

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman School District State of the District Date: 11 January 2023
Observer Reporting: Ndambuki Length of Meeting: 1 hour 15 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: Pam Brantner (Principal Sunnyside ES), Joni Stevens (Math Teacher on Special Assignment), Garren Shannon (Director Technology Services)

Business pertaining to League Positions or topics of interest:

Quality of Instruction:

- **Sunnyside committee on Diversity, Equity, and Belonging**—started last year with Kindergarten team, want to expand to other grade levels this year—creating lesson plans that reinforce and reflect those values—OSPI standards document that highlight standards that are related to diversity
- Visually representing numbers in math makes math more accessible, **math curriculum planning** is pre-K through 12th grade
- **PHS math team** selected to participate in state committee looking at what should constitute third credit in high school math, is algebra II the best choice?, OSPI is developing a course that could be available next year
- Good high school math support through ESD 101 Director of math

Responsible Use of Public Funds:

- **School Bonding Refunding, 2013 bond**, does not create new money, but a method to save taxpayers on tax bills, looking for a re-issue at a lower interest rate
- District has the right to refund or not, depending on: interest rates are still lower than average over the last 25 years, but they are higher right now than they were in 2020
- As of January 9th, the district could save taxpayers about 2.4 million dollars (in net present value) if refund (refinance) 2013 bond
- 6.12% is currently the market rate, state recommends at least 5% savings, so we are in excess of state recommended savings
- About 10 cents/per thousand in savings but there are issuing and legal costs which are already reflected in the current market rate above
- Will require a bond rating review
- Board can give the authority to the leadership team under their specified parameters (delegation agreement)
- Must be done by 1 June 2023
- **Technology levy** funded new projectors in classrooms \$44,000
- **Grant for \$180,000** covered audio/visual upgrades as well, installation by PSD personnel will also save the project money
- PSD staff requests for tech support are typically resolved within 1.5 days
- **RFP for CBRS** (Citizen Broadband Radio Service) fixed wireless approved to publish a request for proposals.