



THE CHARGER

POWER STRUGGLE

Editorial | Streamed board meetings benefit community

USD 329 started streaming board meetings along with other school events in spring of 2020, following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a newspaper staff, we have found this new form of access to board meetings very useful. Prior to this we would have to find

a student or two each month to send to the meeting, record it if possible and then report back. The schedules of high school students tend to be very busy and sometimes it could be a challenge, especially since it's not the most glamorous of stories.

Regardless of whether board meetings are fun to cover, it's important to the school and community to cover the discussions and decisions made at meetings. It's also a great way for student journalists to learn some new skills, like weeding through an hour or two of financial jargon to find the important things to write about. Since the board meetings have been streamed on the district's Youtube page, we have been able to share the responsibility more and even watch parts of them together during class the next day.

In the December meeting, members briefly discussed the fact that some other districts have stopped streaming their meetings. While stopping the USD 329 meetings wasn't suggested, we'd like to get ahead of the game and say it's important to continue to provide easy access to the community. Of course, there are other ways to get information about the board meetings. The district releases notes from each meeting, but they tend to be pretty vague. It's a good way to find the decisions the board has made, but the

discussion and context is often lost.

It's also cheap and easy to stream, and technology director Josh Nisly said it would be easy to continue. "I don't think it's a problem, I usually try to attend every meeting and so every meeting I'm at I am able to take care of it and I don't have any plans to stop it," Nisly said.

There aren't just benefits for newspaper students though, it has also been beneficial to the community. Prior to the pandemic, very few people attended meetings. Since the implementation of Youtube streaming there has been a large increase in viewers. While the average number of viewers at board of education meetings is 20 continuous viewers at a time, the average number of total viewers is 236. Board of education meetings are not just for people affiliated with the school, they provide pertinent information to everyone and the more people who have access to them, the more informed we can be as a community.

Superintendent Brad Starnes said he agreed on the importance of community engagement. "I think it's important to keep people involved, informed and educated and the best way to do that is through listening and having an understanding of what the board is discussing and working through, and if you're not there in person then this is the best-case scenario so you can keep up with things," Starnes said.

While this practice began because of the COVID-19 pandemic we are very thankful that it has continued and we hope that it stays that way into the future.

All of the recorded board meetings are currently available on the USD 329 Youtube page.

The editorial is the opinion of the Charger staff. Students discuss editorial topics as a group and write an opinion that represents a majority of the staff. Send letters to the editor to whscharger@gmail.com.

Government class runs presidential campaign

Eli McDaniel | social media editor
Students in Jess Rutledge's government class are running for President!

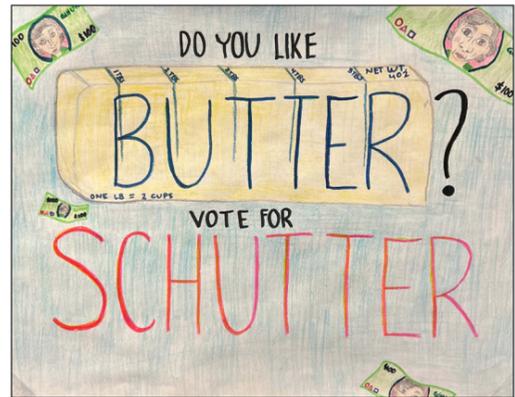
Every year government students create posters and campaign videos like real politicians to simulate a political race. "I started doing this assignment when I first arrived at WHS eight years ago. I was looking for more projects in the senior government class and got the idea from a former professor at Kansas State," Rutledge said.

The project has evolved in that it has incorporated more pieces through the years. It started with creating a slogan and making a campaign poster. Over the years, Rutledge required all candidates to make at least two commercials (30-seconds and 1-minute), along with the classes actually voting to ultimately choose the unofficial WHS president."

The race began in December and has been heating up since the start of the semester.

POSTERS

The posters had to include a campaign slogan. Slogans were not required to be puns or funny rhymes, but that's what most candidates decided to do. "I wanted my slogan to be funny and catchy so I based it off a car sales commercial," candidate Maïke said. Some slogans

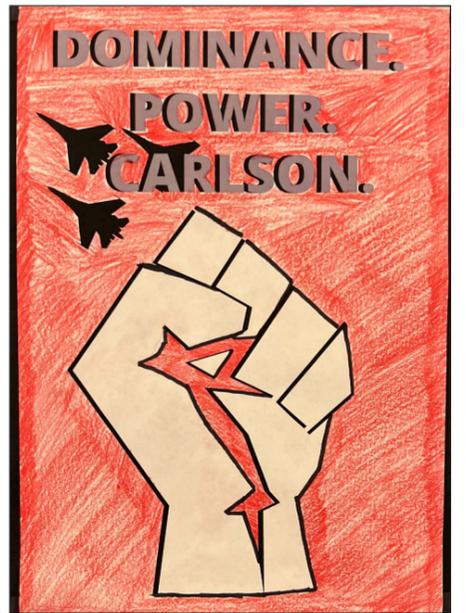


Left: Lauren Schutter's poster focuses on her primary campaign issue: bringing butter back to the cafeteria. Below: Justin Carlson's poster reflects his desire to be a strong and powerful leader.

included, "We're in a Pickle Vote for Kyndal," "Do you like Butter? Vote for Schutter," and "DOMINANCE. POWER. CARLSON."

VIDEOS

Campaign videos had to be 30 seconds long and include each candidate's slogan. "It's not easy to make a presidential campaign ad and slogan, you've got to be creative. All the political campaign commercials nowadays are similar, and you have to find ways to make them entertaining," candidate Brayden Meseke said. After all ads were submitted, each class viewed the ads and voted on who would continue to the second round of the race. Justin Carlson, Emma Alderman, Cade Oliver, Jackson Havenstein, Jacob Daley, Kara Hafenstine, Brayden Meseke and Lauren Schutter all moved on to the second round. "It's very difficult to choose a favorite but I always look forward to everyone's commercials that



they make. We've had some quite hilarious ones in the past," Rutledge said.

DEBATE

The field has been narrowed down to two candidates, Lauren Schutter from second hour and Justin Carlson from fifth hour. They will have to create a minute and a half campaign ad with the help of their classmates. They will also participate in a debate over school-related topics with Rutledge as moderator, hosted by the Senioritis podcast.

Top Five | art teacher shares favorite 'grown-up' animated shows



Briana Guinn | guest writer

What's the appeal? Cartoons are nostalgic. I remember Saturday mornings waking up and turning on the TV to watch the time block dedicated to animated kids shows. This nostalgia is part of the appeal, yet as I begrudgingly became an adult it is the simple ridiculous moments mixed with the infallibility of the cartoons pliable nature. It mutated into a way to accept the crazy in life and instead of crying at life's inconveniences, I would belt out a roaring laugh at the absurdity

of it all.

Here are my Top Five favorite cartoons of all time.

1. Bob's Burgers

Bob's Burgers is my favorite. I enjoy the family dynamic and the similarity of the comedic family situation. It's the regular dysfunction that really appeals to me. — *Streaming on Hulu and HBO Max.*

2. Archer

Archer is my second favorite. I love that egomaniac narcissist of Archer and how the spy game transitions into dream worlds and the Archer series reinvents itself almost in the middle of the series and still has the same characters you love, but new and different versions are explored. The series has brief moments where you get a glimpse of Archer as a reflective and deep individual before seconds pass and he's back to being the center of his

own universe.— *Streaming on Hulu.*

3. Futurama

Futurama is my stand by, when I am feeling down and that overwhelming feeling that the future is bleak takes over, I pop on Futurama. I love Futurama's ability to make me laugh at tragedy. It is one of the best gifts. The nature of cartoons is varied and sometimes violent but the cartoon is an impossible fragment of imagination that can't simply die. I love the prediction of future events and how bizarre and hilarious the solutions are to the missions the crew of Futurama take. — *Streaming on Hulu.*

4. Squidbillies

Squidbillies is one of the weirdest cartoons created. It isn't for everyone. The backwater humor is only funny because you know some undesirable rabble probably actually

said it. I love it, mostly because I grew up with people in my family who embodied the characters of the family of squids. I guess family dysfunction is something I find fascinating because many of the cartoons I love play it out in some way. I love the monster trucks and the huge trucker hat that the main character wears and the mullet on a squid is just comedy gold. Raunchy sometimes and not for the faint of heart. — *Streaming on Hulu and HBO Max.*

5. King of the Hill

King of the Hill was never a favorite when I was a teen but as I got older I realized that I was missing the key component to appreciating this series — its dry humor. It's the fact that it shouldn't be funny because it wasn't a joke but the characters' roles make the series a comedy winner. It illustrates the generational divides and

allows the audience to view the everyday situations of Hank, a type A man who loves his son but doesn't understand him. He loves his father and respects him but is treated by his father like he regretfully claims him. It was a reality show without live action and much better writing. He now lives in the same suburban Texas neighborhood as his friends from high school.

Hank very much tries to be a man's man, but life shows him that he has to duck and weave if he wants to have a deep connection to his son. — *Streaming on Hulu.*

"Top Five" allows students and faculty to share their top five songs, movies, shows, meals or anything else they're passionate about. Email whscharger@gmail.com to share your Top Five.