

# WTE offers thumbs up and down

WYOMING TRIBUNE EAGLE

## LCSD2 TRUSTEES RIGHT TO WAIVE LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT AFTER ADMINISTRATOR OVERSIGHT



**UP** to Laramie County School District 2 trustees for letting five members of the Burns Junior/Senior High School Class of 2024

breathe a deep sigh of relief Monday night.

After being told last fall they were on track to graduate on time, earlier this month, those seniors were told that they hadn't met a district foreign language requirement. This oversight by administrators created undue stress for the students (and their parents), who were told they might have to take an accelerated language course during their 30-minute flex period each day until the school year ends.

For most students, this flex time is when they catch up on the homework or tests they missed when participating in extracurricular activities, or is used to prepare for future exams. We also have a hard time believing it would help the students learn much of a language in such a short amount of time.

Thankfully, LCSD2 board members agreed and formally waived the requirement since these students had already taken a year of foreign language in seventh or eighth grade. The next step is to work with district administrators to find out how the oversight happened and make sure no other students have a similar experience.

## WE ALL NEED TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION — IN ALL FORMS



**DOWN** to whoever mailed the racist brochure to a Cheyenne resident earlier this year that wanted us to "guard against dilution by foreign races" because "harmonious coalescence is virtually impossible." It's equally shocking to know of influencers who use opposition to Israel's response to the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks as a door to antisemitic ethnic cleansing.



**UP** to those shining light into such controversies by exposing unsavory facts behind the slogans. That would include the Laramie County Democrats' exposure of the racist brochure, and organizers of December's Menorah lighting, who

revealed the horrors of antisemitic terrorism.

We fully realize that there's a danger of somehow validating a message by pointing it out. However, discriminatory extremism depends on the ignorance of the larger audience, and ignoring the dangers makes them worse.

At a time when discrimination is on the rise, we all need to speak out strongly against it whenever and wherever we see it.

## MORE POSITIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT IS A GOOD THING



**UP** to the Cheyenne Police Department for launching a new text messaging service in an effort to better connect with members of the community who require the assistance of its officers.

PowerEngage offers a text notification feature to keep people updated on the status of their situations involving the department, as well as a feedback survey after a call for service. According to a CPD news release, when a call is placed to dispatch, real-time notifications will be sent, such as a confirmation the message was received, the case number, safety instructions and information

about any delays to an officer's response, as needed.

Police Chief Mark Francisco said in the release that it's important to him and his team to hear feedback about their performance, and that he hopes it will help CPD to continuously improve. He also plans to share positive comments with employees to help boost morale.

In answer to our question about how open and accessible this information will be to the public, PowerEngage notifications and surveys will only be sent via text message in relation to non-emergency calls where no one is hurt or in danger. It also won't be used to report emergencies or crimes; those calls still need to be to 911.

If this added feature helps increase communication between residents and officers, leading to more trust and better performance, count us in.

## STATE LAWMAKERS NEED TO REQUIRE DISCLOSURE OF WHO'S BEHIND ATTACK MAILERS



**UP** to members of the Wyoming Legislature's Joint Corporations, Elections and Political Subdivisions Committee for sponsoring a House joint resolution that would have asked for an amendment

to the U.S. Constitution to identify the source of political contributions. (The bill failed to receive enough votes for introduction in a budget session, however.)

With the number of anonymous political mailers going out across Wyoming on the rise, we believe it's time for lawmakers to work toward generating more transparency in this form of advertising.

Some will argue that Wyoming's campaign finance laws are already adequate to address this issue. If that's the case, then they need to be applied more often. But we think they need to be adjusted to include mailers, emails and other forms of communication that target public officials, even if they're not up for re-election at that moment.

At the same time, protections need to be put in place to prevent retaliation against or persecution of those who make political statements, whether in this format or another.

It's a fine line to walk, to be sure, but when it comes to attacks on our elected leaders, transparency is key to helping voters know whether the information being sent to them is credible or not.

**WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK:** Contact us via email at [opinion@wyomingnews.com](mailto:opinion@wyomingnews.com).