Superintendent Newsletter

An update from Pullman Public Schools Superintendent Bob Maxwell

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MESSAGE FROM MAXWELL

Families, Staff, and Community Members,

Earth Day is an annual event to demonstrate support for environmental protection. The first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970. It now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by EARTHDAY.ORG including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries.

Saturday, April 22, 2023 is Earth Day and the official theme for 2023 is Invest In Our Planet. Pullman Public Schools engages in a variety of sustainability activities, practices, and programs all year long that support environment protection and sustainability through conservation and preservation aimed at reducing risks to the environment and preserving resources.
Message from Maxwell

Throughout the district we are engaging in a conservation approach, where our environment and its resources are used and managed in a responsible manner and where appropriate we are actively working to restore areas back to their pristine form.

Pullman Public Schools Sustainability Committee and individual school clubs are engaged in a variety of projects and activities to support the environment and sustainability. “School Sustainability” means being kind to your campus environment and not depleting natural resources around school grounds. Schools around the country are making sustainability a top priority with district-wide committees and daily efforts to tackle everything from air quality to consumption and waste.

Below are just a few of the sustainability committee’s priorities with an update on the great work our staff and students are doing to promote environmental sustainability and efficient use of resources in our schools.

**PRIORITY: REDUCE FOOD/PACKAGING WASTE & IMPLEMENT COMPOSTING PROGRAMS**

Pullman School District staff recently conducted a food waste audit. Information collected will be reviewed to develop strategies and practices to help eliminate food waste in all schools in the district. This is in addition to recycling and in some cases composting centers in lunchrooms. All schools have sharing tables, too. Students leave unopened food items, such as whole fruits, for any student to take.

Some of our schools have gardens. Teaching students about the food they eat takes on a whole new meaning when they grow it themselves. Gardening can revitalize whole schools and offer students true community, healthy food, and a deeper appreciation for their environment. You don’t even need a background in planting or gardening to get started. Organizations like the Green Bronx Machine prove that urban areas have found great success with gardening programs.

One of the committee’s goals is to decrease foam and plastic waste. In order to accomplish this goal, help us share the message, or reinforce at home with your own children, the importance of not throwing away non-disposable utensils and trays.
PRIORITY: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR CREATING OUTDOOR GREEN SPACES

It is a priority for the committee to ensure there is an equitable process in place, coordinated at the district level, for future green space projects.

The committee has worked on creating a Facilities Improvement Application that would need to be completed for proposed projects identified in Board Policy 6900 Facilities Planning. There is consideration for possibly incorporating sustainability and energy conservation efforts as part of a comprehensive plan along with a set of procedures.

District staff have also established a partnership with Phoenix Conservancy and we are excited to partner with them on future short and long-term projects. The Phoenix Conservancy’s mission is to restore endangered ecosystems for the communities that depend on them and the conservation of biodiversity.

We are currently partnering with Phoenix Conservancy to establish a wind break of native plants along the playfield fence line of Kamiak Elementary, and also establish a native prairie plot with an environmental learning focus on the north side of Kamiak for staff to use as an educational demonstration garden. We also have a contract in place for future projects at Pullman High school. Both of these projects are grant funded.

Check out how our schools are celebrating Earth Week, April 17-23, on the next page!
"PIZZA FOR THE PLANET" - BIOCHAR PILOT PROJECT

This event is a pilot project for biochar through Phoenix Conservancy. This provides an opportunity for tainted food materials to be transformed into bio mass to create biochar. This project is encouraging people to save their pizza boxes and drop them off at Ruby Street Park on Earth Day (Saturday, April 22) to be recycled into biochar.

Pullman High School orders pizza on Mondays from Domino’s and Lincoln Middle School has pizza once a month. The district is celebrating Earth Day by saving and delivering the pizza boxes for this event!

Happy Earth Day everyone.

- Bob Maxwell
Superintendent
PULLMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Pizza boxes waiting to be delivered to Ruby Street Park on Saturday, April 22!

Please Save the Box!
PIZZA FOR THE PLANET
Earth Day - Saturday, April 22
12:00pm-4:00pm

This event is not sponsored by Pullman Public Schools.

First Graders in Mrs. Hathaway's class at Jefferson began earth week by cleaning up garbage around their school.

Lincoln Middle School’s Spartan Sprouts Leadership students were in spring cleaning mode and spruced up the LMS campus.
We welcome all interested applicants and are committed to hiring the most highly qualified and professional teaching and support staff to serve the students of Pullman School District.

- Special Education Teachers (beginning the 2023-24 school year)
- English Language Development Teacher (2023-24 school year only)
- CTE Metals & Woods Instructor Teacher (2023-24 school year only)
- Health/Fitness Teacher (Female Only Position)
- Emergency Substitute Teachers
- Speech Language Pathologist (beginning the 2023-24 school year)
- Special Education Paraeducators
- Bus Drivers (Regular Route & Substitutes)
- Itinerant Head Cook (remainder of 2022-23 school year)
- Coaches: Assistant Track
- Athletics Game Manager

If you are interested in applying for any of the positions listed above, please apply online at: https://psd267.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx

We are always looking for Substitutes!

If you or anyone you know would be interested in subbing for Pullman Schools as a bus driver, custodian, food service worker, paraprofessional, nurse, or teacher, applications can be picked up at the District Office (240 SE Dexter St).

For more information, please visit our website at: https://www.pullmanschools.org/departments/human_resources
Families can start enrolling NEW students in ALL grade levels online today! If you have a child who will be 5 years old by August 31, 2023, this is the time to enroll them in kindergarten!

We are excited to welcome the Class of 2036!

2023-2024 Kindergarten Open House
June 1 | 4:30pm-5:30pm

All incoming kindergarten families will need to complete an online enrollment application.

Paper/translated applications available on request.

Available on our website:
- Online Enrollment Portal
- Enrollment FAQ
- Transfers & Homeschool Information
- Guides & Helpful Resources
  - Bell schedules
  - Academic Calendar
  - Student Busing
  - School Meal Information
  - Family Handbook
  - Communication Information

www.pullmanschools.org/enrollment

If your child is already enrolled in one of our schools, there is NO need to complete the enrollment process again.
2023-2024 Kindergarten Open House

Come tour your school and meet our teachers!

Each school will be hosting an open house for children who will be 5 years old by August 31, 2023, and will be entering kindergarten in one of our schools for the 2023-2024 school year.

Haven't enrolled yet?

Enroll online by clicking the links below.

FIND YOUR SCHOOL

ENROLL ONLINE

Enrollment may also be completed during the Open House event. Paper enrollment packets, including translated, are available at each school.

June 1st 4:30-5:30pm
D.A. Davidson & Co. was selected by the Pullman School District (“the “District”) to serve as underwriter for its Unlimited Tax General Obligation Refunding Bonds, 2023 (the “Bonds”) to refinance the callable maturities of the District’s original Unlimited Tax General Obligation Bonds, 2013 issue.

The District took advantage of favorable municipal bond market conditions and was able to secure debt service savings to its taxpayers of $3,516,021 over the remaining life of the bonds (through December 1, 2032) at a True Interest Cost of 2.46%. The par amount of the Bonds was $35,555,000 and the net present value debt service savings was $3,053,545, representing 7.75% of the refunded bonds, far exceeding the School Board’s savings target.

This has been the first opportunity to compete a tax-exempt refunding for the district’s 2013 UTGO bonds.

We would like to extend our congratulations to the District and its taxpayers for securing such outstanding results with the Unlimited Tax General Obligation Refunding Bonds.

Thank you to the dedication and work of Superintendent Dr. Robert Maxwell and Finance Director Diane Hodge for their significant contributions in this successful transaction and strong financial stewardship on behalf of their taxpayers.

It has been a pleasure working with the District on this bond issue.

Written by:
Cory Plager, Managing Director
D.A. Davidson & Co.
The PHS Greyhound Minds Matter club is hosting a first annual district-wide "Fight in the Light" mental health art exhibition and reception at Pullman High School on Monday, May 22nd, 5:00pm-7:00pm. The theme is, "Out of your vulnerabilities will come your strength." -Sigmund Freud

Have a student interested in entering the art exhibition? The club is now advertising a call for entries in all PSD schools.

Call for Entries!

For more information about the art exhibition & reception, please contact:

Cheyenne Cochran
PSD School Based Mental-Health Therapist
ccochran@psd267.org

Jessica Viergutz-Cavagnetto
PSD School Based Mental-Health Therapist
jviergutzcavagnetto@psd267.org

Art submissions can be dropped off at any school’s front office for pick up: ATTN: Jessica Viergutz-Cavagnetto or Cheyenne Cochran
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Sunnyside: @SunnysideSuperstars
Lincoln Middle School: @LMSPrincipals
Pullman High School: @PullmanHS

Follow us on Twitter!
Pulman Public Schools: @PullmanSD
Superintendent Maxwell: @BobMaxw26100953
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Franklin Elementary: @FESFoxes
Kamiak Elementary: @PullmanKES
Sunnyside Elementary: @SESSuperstars

Questions? Contact Us
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