

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman School District State of the District Date: 14 June 2023
Observer Reporting: Ndambuki Length of Meeting: 1 hour 16 minutes
Members Present: Nathan Roberts, Allison Munch-Rotolo, Jim Evermann, Arron Carter, Amanda Tanner

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

Others Present: Three teachers from Jefferson ES

Members Absent:

Business pertaining to League Positions or topics of interest: *Include in this section 1) issues discussed that relate to League priorities or positions. Do you recommend local league action? If so, please refer to the League position that supports your suggestion.*

Quality of Instruction:

- Elementary summer school will focus exclusively on reading, and on fifth to sixth grade transition open to all students.
- Middle school summer school will focus on transition to high school and will focus on those students who, based upon various indicators, may find that transition difficult.
- High school summer school focuses on credit recovery.
 - They have worked to make credit recovery more adaptable so that students can use the regular classwork they have successfully completed so that they do not have to repeat satisfactorily completed work.
- Special Education summer school
 - They have changed their design to build in more flexibility about when and how many students can attend.
- The Special Education program was recognized for the inclusion work.
- District response to community sharing about racialized harassment of students in the Pullman School District:
 - Reviewed policies
 - Communicate better in the future.
 - Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent met with Dr. Alan Sutton from WSU
 - Created survey, sent out to staff, Dr. Sutton will analyze results.
 - Adapt training to better meet the needs identified by staff survey to be conducted in August and throughout the school year.
 - Met with others at WSU about other Diversity, Equity, and Belonging issues as well to get other ideas about other things they can do (with individuals who were at the previous school board meeting).
 - Reached out to the Superintendent in Spokane and will follow up when school is out and there is time to discuss.

Responsible Use of Public Funds:

- Next year it looks like the free and reduced lunch qualification will be K-5 rather than just K-4, the paperwork has yet to be submitted but this is a great improvement. Additionally, the Board discussed ways to get more families to fill out the paperwork to see if they qualify because there are many other means-tested data and supports that use that determination for their bottom line.

- Although the number of students served by Special Education transferring into Pullman Schools from other districts is double those leaving, the budget thus far has still be fully funded by state and federal monies.
- Several teachers from Jefferson ES spoke during the public comment period requesting that their current Assistant Principal remain in her current position due to the positive relationships she has already built with the students and families there.
 - The district had put the approval of the placement change for the two Assistant Principals at Kamiak and Jefferson on the Consent Agenda so that it would be voted upon as part of something that is usually just passed out of hand.
 - Board member Carter removed the item from the Consent Agenda.
 - The “Personnel Report” has to be voted upon as a whole entity, so removing it for one item within the report is not possible.