

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman School Board Meeting

Date: 12 November 2020

Observer Reporting: Ndambuki

Length of Meeting: 2 hours 40 minutes

Members Present: Jim Evermann, Allison Munch-Rotolo, Susan Weed, Amanda Tanner, Nathan Roberts, Bob Maxwell, Roberta Kramer, Diane Hodge, Joe Thornton, Michelle Hyatte (Lead Nurse), Evan Hecker (Principal Kamiak ES) Ms. Christina Hyde (interim Director Special Services) over 25 members of the public made comments: Stephanie Bray (Principal Franklin Elementary) and kids (Harper and Jackson), Elizabeth Quinley (1st/2nd teacher at Sunnyside on behalf of K and 1st teachers at SSES), Corina Anderson (Special Education teacher at Franklin), football coach, Beth Ficklin, Natalie Fisher, Jackie Eavelan, Annie McKiernan (5th grade teacher), Mr. Eddie, Lacey Casquero, Angela Lenson, Erica Offerdahl, Brooke Whiting, Todd Barber, Cheryl Bashaw, Suzie Cheney, Amanda Morgan, Luke (biology teacher PHS), Dr. Debrah Collins, Dr. Stephanie Fosback, Ashley Safranski, Shyanne Webber (Kindergarten Teacher), Dina Beyumi, Charles Bryzenski, Anna Burt (ER Nurse), Dr. Johnny Fisher (Dentist), Meg Golnick, Lana Carrier (Kindergarten teacher)

Members Absent: none

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

Responsible Use of Public Funds:

- 47 students have left Franklin Elementary School - 18% of the student population
- Equity gap continues to increase
- Data search at school learned that students have googled, 'how to kill myself'
- Teacher and students do not have adequate internet at home
- Distractions in out-of-school settings
- Virtual stuff is going pretty well, 65 guys that have signed up for grade check-ins, hope is driving us, hoping to have a season in the spring, watching film with players, students have begun to lose hope
- Cost of testing is prohibitive, on-line screener not sensitive enough to distinguish between siblings with and without symptoms, school directions from nurse and doctor's office do not align, substitute situation during quarantining very unstable (e.g. different sub every day)
 - You can get testing for free, "a ton of federal funding", through PRH and through Ready Care and trying to secure more funds for that
 - If teachers have a specific request for testing, can do it and create a protocol
 - Not perfect yet but working hard on it
 - Turn around 24 to 48 hours
 - Not all doctors are willing to do the paperwork, district wants to be able to offer that easily
 - Follow up with Dr. Fosback and additional information for testing for employees and students, application with state for a pilot program
- Enrollment is down at least 6%, many students lost just since November 4th
- October 28th Whitman County Health Department recommended K-5 should go back to school
- Modified PPP plan modeled after Ready Care plan already given to the Superintendent, zero infected staff who are caring directly for Covid patients
- Teachers were sent a letter that said that if the district goes back to in-person, teachers would be required to return in person with few exceptions
- Property purchase opportunity, size large enough within Pullman City Limits, large enough for two schools, 60-acre site at the end of Crestview St., funds from Capital Funds account=>no additional funds, left over from Kamiak, does not impact general fund, close to utilities hook up

Quality of Instruction:

- Inequality of the impact of distance learning is a HUGE concern
- 2020-2021 School Improvement Plans approved