

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman School Board Date: 24 July 2019
Observer Reporting: Ndambuki Length of Meeting: 1 hour 45 minutes
Members Present/Absent: Director Tanner Absent, all others present, Superintendent Maxwell,
Finance Manager Hodge, Director of Operations (Thornton), Assistant Superintendent Kramer
Others Present (i.e., media, public): three members of the public

School Programming Adequately Financed:

- **The budget** for the upcoming year and the four-year forecast was presented by the Finance Manager
 - Budget looks good and “won’t be in the red” at the end of the four-year forecasted period
 - The **state changed levy lid rules** so that starting in 2020, the lid will go up
 - Enrollment is steady but the new elementary will put numbers + 15 FTE
 - Support programming and staffing at the elementary schools will be maintained despite changes in funding sources going from Title I (federal) monies to LAP (state) monies for a couple of the schools

Fuel and Transportation:

- Second year in a row that the district will have received a grant from the State Department of Ecology to **replace old diesel buses**, funds \$35,000 per bus
 - Last year four replacements were funded and this coming year five more will be funded

Construction and Facilities:

- On the 30th of July, district representatives will be going to visit other **joint transit center** facilities in Freeman, Moses Lake and possibly a third site in preparation for the joint center here being built

Vocational Educational Opportunities:

- More testimony regarding how the district handled a **retiring teacher’s on-going request for an aide** to be provided for his award-winning shop programs due to medical reasons was shared including a letter written by the teacher himself read by a CTE shop program advisory board member who also spoke about his own opinion of the situation as did the wife of another advisory board member and a letter was also read from someone who had testified in the earlier board meeting who offered to fund the extra position himself. There is a petition/survey of support online: <https://www.change.org/p/pullman-school-board-help-phs-vince-hanley-welding-program>
- Director Roberts asked if the survey participants’ names could be shared with the board—over 2400 people have signed the survey. Anyone can google and go to the survey, which has been posted for over one month, and see what the 2447 people have said in their explanations of why they have signed.