

# League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Pullman School District Board of Directors

Date: 2/11/2026

Observer Reporting: Anderson Brian

Length of Meeting: 90 minutes

Members Present: Stephanie Horn, Deena Bayoumi, Lisa Waananen Jones, Craig Nelson

Members Absent: Arron Carter

Others Present (e.g., media, public): There were several commenters, one asking that hiring practices be more transparent, one expressing support for Superintendent Bob Maxwell and encouraging his contract be extended, one about the need for more spiritual education in schools.

**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. 2) links to further information available on an issue, if available.*

The Board voted on adopting a few new/changed policies.

There was a presentation by Jessie Campbell about the Districts Nutrition Services, including efforts to provide from-scratch meals, the current balance of unpaid student meals, etc. There is roughly \$14,000 dollars of unpaid meals in the District, it was suggested that this may be due to a variety of reasons, including that families have not completed the required paperwork to receive free and reduced lunches. The District is utilizing several methods for outreach and education on completing the forms. The same forms can qualify students for other benefits including college prep services, decreased fees for sports and clubs and other things. Supporting families in filling out the paperwork may be a good way to make sure those who need it can access resources in Whitman County. This is related to LWV positions on poverty services in our community.

PHS drama club gave a performance of a song included in an upcoming play they are putting on. It was very fun and well done.

There was a discussion item about whether to extend Superintendent Bob Maxwell's contract through 2029. It is currently set to expire in 2028. It was not a discussion of the merits of the decision, but a description of the process of extending the contract/not extending the contract. If the Board does not vote on the matter before March 1, then the contract is automatically extended an additional year as per the language of the contract. The Board will vote on the matter at the next meeting.

**Public Meetings of Interest to League:** *Were there any public meetings announced that you think League members may be interested in attending and/or becoming involved with that relate to League positions?*

**Process & Protocol:** *(Observations about participants and procedures of the meeting) e.g., Did the members appear to have done their "homework"? Were members courteous to each other and the public? Was access to materials for certain agenda items available to you?*

Yes

### **Your additional comments/opinions:**

I personally heard from several community members that there would be a discussion of Superintendent Bob Maxwell's contract at this meeting, and they were interested in what would be said. I think many will be surprised/disappointed/upset that there was no substantive discussion about the merits of extending his contract and reasons for and against, it was simply an advisement of the process by which the decision is made. Stephanie Horn did mention that there had been an in depth evaluation and discussion about and with the Superintendent during the Executive session at the prior Board meeting. The reason provided for why a more detailed discussion is not being had in the open board meeting is that it is a personnel issue and cannot be discussed publicly.

### **Reminders** 😊

*A LWV Observer is impartial, silent, and respectful. It is, however, acceptable to ask questions for clarification following the meeting.*

*Remember to wear your awesome ID Badge!*

*Please attach any materials, or links to such, received at the meeting that you feel are important to your report.*

*Please submit your report to the LWV Observer Chair within one week of the meeting. [rogerc63@outlook.com](mailto:rogerc63@outlook.com)*