

PIEDMONT FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWS & UPDATES FROM PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS





PIEDMONT

Public Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION DECEMBER 12, 2022 MEETING UPDATES

ROLL CALL

All board members were present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Terry Herndon addressed the board regarding little league basketball practice/games not being held in PPS facilities and concerns regarding one team using the facilities at Stone Ridge Elementary.

AUDIT REPORT

Steve Blasingame of Angel, Johnston & Blasingame, P.C. summarized the audit report; no findings with regard to federal audit. Addressed one concern regarding one employee not using an hourly timesheet. Overall good audit. He stated Piedmont Schools has "very conscientious people who want to do things right and that is reflected in the audit."

EXECUTIVE SESSION/ACTION ITEMS

Piedmont Public Schools Board of Education convened into executive session. After returning to open session, the board unanimously approved the employment list in Attachment A of the agenda. No action was taken regarding the superintendent's contract upon returning to open session.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The board discussed the possibility of outside organizations' use of facilities next year. Additional discussion regarding the use of Stone Ridge facilities occurred. The employee did not have district approval for use of the facility. The above mentioned team will no longer utilize the facility.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda was unanimously approved with no changes.

NEW BUSINESS

New business included two resignations, both bus drivers, one who will seek to be rehired in April.

BOARD REPORTS

Mr. Matt Bilyeu, Director of Athletics and Activities, presented on his department with highlights and updates. He thanked the community, board members, and administration for support and successes.

Mrs. Lisa Campbell, Assistant Superintendent, presented on October Energage Survey results and PPS Climate and Culture

Committee survey results. She shared strengths, weaknesses, and focus areas moving forward. Key takeaways included:

IMPROVE EFFICIENCY:

Clear and transparent processes

Clear communication regarding new processes or changes

ACTION: Develop flowcharts for common practices

EXPLAIN "THE WHY" TO EMPLOYEES:

Based on survey results, employees are not always clear on the why behind decisions at PPS.

ACTION: Encourage staff to use the help box on the website Staff Resources page

LISTEN TO LEARN:

ACTION:

Continue Committees

- Recruitment and Retention
- District Calendar
- School Climate & Culture
- Technology & Professional Development
- Program Initiatives & Student Remediation

Continue Mentor/Mentee Program (Monthly Meetings)

Piedmont Schools Employees want opportunities to build connections with their colleagues and leaders. These connections will help garner trust among all employees.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

FOCUS: FIRST SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS FOR FALL 2022



NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY

To encourage positive behavior, Northwood has continued our Golden Ticket & Principal's Bingo. Students may receive a Golden Ticket from any faculty member for displaying characteristics of teamwork, integrity, selflessness, friendship, compassion, etc. Students then place part of their ticket on our special bingo board. When a "BINGO" occurs, students participate in a fun activity with Mrs. Warner and Mrs. Knox. Activities this year have included a scavenger hunt, making slime, decorating cookies, and making lava lamps! Students enjoy getting rewarded for their hard work and good behavior!

PIEDMONT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

In August 2022, Piedmont Early Childhood Center started providing services for three-year-olds in our first-ever stand-alone Developmental Delayed Program. We currently have nine students, with a few more in the process of qualifying. The implementation of this program has allowed us to meet the needs of Piedmont children transferring from Sooner Start into the public school system. Having a specific program for them enables students to attend five days of school receiving high-quality early intervention. We are proud to have Mrs. Sholar and the special education team serving our smallest Wildcats.



STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY

The holiday season can be challenging for many families. When PPS partnered with the fire department of Piedmont to collect toys and gifts for families in need, our Stone Ridge community stepped up in a huge way. Not only did we collect all of the requested items, but we also donated more than \$800 in gift cards for families in need! We are consistently amazed at the generosity of our Stone Ridge families.



PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL

PHS added a new class that will allow students to become fully-certified pilots by the time they graduate high school. We have partnered with multiple organizations to get this class fully funded. PHS recently installed a new flight simulator that allows students to test what they know in a controlled environment. We are excited to see our students grow and learn in this fast-paced employment opportunity.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

FOCUS: FIRST SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS FOR FALL 2022



PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Piedmont Elementary students were welcomed back to school with an updated library complete with new carpet, colorful furniture, and bookshelves. The renovation was successful thanks to grants from the Piedmont Schools Education Foundation, the PES Boosterthon fundraiser, and support from the Piedmont school district. We have loved seeing our students check out books and then relax and read using our new cozy furniture. Students, teachers, and parents have provided positive feedback and excited reactions regarding this renovation that provided both a great central location for our students and a revived passion for reading.



PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE

This first semester of the 2022-2023 school year has seen great changes and successes for the students of Piedmont Intermediate as we continue to emphasize our site goals of **Protecting Academic Time** and **Implementing Best Academic Practices**.

Expecting Academic Rigor

One of the most impactful academic changes comes from our intentional implementation of higher-order questions (DOK 3+) on bell work, CFAs, and summative assessments. This change requires students to analyze, process, and produce responses based on their understanding of a subject rather than simply choosing memorized facts from a list. Using the Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) concept, teachers have created scenarios where students must truly show the depth of their knowledge

through challenging questions. We are thrilled to see our students meeting that challenge!

Emphasizing Personal Interactions

Over the last three years, we know our students missed out on relationship-building, interpersonal problem-solving, and simply playing with one another. This year began with a strong initiative to have all personal electronics off and away during class time, which then led to students keeping their phones stowed during lunch. We have seen our students making new friends, playing new games at recess, and creating new memories.

Expanding Dedicated Spaces

We want PI to be a place "where everybody belongs." Another success for this school year results from shifting teacher classrooms to create separate fifth-grade and sixth-grade sections of the

building. This change allows us to insulate our students in parts of the building without isolating them. We immediately reduced the hallway congestion, provided a space for indoor recess that would not disrupt other classes, and minimized student anxiety about getting lost between classes. Teachers have also been able to collaborate more frequently with same-grade cross-curricular partners, share student concerns and successes, and help students develop a stronger sense of "ownership" and pride in their school.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

FOCUS: FIRST SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS FOR FALL 2022



PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Piedmont Elementary saw major safety and security improvements this school year with all new outside security doors, new walkie-talkies for each teacher purchased by our PTO, and new safelD kiosks.

PES PTO was generous in providing our teachers with some of the best walkie-talkies that carry a long distance so we can ensure that teachers can hear when they are called on the playground, during dismissal, in our tornado shelter, and in the event of an emergency.

These upgrades provide a safe learning environment for students, safe working conditions for teachers, and peace of mind for parents.

MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT

Middle School of Piedmont has aimed to increase parent and student involvement this school year. We reinstated in-person Parent-Teacher Conferences this fall and are pleased to report record attendance at our conferences! We have also noticed record attendance at our sporting events, vocal concert, and FCCLA Family Game Night.

The MSP student body has shown great excitement in our activities this semester, and we have loved seeing increased participation. Student Council has a great group of student participants this year who recently volunteered at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma to pack food for the backpack program. Another program that has shown promising growth is our FCCLA. These students have attended one conference and one competition this semester and swept their competitors in their respective events. Lastly, we are proud of our new FFA program and participation from our MSP students. Students have enjoyed competing in FFA events, volunteering, and growing their leadership skills.

The excitement for student clubs and activities is rapidly growing at our school. We love to see our students in action and have our parents supporting these Wildcats in all they do.



PRINCIPAL REPORTS

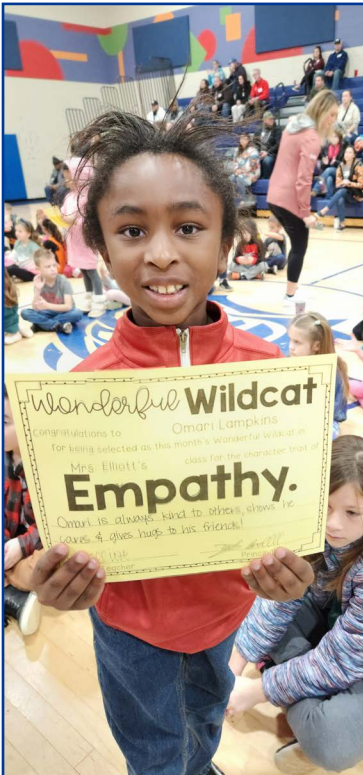
FOCUS: FIRST SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS FOR FALL 2022

PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL

FFA and Agricultural Science classes have taken off at Piedmont High School. FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. This school year is the first time since 1990 that Piedmont has had FFA/AG in school. From community service opportunities to excelling in major competitions, these programs and these student leaders have shined a light on the community of Piedmont. We are thrilled to watch the continued growth of FFA and Agricultural Science at Piedmont Schools.



THE WILDCAT ATHLETIC CENTER GRAND OPENING



STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY

Stone Ridge has enjoyed inviting parents and families back into our building for Wildcat Wake-Up on Fridays! We average more than 100 parents every Friday for our assemblies! We celebrate academic and social successes and highlight character traits like empathy with our Wonderful Wildcats awards. We have partnered with F&M Bank to award gold coins to students who have been recognized by our staff for exceptional behavior. Wildcat Wake-Up is a special time for our entire school community!



DISTRICT UPDATES

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

THE WILDCAT ATHLETIC CENTER GRAND OPENING

Piedmont Public Schools and Piedmont Athletics were thrilled to open the doors of the Wildcat Athletic Center to the public on Friday, December 2nd. PHS Basketball opened their seasons, both winning against opponent Santa Fe South. Spectators received complimentary t-shirts to commemorate the evening. Athletics worked with district officials to launch a hype video to promote the incredible new facilities across the PHS campus. The video highlighted students in athletics and activities benefitting from recent bond elections. The key message shared appreciation for the citizens who voted to allow us to grow in the 2016 and 2020 bond elections.

Wrestling has moved day-to-day operations and practices to their new home inside the facility as of December 6th.

We cannot wait to see how this new facility impacts our students moving forward.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Coach Adam Skokowski was named OBCA Coach of the Year
- JH boys and girls won the Kingfisher Wrestling Tournament
- The softball staff was recognized by the NFCA as the Regional Coaching Staff of the Year
- The Pom squad competed at the state competition.
- Football finished the 2022 season in the State Quarterfinals
- Karissa Fiegenger was named Fox 25's Scholar-Athlete of the Week
- The following students were selected for the OkMEA All-State Band:
 - Josh Lennertz - 2nd Chair Symphonic Band Bassoon
 - Blaine Granger - 2nd Chair Wind Ensemble Trumpet
 - Will Cordell - 2nd Chair Symphonic Band Euphonium
 - Sadie Carlton - 3rd Flute Alternate
- All five E-Sports teams qualified for the Fall Championships in their first year competing. Varsity Smash made it to the quarterfinals, and our League of Legends team will play for the Regional Championship on Tuesday, December 13th.



DISTRICT UPDATES

READING SPECIALIST COLLABORATION

Elementary reading specialists are working with the team at Piedmont Early Childhood Center to administer the state-required dyslexia screener to all kindergarten students. The data gathered from this screening process will be used to identify students who receive supports for reading in the second semester.

STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS

We continue to focus on student mental health by reviewing our crisis response plan with LPCs and our district Security Coordinator. We have clarified our steps moving forward when a student is experiencing a mental health crisis. Our goal is to support the student at the most appropriate level.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SPARKY'S DONATION STATION - HOLIDAY PROJECT

Piedmont Schools continues our partnership with Piedmont Fire Department to serve families who need assistance during the holiday season. This year there are 60 families and more than 200 students who will benefit from this initiative.



ENROLLMENT CENTER	11-7-2022	12-7-2022	
	PIEDMONT ECC	604	600
	NORTHWOOD ELEM.	471	473
	PIEDMONT ELEM.	460	460
	STONE RIDGE ELEM.	591	587
	PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE	756	759
	MIDDLE SCHOOL	775	771
	HIGH SCHOOL	1413	1417
TOTAL	5070	5067	



ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM

THIRD & FOURTH GRADE MATH TEAMS

Third and fourth grade teachers/math leaders and Brenda Davis, Elementary Curriculum Director, have worked together to build quarterly assessments to measure student progress. This team continues to update and modify curriculum maps.

ADMINISTRATOR DEVELOPMENT COHORT

The Administrator Development Cohort met after school on December 5th to learn about building relationships and strengthening collaborative teams through active participation. This group has focused on intentional practices that our aspiring administrators and district leaders can use right now in their day-to-day work in order to strengthen and hone leadership skills.

SPECIAL EDUCATION/ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM JOINT INITIATIVE

Special Education and Elementary Curriculum are making an active effort to improve collaboration between Special Services and general education to improve outcomes for students. A voluntary book study has been initiated that includes elementary upper administration, building administration, special education teachers and general education teachers. The goal of this book study is to learn together in order to best serve students.

DISTRICT UPDATES

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

WILDCAT ATHLETIC CENTER

- Interior signage is underway
- Exterior signage will begin next week
- The elevator inspection is scheduled for December 12th
- Painting crews, floor crews, and hardware installers are on site working through a detailed punch list

MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT

- Under-slab plumbing and electrical is underway in both the gym and area 1
- The process of sealing exterior joints is in progress
- Beginning next week, the concrete roof of the gym will be poured



SECONDARY CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

GIFTED AND TALENTED PLANNING

The Gifted and Talented Committee met again this month to regarding the following:

- The developmental progress of the goals for the 2023 Gifted Plan.
- The questionnaire responses from the survey sent to all of the parents and guardians of students identified as gifted and talented.
- Student focus group feedback.
- Ideas on what we can implement this year to help better serve the GT students at all sites.

The committee will meet again in the spring to finalize the 2023 Gifted Plan.

FOCUS ON U.S. CIVICS TEST

Secondary curriculum has shifted its focus to House Bill 2030. This bill requires high school students to pass the U.S. Civics test in order to graduate. This requirement begins with the Class of 2025. We will offer the test to students at least once per school year, beginning in eighth grade. Any student may retake the exam upon request, or as often as desired, until earning a passing score of 60%. This is the same test administered by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for anyone desiring to become a U.S. citizen.

Before the semester is over, our 8th-grade students will have taken the U.S. Civics Test for the first time. The 9th and 10th grade students will take the test for the first time this spring.

SPECIAL SERVICES AT PPS

ECC 3-YEAR-OLD PLAY DAY

Mrs. Angela Sholar of Piedmont Early Childhood Center invited same-aged peers from the Piedmont Child Care Center to share playtime with students in her class.



NEWLY LAUNCHED: PHS Work Adjustment Training - Grounds and Maintenance Program

SPECIAL OLYMPICS EVENTS
Mark Your Calendar: Winter Games- January 12-14

PARENT EDUCATION NIGHTS

HOSTED:

Fostering Communication Development November 15th

UPCOMING:

Fine & Gross Motor Skills January 13th

