

## League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman School Board Date: 12 June 2019  
Observer Reporting: Carol Ndambuki \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Meeting: 2.5 hours \_\_\_\_\_  
Members Present/Absent: All present \_\_\_\_\_  
Others Present (i.e., media, public): Kindergarten teacher presenting on Second Step, ASB Advisor and new ASB Press Secretary

### Content (What is being discussed)

#### Energy Efficiency—Wellness Goals:

Three Wellness goals, one of which is **to promote walking and biking to school** (as opposed to parents/students driving to school). The one goal where there was less progress this year but will be a focus going forward.

#### Energy Efficiency—Aquatic Center:

The Aquatic Center is owned by the school district, but the maintenance and operating costs are shared with the City of Pullman. The school district pays in fees \$6200/month which along with maintenance costs approximately \$75,000/year total. The HVAC system needs upgrading/repair. It is estimated that the cost of designing a replacement system will cost \$127,000 and that the actual work may cost \$1,200,000. The City has approved the cost of the design but knows that the School Board must also approve before moving forward and that conducting the design phase in no way obligates the district to be in support of the work phase. This was a discussion item and Directors requested information about whether the center could be repurposed or sold. They are concerned that with the uncertainty in costs moving forward the expenditure cannot be justified. Discussion included current district usage of the center; it was only being used for one PE class, but that class will not be offered next due to a lack of interest. It is used in the fall for women's swim team and in the winter for men's swim team and that is all. It was noted that those swim teams previously practiced at WSU facilities and that the fee was around \$3500/year (a long time ago). There was discussion about who donated the center in the first place (Schweitzer's) and that they had paid for other repairs along the way.

#### Quality Instructional Programming—School Improvement Plans (SIPs) Secondary:

##### *Lincoln Middle School*

Goals included **keeping students in class more by changing the way the teachers and administration approach students who are disruptive**. The goal being two-fold, one to help students self-monitor and advocate for themselves more effectively and the other to give teachers ideas and strategies for supporting students in their learning so that they can be more successful and thus less disruptive.

It was noted that LMS was awarded by the State of Washington for closing the achievement gap, something they have been working on for the last couple of years and that the change in discipline practices has contributed to because it has kept students in the classroom and more engaged.

##### *Pullman High School*

Data supports the **connection between attendance and grades** thus the SIP's focus on updating the discipline system, precipitated by changes in the law at the State level, so that students remain in the classroom is a major goal. Additionally, based upon survey feedback the administration has been working hard to develop a communication culture at the high school so that teachers update grades at least every two weeks and that emails are answered within at least 48 hours.

**Quality Instructional Programming—New Courses and Curriculum Adoptions:**

- Social Emotional Curriculum K-5 “Second Step”
- Physics Text
- Senior Project Maintained as a Graduation Requirement
- AP Computer Science
- AP Chemistry

**Process & Protocol (Observations about participants, conduct, and procedures of the meeting):**

**Transparency:**

When the Interim High School Principal and Vice Principal were appointed to their contracts permanently without public input, there were parents who complained during that School Board meeting.

This time, the Superintendent was proposing that the Interim Middle School Vice Principal be appointed to her position permanently. A Board Member moved that the item should be moved from discussion to action, but other Board Members thought that there should be communication with the public first. It was mentioned that the last time this happened it was not well received by some members of the public. The Board has acted with more caution accordingly.