

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman School District State of the District Date: 14 December 2022

Observer Reporting: Ndambuki Length of Meeting: 1 hour 50 minutes

Members Present: Allison Munch-Rotolo, Amanda Tanner, Jim Evermann, Nathan Roberts

Members Absent: Susan Weed

Other District Personnel Present: Bob Maxwell, Joe Thornton, Diane Hodge

Others Present: Stephanie Bray, (Franklin ES Principal)

Business pertaining to League Positions or topics of interest

Quality of Instruction:

- **Additional federal funds for helping to regain learning lost due to covid ends this year (2022-2023)**, those monies were mostly spent on staffing (it's unclear to me whether those positions will continue with other funding sources going forward or whether they will be discontinued)
- **11 less job openings** this year compared to last year
- **Volunteers are increasing** after a complete loss during the pandemic (still less than half what it was the year before the pandemic), however, **PTA/PTO participation** is now higher than it was before the pandemic

Responsible Use of Public Funds:

- **Inventory feedback forms** from staff are completed at the end of the school year when the days are already very busy, so the district is working on getting a higher rate of return
- Looking for a different location for **surplus storage**, or ways to make the area more eye-appealing
- **Regular route drivers for school buses are all filled!** (this is a large improvement from the previous two years when large changes to routes were made). But, not in good shape with regard to subs
- 1/3 of miles each year is due to activities—the State does not reimburse for those miles
- 70% of funding approximately comes from the state, about 30% from local funding
- Depreciation schedule for state reimbursement is currently 13 years
- Presentation of a “**dedicated student home network**”—in response to the distance learning that took place during the pandemic, carrying forward the lessons learned about access to internet issues, a pilot network that is accessible to students “out in the county, at home” was discussed to “close the digital divide” and at the same time keep students safe (e.g., utilizing district-level filtering)
- \$1 million in funding already awarded to PPS by Washington State **Broadband** Office, just needs School Board Approval and signature
- Current partners—OSPI K-20, Whitman County 911 Manager, First Step Internet, Google, Whitman County, ESD 101, Tekoa SD, Gar-Pal SD, was approved