

## BOARD REPORT

# Communication Advisory Committee Update

*Nathan Roberts, Board Member*

The Pullman School District has made it a priority to work on communication among our staff, administrators, and the community in 2018. In the last few months our administrative team has done a tremendous amount of great work improving our district culture. As part of this endeavor the Pullman School District Board of Directors formed a Communication Advisory Committee to inform our effort and bring to light issues important to the community. We asked for volunteers from the staff and community and drew by lottery for those positions. As a group of 8 individuals, we met to discuss key issues and offer recommendations on how we can continue to improve district communications.

The committee began its first meeting with planning the implementation of a public comment period with the Washington State Ombuds office. The board wanted to provide an outlet for our district employees and families to confidentially communicate concerns. The Ombuds office received feedback for a period of four weeks, beginning August 15. After hearing concerns expressed in direct, confidential conversations with the Ombuds provided a report summarizing the issues and offering recommendations for improvement. Overall the effort collected helpful information for the board and district administrators to help us identify areas for improvement. The ombuds shared specific matters with appropriate administrators and those individuals continue to work towards improvement in identified areas.

The committee next moved on to planning a district wide staff climate survey. We created

a list of expectations for this survey: that it would be conducted by an independent party, anonymous, completed online, repeatable over time, and require a maximum of 15-20 minutes to complete. The projected timeline for implementation of the staff climate assessment is November and December 2018. The committee wanted this survey to identify differences at the building level and to focus on the learning environment, adequacy of resources, support (by colleagues and administrators), communication, and trust/relationships. The committee also agreed that this survey would be a good resource to help the Board develop a new Pullman Public Schools strategic plan beginning in Spring 2019.

The third Communication Advisory Committee meeting focused on digital communications—they identified several areas for improvement. The committee recommended improving access to up-to-date information and the ability to quickly find information online, especially items related to calendars, events, club information, buses, and general documentation.

The fourth and final scheduled meeting involved discussing ways to create methods for continuous feedback. Some of the options presented and discussed included creating a direct question and answer space on the website to help identify common issues and improve processes; conducting random interviews of students and/or families to gather information about the experiences of families and students; periodic user experience surveys of the website; and using focus groups to explore “hot topics” that may emerge.

Overall, it was a joy to work with such a great group of people and hear their perspectives on our district and the issues important to them. Our constant focus was providing ways to gather feedback and inform the community, to close the communication loop and make sure that concerns are being heard and issues addressed. It was a consensus among the group that we look forward to meeting again in 2019 to continue our work.

## Board of Directors

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## October was Disability Awareness Month!



Our schools participated in a variety of activities and events, including the creation of this sweet classroom bulletin board in **Mrs. Strader's** kindergarten class at Franklin!



Pullman High School invited WSU Special Education professor **Brenda Barrio** to talk about inclusion at an assembly with all students. She spoke eloquently about the importance of changing mindsets about different abilities, and about inclusion. Thank you, Dr. Barrio!

# Child Find 2018-2019

## Early Childhood Developmental Screening

**PULLMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*Ensuring Learning While Challenging and Supporting Each Student to Achieve Full Potential*

- WHO:** Children - Birth through 5 years of age who are living in the Pullman School District. If your family is living in a temporary situation, you may contact the district in which you are currently staying for a screening.
- WHAT:** This screening is an opportunity to identify, locate, and evaluate children who might have a disability and to address potential concerns.
- WHEN:** Friday mornings during the 2018-2019 school year:
- \* September 7th
  - \* October 5th
  - \* November 2nd
  - \* January 11th
  - \* February 1st
  - \* March 1st
  - \* April 12th
  - \* May 3rd
- WHERE:** **Community Child Care Center/Head Start**  
530 NW Larry Street (aka Greyhound Way) (behind Pullman High School)  
Pullman, WA



**For more information or to schedule an appointment please contact:**  
Instructional Programs Office  
Pullman School District  
Phone: 509-332-3144



The Pullman School District complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veterans or military status, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to designated youth groups. This holds true for all district employment and opportunities. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the Assistant Superintendent, Pullman School District Administrative Offices, 240 SE Dexter Street, Pullman, WA 99163, 509/332-3144. Applicants with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations in the application process by contacting the Personnel Coordinator at (509) 332-3584.

The Pullman School District Board of Directors and the Pullman School District shall provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities programs without regard to race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, honorably-discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation (including gender expression or identity), marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, participation in the Boy Scouts of America or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The district will provide equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society. District programs will be free from sexual harassment.

The following employee has been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Roberta Kramer, Assistant Superintendent, Pullman School District Administrative Offices, 240 SE Dexter Street, Pullman, WA 99163, 509.332.3144. Applicants with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations in the application process by contacting the Personnel Coordinator at (509) 332-3584.

# Coffee with Bob

Join us for updates from Superintendent Maxwell!



12-1pm at the District Office  
240 SE Dexter Street

### 2018-2019 Dates

- October 29
- November 26
- December 11
- January 8
- February 4
- March 7
- April 11
- May 2
- June 5

Questions? Contact Shannon Focht: 509.332.3581 or sfocht@psd267.org



### Let's be social!

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