

OBSERVER REPORT FORM

University Place School Board

Date: May 12, 2021

Name of Observer: David Harrowe

Meeting called to order at 10:31 am.

Present: All members

As part of community linkage, the Board heard from a group of about ten seniors scheduled to graduate next month. They mentioned what they liked about their education and areas needing improvement. In general, they believed classes at Curtis were more advanced than those at other high schools, and prepared them well for post-graduate education. One commented favorably on the community service requirement to graduate. However, they wanted more “real-world” and “life skills” classes, e.g. financial and credit card management. More field trips in some classes, e.g. chemistry, would also be good. Finally, they felt health class should include LGBTQ+ issues.

The Superintendent, Jeff Chamberlin, gave an update. The district will need Board and OSPI approval to access American Rescue Act funds. He believes school will look essentially normal next year, with 95% of students back in person. The 2021-22 academic year will begin on August 31. They will bring back music. Students can take exams in languages other than English and receive credit if they pass. Forty percent of the district’s school bus fleet runs on propane or electric.

Board member Mary Lu Dickinson gave the Board’s self-monitoring report for this meeting. She gave it a 4.2 out of 5.0, but made no mention of one Board member who appeared distracted throughout the entire meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:47 pm.