time.

Superintendent Sturm has been talking with the local principals to get a feel for how feasible full day kindergarten is. New teachers would need

to be hired...furnishings would need to be purchased, curriculum would need to be purchased....it is kind of late in the game.

Did you know – state law does not require that children go to kindergarten at all. Parents can also opt-out of full day kindergarten and pick up their children after a half day.

A good and thoughtful discussion between administrators and the School Board ensued. Many pros and cons were discussed. A motion was made to see if there was a way to accept only half of the money from OSPI and start full day kinder in January 2016. With the start of the coming school year on the horizon, it is generally felt that there is not enough time to put into place the staffing and the other necessities needed to successfully implement a full day kindergarten program. If OSPI does not accept this compromise, the School District will implement full day kinder at the start of the following year, the 2016-2017 school year.

**Jefferson needs to grow!**

The School District is looking at different ideas for adding at least two (and up to four) classrooms at Jefferson. A motion was presented to pursue financing through non-voted debt for the purpose of design and construction for these two (maybe four) additional classrooms. Mr. Dan Hornfelt has been researching loan options. The capital needed is around \$600,000 for two classrooms. This motion was passed.