

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman School District Date: 13 March 2024

Observer Reporting: Ndambuki Length of Meeting: 1 hour

Members Present: Nathan Roberts, Arron Carter, Craig Nelson

Other District Personnel Present: Joe Thornton, Diane Hodge, Roberta Kramer, Juston Pollestad (PHS Principal)

Others Present:

Members Absent: Lisa Waananen Jones, Amanda Tanner

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:

- All student fees are going up for next year. Director Roberts asked Principal Pollestad to explain if there is financial assistance for students who cannot afford the fees
 - Yes, for any student who qualifies for free and reduced lunch the fees are waived.
- Juston Pollestad answered: “We have a lot of students who participate in Running Start and that’s fantastic, but we have minimal offerings in College in the High School, we have two classes that we offer currently, we offer Psychology and we offer French III, and we are trying to grow that and keep students here on campus, they can be in smaller classes with teachers they are familiar with...Our plan for next year is for senior English to be College in the High School as well as a handful of math classes: Pre-calculus, calculus, math modeling would all be College in the High School...math and English are where we are losing the most kids to Running Start.”
- “We need to have more dual credit options...up until this year students had to pay tuition for College in the High School...but now there’s no charge.” – Dr. Kramer, Assistant Superintendent
- Director Nelson reminded all that within the Career and Technical Education department students have many opportunities to receive dual credit and those credits are directly awarded through community college agreements

Responsible Use of Public Funds:

- Director Carter asked if, in relation to, “all the resignations” on the personnel reports which is embedded in the consent agenda, accessible only through the board packet for the meeting, there could be some kind of reporting on the exit interviews of folks who are resigning so that the board can ascertain why so many people are resigning. Here are the resignations in the board packet:
 - Stephanie Bray, principal at Franklin Elementary School, resignation of administrator position effective June 30, 2024, to transfer to an elementary teaching position
 - Jill Brockmier, first grade teacher at Kamiak Elementary School, retirement effective at the completion of the 2023-2024 school year
 - Emily Busch, special education teacher at Jefferson Elementary School, resignation effective at the completion of the 2023-2024 school year
 - Parker Ruehl, English language arts teacher at Lincoln Middle School, resignation effective at the completion of the 2023-2024 school year
 - Santana Ruehl, fifth grade teacher at Jefferson Elementary School, resignation effective at the completion of the 2023-2024 school year
 - Liane Sawyer, English teacher at Pullman High School, resignation effective at the completion of the 2023-2024 school year

- Director Carter asked if the College in the High School classes are separate classes
 - No, students simply have the option of their participation being high school or College in the High School, but instruction happens with all of those students together in one classroom