

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman School Board Special Meeting Date: 28 June 2021
Observer Reporting: Ndambuki Length of Meeting: 1 hour 14 minutes
Members Present: Jim Evermann, Allison Munch-Rotolo, Susan Weed, Nathan Roberts, Bob Maxwell, Roberta Kramer, Diane Hodge, Courtney Hodge, Joe Thornton
Members Absent: Amanda Tanner
Others Present (e.g., media, public): James Clark, Rick Grunewald (here to support Clarks, no children in the school district), Josie Clark, Sandi Brabb (no current kids in the school district, here to support the Clarks)

Quality of Instruction:

- Change from Community Truancy Board to Community Engagement Board
- Zero in-school transmission of Covid-19 during the 2020/21 school year.

Responsible Use of Public Funds:

- **Security Entrance** at Lincoln Middle School was built into the remodel project
- Now all schools will have that level of security by the beginning of 2021-2022 school year
- **Reconfigured bus routes**, hope was that buses would not need to travel so much, has anyone compared savings afterward or was that interrupted by Covid?
 - Interrupted by Covid, but more important to gas savings (which was anticipated with the change of routes) is the fact that the kids are not on the buses so long
- Purchasing power increased by joining the Spokane School District with **school lunch expenses**
- 1.2 million spent from rainy day fund b/c **expenditures exceeded revenue**
 - 192 FTE down from previous year, all Covid-related, expect about half back
 - Federal monies from Covid relief are being spent on teachers at each school for learning recovery and para-pros to support that instruction

Public Comments:

- James Clark- re: SB 5044. "Institutional Racism is an established fact; I don't see that there is any institutional racism in the Pullman School District." Wants the school board to publicly reject Critical Race Theory.
- Josie Clark- School District Equity Statement (read from that), agrees with statement, will the new equity training be in-line with the district's statement?
- Sandi Brabb- District should create a committee about how to implement
- Rick Grunewald- I do believe in equal justice for all but CRT is harmful b/c it emphasizes racism, MLK Jr. focused on equality, CRT "promotes racism", "CRT is dangerous" .

Your additional comments/opinions:

- Clarification—Dr. Maxwell: THERE ARE NO CHANGES TO STAFF TRAINING OR CURRICULUM (the WSSDA training is for School Boards ONLY)
- No one explained how the four speakers knew each other. Only the Clarks have children in the PSD currently.
- The Clarks did not mention any specifics about how this would affect their children.