

# League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman School District Date: 24 January 2024  
Observer Reporting: Ndambuki Length of Meeting: 4 hours 5 minutes  
Members Present: Nathan Roberts, Arron Carter, Amanda Tanner, Lisa Waananen Jones, Craig Nelson

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

Others Present: Evan Hecker (KES Principal), Pat Doumit (Core+), Emily Coombs (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade), Kassidy Oloff (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade), Kelly Pollestad (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade), Juston Pollestad (PHS Principal), Louise Ndjuko (Senior Class Student Ambassador), Toni Chen (Senior Class Student Ambassador), Jill Brockmeier (1<sup>st</sup> Grade), Heidi Fluegel (LMS science, PEA executive board representative), Cooper Jaquish (Lead Custodian, FES; ESP president), Stephanie Bray (Principal FES)

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:**

- Collaboration Time at KES to ensure high level of learning for every student (school highlight presentation)
  - Another presentation on the results of the collaborative time during Monday late starts
  - An excellent, data-driven presentation
- English Language Development Program
  - 167 students, up 33 students from last year
    - Used to be Arabic most common
    - Now Spanish most common, Arabic, Chinese
  - Staffing:
    - 3 positions + 2 classified instructional assistants some funded by temporary Covid-19 related learning recuperation funding which the district, “was able to continue funding after the monies ended”
  - Expenditures:
    - Always over expend this budget
  - Language Proficiency Rates:
    - State changed the assessment
    - Impact from Covid
  - Staff Professional Development:
    - Several conferences
    - GLAD training of trainers
  - Family Literacy Night:
    - November, KES
    - Survey for parents
      - Changes made to programming based upon survey results
        - Parent Square improvements
  - How the program works:
    - Eligible students
      - Push-in or pull-out, youngest learners immersion +
      - High School and Middle School have separate classes but at HS there is some co-teaching with English Teachers
      - Exited students are monitored

- Legally => access to ALL core instruction
  - Review Policy 1220 at the request of a Board Member Carter which mirrors the WASDA policy
    - Clarifying the Board's policy about Open Meetings laws/rules (OPMA), a violation of which the Board members could be fined \$1,000
    - "The policy is there for flexibility"
    - Sending a representative of the Board must be by agreement of the Board
  - Equity Update:
    - Student Ambassadors (PHS)
      - Projects: In collaboration with Dr. Allen Sutton, WSU
        - Establishing a Diversity Panel (based upon the one done three years ago)
          - Open-ended seminar style discussion, recorded, on PHS Website
          - Two panel sessions, 15 students mostly juniors and seniors, guiding questions but not restricted to those questions
          - BSU (Black Student Union) president (Louise)
            - Respect, Empathy, and Value (Dr. Sutton)
            - Differences and how to use those differences for positive outcomes
            - Learn about DEI, read articles, discuss, open minds, and open ears, giving grace to one another
            - Growth mindset
        - Encourage students to report, discuss, solve
- Sunnyside Elementary
  - Diversity, Equity, and Belonging Committee
  - Met with Dr. Sutton
    - Everyone in the building have common language so that the goals can be discussed together
    - Professional Development "culturally responsive pedagogy"
    - Collaborative Learning => student-driven inquiry
  - Future Work
    - No need to recreate the wheel, everything you are doing every day can be underlined by respect and acceptance
    - Everyone is invited
      - Address matters on a system level, not personal level
- College Bound young women's access to computer programming
  - One of 225 schools (nationwide and international)
    - 1 of 8 in WA
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> time receiving award
    - Majority of high schools that have received the reward are tech-magnets
- Public Comment:

There were 9 attendees who made comments in this part of the meeting. There were a variety of important topics including School curriculum, hate speech and the response to it, hiring practice, bus service, school administration, and diversity. Please refer to the video recording of this school board meeting for details. This can be found using the following link [January 24, 2024 School Board link](#)

### **Responsible Use of Public Funds:**

- Superintendent and various building principals have testified over zoom, in person, and in writing to the State Legislature regarding several bills being considered.
- Special Education Funding Overview
  - \$256,000 remaining considered within the "indirect costs" by OSPI
    - As such, do not require the district to count the amount within the restricted for carryover
  - Goal to spend on direct expenditures
    - Variables that we do not have control over
      - Unpaid leave
      - Employee turnover
  - Had an open position all of last year, "that we contracted out"

- We have operated under our direct allocated costs
- Required to demonstrate “maintenance of effort” which means we spent more in the current year than we did in the previous year
- Special Education is the district’s largest program and is audited every year by the ESD 101 and OSPI
- Hiring process
  - Website, regional career fairs, professional organizations over career fairs which are becoming less important, SchoolSpring (national clearinghouse), more electronic means of recruiting
  - Interview process
    - Training required
      - 31 trainings
      - 215 employees
      - Good for five years
      - Online refresher course
        - Conducting job interviews
        - Discrimination in the workplace
- Board spent hours re-writing the policy related to their operating protocols. It was an thorough process and the final policy was further clarified through the conversation, editing, and consensus-building process.