

Get Involved in the Pullman School District

Craig Nelson, Board Director District 3

The Pullman School District offers a wide range of opportunities for community members to get involved and support the students and schools in various ways. Here are the primary avenues for volunteering within the district:

1. Classroom Volunteers

- **Role:** Classroom volunteers support teachers and students by assisting with learning activities, helping manage materials, or providing additional attention to students.
- **Requirements:**
 - o Volunteers must be approved by district staff and clear a background check.
 - o To get started, complete the volunteer form on the district’s website: www.pullmanschools.org under Community & Volunteer Opportunities.
 - o You can select to volunteer at one or multiple schools.
- **Check-in Process:**
 - o Upon arrival at the school, sign in at the main office using a computer station where you'll select your name, destination, and volunteer hours.
 - o A printed label will be generated for you to wear while in the building.
 - o When you finish, check out at the same station in the office.
 - o Main office staff are available to assist you through this process.

2. Classroom Speaker or Guest

- If invited as a guest speaker or to engage with students, you will follow the same check- in procedures as a classroom volunteer.

3. Join PTA/PTO/Booster Groups

- **Role:** Become involved in school activities, events, and fundraising efforts through the school’s Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), or Booster groups.
- **Benefit:** It’s a great way to network within the community while directly supporting school programs.
- **How to Join:** Each school organizes its own PTA/PTO/Booster group, so contact the school directly for details on how to participate.

4. School Board Involvement

- **Public Forums:** The School Board hosts public forums where community members can share ideas, concerns, or feedback about district issues. These meetings are valuable for addressing broader community needs, such as improvements to school facilities, transportation, or district planning.
- **Task Forces:** The School Board has established task forces to address specific topics such as curriculum, nutrition, and diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. Task forces gather input from

district stakeholders to make informed recommendations for policy changes.

- **Board Meetings:** The School Board meets regularly on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 PM at Pullman High School. The meetings include a segment for public comment, where individuals can sign up to speak for up to 3 minutes.
- **Becoming a Board Member:** One of the most significant ways to volunteer is by being elected to the School Board. Board members help set policies, supervise the district’s superintendent, and provide leadership for the district’s direction.
 - o **Eligibility:** Board members must live within one of the five districts of the Pullman School District.
 - o **Election Cycle:** Elections are held during odd-numbered years. Districts 4 and 5 will be up for election in 2025, and Districts 1, 2, and 3 will be elected in 2027.
 - o **Term:** Board members serve a 4-year term.

5. General Volunteer Opportunities

- Volunteers can assist with a variety of tasks throughout the district, ranging from supporting after-school programs and helping with performances to assisting with athletic events. Each school offers different opportunities based on current needs.

Additional Information:

- **Background Check:** All volunteers need to complete a background check. Once approved, you will be notified by the district within five days.
- **School Board Meeting Details:** The public is always welcome to attend School Board meetings. You may sign up to speak during the public comment section, but please note the Board does not respond during the meeting, although issues may be added to future agendas.

By volunteering in the Pullman School District, you’re not only helping students succeed but also strengthening the bond between the schools and the community. Whether it’s through supporting classroom activities, joining school organizations, or becoming more involved in district leadership, there are many meaningful ways to make a positive impact.

For more information, visit the district website: www.pullmanschools.org.

The opinions expressed in Board Reports are those of individual school board members and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or views of the board as a whole or of Pullman Public Schools.

Pullman Public Schools Implements Mobile Device-Free Policy Starting December 2, 2024

In today’s digital age, smartphones have become nearly ubiquitous among students. While technology can offer valuable educational tools, its overuse in the classroom is proving to be a significant distraction from learning. Research highlights how pervasive smartphone use can negatively impact student focus, participation, and overall educational outcomes.

In light of recent guidance published by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) for Cell Phone and Smart Device Use in Schools and the growing research on the impact of screen time on students' mental health, Pullman School District’s Board of Directors approved revisions to Board Policy and Procedure 3245 Students and Telecommunication Devices after reviewing feedback from families, staff and high school students.

These updates aim to ensure compliance with state recommendations while also increasing in-person social connection, minimizing classroom distractions, and improving our students' educational experience.

Pullman School District will begin implementing new procedures to limit student mobile device use starting December 2, 2024.

To learn more about Pullman School District’s student mobile device policy and procedure visit our website: https://www.pullmanschools.org/families/student_mobile_devices_policy



Child Find 2024-2025

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING

This screening is an opportunity to identify, locate, and evaluate children who might have a disability and to address potential concerns. This is available to children (birth through 5 years of age) residing, or living in a temporary situation, within Pullman School District’s boundaries.

UPCOMING SCREENING DATES:

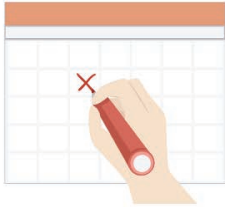
✓ Friday, January 10

✓ Friday, February 7

✓ Friday, March 7

✓ Friday, April 4

✓ Friday, May 2



All children ages 5-21 who are suspected of possibly having a disability who reside in, or are living in a temporary situation, within PSD’s boundaries are entitled to child find activities. This includes all children enrolled in PSD schools, children who are being home schooled, and children enrolled in a private school located in the district (even if they reside in another district).

For more information or to **schedule an appointment**, please contact Pullman School District's Instructional Programs Office at (509) 332-3144.

Franklin Elementary School: Extending Learning Beyond the Classroom

Co-authored by Franklin Staff: Megan Conley (2 nd Grade Teacher), Haylee Fishback (Physical Education Teacher), Kathi Keefer (Franklin Principal) and Marci Sontgerath (1 st Grade Teacher)

Exploring learning opportunities beyond school walls can enrich students' education in meaningful ways. At Franklin Elementary, we are committed to extending learning beyond the classroom while making valuable connections with our community and community partners as we learn.

Here are just a few of the ways we are extending our learning in these ways by integrating field trips, engaging community partnerships, and providing extracurricular extensions while incorporating academic standards into real world experiences.

1. Field Trips

- **Community Walk About:** Second graders spent a day connecting their social studies standards to their own community. Students started by dropping off some original 2 nd grade art at Bishop Place. They learned about the importance of taking care of people in our community and ways anyone can help, even kids! From there, they continued to the district office to deliver kind notes thanking the people who work there for the ways they support our schools. In 2 nd grade, one of the social studies standards is learning about decision making in local government, so students spent some time talking with Dr. Maxwell, and later to our school board representative, Craig Nelson, about how decisions are made for our schools. Through this experience, students learned about democracy and voting for representatives, and how community members play an important part.. Learning was further extended as students put this into practice by writing letters to our school board about changes that 2 nd graders would like to see. And, finally, students got to participate in a tour of the “Old Franklin” and get some interesting Pullman history, too!

2. Community Partnerships

- **Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories:** Once again, we have partnered with Schweitzer to provide STEAM Night at our school. We had approximately 152 parents, students and community members attend our annual STEAM event last month. Attendees had the opportunity to participate in hands-on experiences related to science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics.
- **Local Fire, EMT and Police Visit:** Franklin First Graders had an amazing time learning about Fire, Personal and Halloween safety. The Pullman Fire and Police Department both came to teach us ways to be safe.
 - Students learned to:
 - Stop, Drop and Roll
 - Crawl under the smoke
 - How and when to call 911 for help
 - Learned about Halloween trick-or-Treat safety
 - Learned about stranger danger

3. Extended Learning Opportunities/Extra Curricular Extensions:

- **Gardening Club:** Starting a school garden to teach students about biology, ecology, and nutrition, while fostering teamwork and responsibility has been a powerful learning experience beyond the classroom. We have loved watching students learn about where their food comes from, and increase their willingness to try new foods. In the fall, our entire 2nd grade class held a “Garden Party”, giving students the opportunity to harvest and eat what was grown. Students got to try spaghetti squash and made their own tomato sauce...all from Franklin’s garden! We also grew yellow zucchini, mini pumpkins, patty pan squash, snap peas, lettuce, and potatoes. Many of our tomato plants were grown from seed in our greenhouse last spring, allowing students to learn about how a greenhouse

creates an ecosystem to support optimal plant growth.

- **Chess Club:** This club supports two things for our students: 1) the building up of important social skills that come naturally through playing a game that adheres to a set of rules, and 2) logical problem solving skills where students learn to “think ahead”. A great way to practice social skills and problem solving outside the classroom.
- **Pickleball Club:** Giving students access to activities that promote lifelong healthy habits is great for the body and mind. The Pickleball Club at Franklin Elementary is in its 4th year of operation and is open to 5th grade students during the winter months of January and February. All 5th graders are welcome to come and learn how to play the fastest growing sport in America! Students get the opportunity to learn the rules, game strategies, and practice good sportsmanship, perseverance and court etiquette. Club members can be found dinking, dropping or rallying on the two Pullman city parks that have designated pickleball courts. Pickleball is a great lifetime sport because people of any age can play the game. All you need is a paddle, a wiffleball, and a friend!

By creatively integrating these and other opportunities throughout the year, we are able to provide students with well-rounded educational experiences that deepen their understanding of how what they are learning inside the classroom is connected to the world around them, and we are grateful for the support and partnerships that make these learning experiences a reality for our students at Franklin Elementary and throughout the Pullman School District.



Congratulations to our School Board!

Pullman School District's School Board was among 37 school board across the state to be honored as a *2024 Board of Distinction* by the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA)! This recognition highlights their dedication to enhancing student learning and supporting staff growth. Specifically, the award committee acknowledged our board’s unwavering support for staff growth through Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), which has brought about impressive progress in learning standards, student achievement, and equity.

Our School Board was recognized at the President’s Dinner during the WSSDA Annual Conference on November 21, 2024 in Spokane. This honor reflects the dedication of our entire school community, and we are deeply grateful for the support and engagement of our staff, families and community members. We also want to extend our heartfelt appreciation to our Board of Directors for their commitment and service to our community!

To learn more about WSSDA's Board of Distinction Program, visit <https://wssda.org/2024/11/wssda-recognizes-record-number-of-boards-of-distinction/>

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 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 employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator, Assistant Superintendent, (509) 332-3144, compliancecoord@psd267.org, and Section 504/ADA Coordinator, Assistant Superintendent (509) 332-3144, compliancecoord@psd267.org. 240 SE Dexter Street, Pullman, WA 99163. Applicants with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations in the application process by contacting the Personnel Coordinator at (509) 332-3584. Title IX inquiries may also be directed toward the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR): <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html>. Information about the nondiscrimination and sex- based discrimination policies and grievance procedures, and how to report a concern or complaint: https://www.pullmanschools.org/families/hib-and-discrimination/discrimination_sexual_harassment.

Arron Carter
Director, District 1
acarter@psd267.org

Lisa Waananen Jones
Director, District 2
lwaananenjones@psd267.org

Craig Nelson
Director, District 3
cnelson@psd267.org

Nathan Roberts
Director, District 4
nroberts@psd267.org

Amanda Tanner
Director, District 5
atanner@psd267.org