**LWVSJ Observer Corps\* Notes: SJI School Board, November 30**

A member of the public addressed the **reading curriculum** urging the Board to recall the current Lucy Calkins materials in the K-5 grades and seek reimbursement, to implement **structured reading curriculum,** and provide remedial reading support.

The Board approved two overnight field trips –a **sophomore class retreat** and a **thespian** group trip.

**ASB Report:** The student rep reported the **Winter Dance** would be January 6. The middle School was working on doing **community projects**. She spoke briefly about the **AVID program** that helps student develop good study habits and organization skills.

**Superintendent’s Report:** Lots of excitement about the **State Champion Soccer team** win**.** ASB and T-Club were doing a **toy drive. Health Update:** Covid cases are running 1-2 a week in students and staff, but **flu and colds are hitting hard** with **20% of elementary students out sick** and about 10% in middle and high school. Parents are keeping kids home if they show any symptoms. Dr. James said this was not unexpected as people have not been exposed for the past few years and are more susceptible.

**Parity in funding for small school districts** remains a burning issue. The superintendent will be meeting with each of the County Council members to raise their awareness of the issue. This year is key because **the legislature will review the issue** as mandated at six years since McCleary decision. The Board discussed strategies for improving a unified lobby effort among school districts.

The **Transportation** Director updated the Board on School transport including the fleet, staffing, and training. He is now **certified to train** drivers. **Two new drivers** are being trained. A **new bus** will be ordered in 2023.

The Board reviewed the **final budget report for 2021-2022**. Some of last year’s money coming in, which will make the starting balance for this year a bit higher than projected. They will collect about 84k more in levy funds due to inflation. They have some unexpected needs in **special education** that will create a **budget challenge** this year. Enrollment is near projection at 772.

\*The **League of Women Voters,** a nonpartisan organization encourages informed participation in government. The Observer Corps attends and takes notes at government meetings to expand public understanding of public policy and decisions. The notes do not necessarily reflect the views of the League or its members.