

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman School District Date: 11 September 2024

Observer Reporting: Ndambuki Length of Meeting: 2 hours 9 minutes

Members Present: Nathan Roberts, Amanda Tanner, Craig Nelson, Lisa Waananen Jones

Other District Personnel Present: Diane Hodge, Roberta Kramer, Bob Maxwell, Pam Brantner (SES Principal), Debbie Crabtree (PHS Principal), Juston Pollestad (Director of Operations)

Others Present: SES student performers, Natalie Heron, Beth Fickland

Members Absent: Arron Carter

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:

- Cut teacher contracts just before school started
 - No new information had come forward at that time so not telling staff in April and allowing people to sign leases and so on based upon a belief that they would be working the next year
- JES has a lot of new families—connecting them to the PTA (Parent Teacher Association), and other family engagement activities
- SES PTO (Parent Teacher Organization)—lots of new families there as well
- Board participation in professional development (Jane Marie)
 - Communication training within board and with public
 - Techniques in communication
 - Respond to public questions
 - Scheduled a “Community Listening Session” as a result of the professional development
- Alternative Learning Experiences (ALE)
- Summer School
 - Elementary
 - Two teachers, one student teacher (volunteer), one administrator
 - 32 students recommended—28 attended (third going into 4th)
 - 25/28 students demonstrated growth (over only 8 days)
 - PHS
 - Two teachers
 - All credit recovery
 - 34 students, 40 classes assigned
 - 19 classes completed
 - Two more expected to complete soon
 - Special Education
 - Pre-school (2)
 - Elementary (5)
 - Secondary (6)
- Public Comment
 - FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request
 - No current contract between the school district and the city of Pullman
 - State law requires that students living > 1.5 mile from school are provided transportation to school
 - According to public information the district is receiving more money for transportation than they are physically transporting with regard to those students who live 1.5 miles away

- District not responding to parents' concerns that their children's minimally required special education minutes
- Student cell phone policy
 - Recommendation to revise the WSSDA model language with regard to middle school
 - This is a discussion of the current PSD policy (in black ink), the WSSDA proposed language (in red ink), and Spokane's new policy (in blue ink)

Responsible Use of Public Funds:

- Superintendent evaluation policy through WSSDA (Washington State School Directors' Association) almost finished
- Stuff the bus through Pullman Kiwanis—16th year
- Aquatic Center update
 - Renegotiation notice one year in advance, as required by the interlocal agreement
 - Have met twice with city to discuss, and will meet at least twice more
 - PSD will still support swim teams regardless of where practice occurs
 - 27 years ago SEL funded, at school district request
 - 2003 school own, city operate, school pay for use
 - 2019 discussion to renovate, SEL offer to support upgrades
 - 2024 budget constraints, can't afford to pay \$100,000 + ½ of all upgrades per year
- Transportation update
 - Need drivers
- Kamiak and LMS
 - Final paperwork of construction projects presented