

# PIEDMONT FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWS & UPDATES FROM PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS





# PIEDMONT

## Public Schools

### BOARD OF EDUCATION AUGUST 14, 2023 MEETING UPDATES

#### ROLL CALL

Steven Cox was absent. Layne Jones, Katie Cornman, Greg Duffy, and Derek Jones were present.

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Lynn Soriano addressed the board and complimented administration and staff on handling Middle School band concerns.

Ryan Burch addressed the board and expressed concerns about pick-up and drop-off procedures and traffic patterns, specifically at Piedmont Intermediate and High School.

Pamela Dowdy addressed the board regarding outside services and district policy regarding outside services. She specifically wants a Registered Behavior Technician to work with her child during the school day.

#### BOARD REPORTS

Mr. Matt Bilyeu shared plans for portable buildings for the Middle School of Piedmont with the board. There was additional discussion about future portables at Stone Ridge Elementary, per Board Member Derek Jones.

Information regarding Athletics and Activities included PPS is now in class 6A, except in softball and football. Football will shift to 6A next year.

Completed summer projects were discussed. See this month's newsletter for a full list.

#### BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Discuss and take possible action on TOPS Interlocal Cooperation Agreement.

Motion: Approval by Katie Cornman, seconded by Greg Duffy. Business item was approved.

B. Discuss and take possible action on Executive Director of Academic Services Job Description.

Motion: Approval by Greg Duffy, seconded by Derek Jones. Business item was approved.

C. Discuss and take possible action on HVAC Job Description.

Motion: Approval by Derek Jones, seconded by Greg Duffy. Business item was approved.

D. Discuss and take possible action on Agreement with Center For Education Law for Legal Services for \$1,000.00 for Fiscal Year 23-24.

Motion: Approval by Layne Jones, seconded by Derek Jones. Business item was approved.

E. Discuss and take possible action on Center for Communication and Engagement Agreement for \$1,000.00 for Professional Services for Fiscal Year 23-24.

Motion: Approval by Derek Jones, seconded by Greg Duffy. Business item was approved.

F. Discuss and take possible action on ACT WorkKeys Agreement for Paraprofessional Assessments not to exceed \$1,200.00 for Fiscal Year 23-24.

Motion: Approval by Katie Cornman, seconded by Derek Jones. Business item was approved.

G. Discuss and take possible action on Memorandum of Understanding for Southern Nazarene University Cohort Master's Program.

Motion: Approval by Layne Jones, seconded by Derek Jones. Business item was approved.

H. Discuss and take possible action on the Middle School Construction Change Order for private gas line feeding east building in the amount of \$22,058.00.

Motion: Approval by Katie Cornman, seconded by Layne Jones. Business item was approved.

I. Discuss and take possible action on Declaration of Hours vs Days as stated in Policy EBA – School Hours for the School Year 23-24.

Motion: Approval by Greg Duffy, seconded by Derek Jones. Business item was approved.

J. Discuss and take possible action on proposed revision to Bus Driver Compensation Schedule for Fiscal Year 23-24.

Motion: Approval by Derek Jones, seconded by Greg Duffy. Business item was approved.



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K. Discuss and take possible action on revision to Assistant Athletic Director and Facilities Manager Compensation Schedule for Fiscal Year 23-24.  
Motion: Approval by Layne Jones, seconded by Derek Jones.  
Business item was approved.

L. Discuss and take possible action on Extra Duty Contract in the amount of \$5,000.00 with Mashon Buckner for Coordination of Virtual School through Edmentum Enrollment.  
Motion: Approval by Derek Jones, seconded by Greg Duffy.  
Business item was approved.

M. Discuss and take possible action on proposed payment of Professional Development stipends.  
Motion: Approval by Derek Jones, seconded by Layne Jones.  
Business item was approved.

### CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the consent agenda were unanimously approved.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Piedmont Public Schools Board of Education convened into executive session to discuss the following:

1. Appeal of the promotion of student A, a student at Piedmont Public Schools. 25 O.S. § 307(B)(5)
2. Matters involving a specific student who receives special services where disclosure of student name would violate confidentiality requirements. 25 O.S. § 307(B)(6) and 25 O.S. § 307(B)(7)
3. Employment as listed on Attachment C pursuant 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1) and 25 O.S. § 307(B)(2)
4. Negotiations concerning employees and representatives of employee groups. 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1) and 25 O.S. § 307(B)(2)

### ACTION ITEMS

The board voted to reverse the promotion of student A, a student at Piedmont Public Schools.

The board voted to approved the agreement with BC Behavioral for a student who receives special services.

Disclosure of student name would violate confidentiality requirements.

The board voted to approve employment as listed on Attachment C of the agenda.

The board voted to approve the 2023-2024 Negotiated Agreement.

### NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ITEM OF INFORMATION – FOD-R Student Suspension Procedures – Revised

# DISTRICT UPDATES



ENROLLMENT CENTER		5-2-2023	8-11-2023
	PIEDMONT ECC	613	634
	NORTHWOOD ELEM.	479	483
	PIEDMONT ELEM.	455	454
	STONE RIDGE ELEM.	598	640
	PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE	763	877
	MIDDLE SCHOOL	768	771
	HIGH SCHOOL	1411	1542
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5089</b>	<b>5401</b>

## New Enrollees

Our enrollment specialists have worked tirelessly to process **789** new-to-Piedmont students this summer. We applaud the efforts of Lisa Bole and Elizabeth Quiñones.

## SPECIAL SERVICES

### Our Numbers:

56+ enrollments of students with disabilities  
 35 students on Special Transportation  
 812 Total IEPs - 15% of Piedmont students are on an IEP

### New Construction ADA Compliance:

Special Services is collaborating with Operations to ensure construction projects and buildings are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### Special Education Boot Camp Participants:

Charity Cain, PHS  
 Logan LaRue, PHS  
 Julie Cumings, MSP



## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

- Occupancy was granted for the Middle School on August 6th.
- New exterior doors replaced and painted at MS
- Roads, sidewalks, curbing nearing completion at MS
- East building teacher's bathroom rental placed at MS
- Coryell Roofing begins at Piedmont Intermediate (aimed completion date for all sites 2/1/24)



## TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

- We completed two CDL classes this summer! We are excited to welcome our new drivers.
- We are working to balance routes for student loads and times as school begins.
- All buses have been through the State inspections and passed.
- **Turn-by-turn navigation tablets have been ordered for every route bus. Special thanks to Dr. Eichelberger and Mr. Bilyeu for making it possible!** We anticipate delivery and installation within 30 days!
- As of Friday, August 11th, we have nearly **2,300 students riding the bus.**

# DISTRICT UPDATES



## KICKING OFF THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

We reunited with our entire Wildcat team to get back to work on Monday, August 7th. Members of the PHS pom and cheer squads cheered the team into the building at Piedmont High School while the Pride of Piedmont Band played to get everyone in the school spirit! Teachers enjoyed catching up over bagels and coffee, thanks to the generosity of Quail Creek Bank and Coffee Jerks. Teachers enjoyed hearing from Dr. Eichelberger about expectations for the upcoming year. We ended our welcome back with the second annual Piedmont Palooza with 32 local businesses in attendance!

## ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION



### STANDARDS-BASED REPORT CARDS AT PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE

With Piedmont Intermediate under the elementary umbrella, one shift will be to a standards-based report card. Brenda Davis collaborated with 5th-grade core teachers to create the new report card. Families of our new 5th-grade students have been used to this style of reporting for several years. We will work with teachers to ensure they have what they need and understand new expectations.

### TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION CLASSES

Tech Ed is an exciting new "Special" for our 1st - 4th-grade students. The Oklahoma State Department is piloting Computer Science standards this year. Our new Tech Ed teachers, Brenda Davis and Lizzie Charon, our Technology Integration Coach, have used these standards to develop an engaging and fun curriculum for students. The first nine weeks will focus on basics and troubleshooting like logging in, and digital citizenship, including internet safety.

## Maintenance

Maintenance conducted the first-ever "Big Stuff Removal" event at every school site on the Tuesday and Wednesday before school, removing any large, unwanted items too big for dumpsters from the school sites.

## COMPLETED PROJECTS

### PIEDMONT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Complete replacement of cafeteria floors

### STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY

- Converted part of the library into a classroom.
- Converted former computer lab into a regular classroom.
- Converted both portable rooms into regular classrooms.
- Thirty classrooms received wall repair and paint.
- Fire lane repainted.
- Gym floor was refinished and repainted.

### PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY

- New carpet and paint in six classrooms.
- New carpet, tile and paint in former library commons area.
- Fire lane repainted.
- Outside landscaped and trees trimmed.

### NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY

- Drywall repair and paint in the front vestibule under the skylights.
- Fire lane repainted.

### PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE

- Wall repair and paint in every classroom after smart board removal.
- New entry carpet at every entrance in the school.
- Cracked tile repair in the cafeteria.
- Entrance repainted.
- Fire lane repainted.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT

- New fixtures and trashcans for all bathrooms.
- New keys for all exterior doors.

### PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL

- New blinds in all classroom windows on the west side of the building.
- Major repairs to five exterior doors.
- Entrance repainted.
- Outside landscaped and trees trimmed.

# DISTRICT UPDATES



## SECONDARY SCHOOLS UPDATES



### MIDDLE SCHOOL WORKING TOGETHER!

After passing inspection Monday, the entire MS team worked together to prepare rooms, move furniture, and get the building ready for kids to return to campus. **Erin Pruitt has led her site with perseverance throughout this entire process.** We applaud both the high school and middle school teams for collaborating and sharing space at the high school while the middle school was closed.



### LEARNING IN FOCUS: PPS INSTRUCTIONAL COACHES

We are very excited about our Instructional Coaches, Shantaya Ross, Angela DeLong, Catherine Harpham, and Jessica Brown (formerly known as Instructional Resource Specialists - IRS). We've changed the title of their roles, as well as how they will perform these roles. The goals of our Instructional Coaches is to:

- 1). Improve Student Outcomes
- 2). Teacher Development

They will spend time in classrooms, supporting teachers with creative teaching strategies, providing customer service, and building trust and relationships with staff/students, all while collecting data to improve outcomes for our students.

### A SUCCESSFUL START

Erin Pruitt and Steve Spears have been phenomenal in welcoming back our teachers. Their professional development sessions have been focused on culture, relationships, creative teaching strategies, collaboration, and technology. It's been a great start to the year. We want to develop a culture where our teachers feel valued, supported, and encouraged, and we're off to a great start.

### It's a GREAT DAY to be a Wildcat!



# DISTRICT UPDATES



## Good News AT PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS



### PIEDMONT FFA AWARDED AS NATIONAL 2 STAR GOLD EMBLEM CHAPTER

The Piedmont FFA is officially a National 2-Star Gold Emblem Chapter! Our chapter is one of only 281 chapters chosen for this honor out of the 8,995 FFA Chapters in the nation. Additionally, our students are the **ONLY** first-year FFA chapter to receive this recognition.

Our FFA chapter will be honored during the 96th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis in November. **Congratulations to our FFA students and sponsor, Julie Horton!**

## NEW TEACHER ACADEMY

We eagerly welcomed more than 100 new teachers and staff members to the district on Thursday, August 3rd. These new team members enjoyed breakfast from Oklahoma Educators Credit Union, Grand Canyon University, and lunch from American Fidelity.

This introductory experience was a team effort, with informational sessions led by many district leaders and school-based experts.

- Kimberlee Morrison, Seesaw
- Instructional Coaches Shantaya Ross, Angela DeLong, Catherine Harpham, and Jessica Brown, Google Drive, and shared drives
- Joy Ruiz, Powerschool
- Lizzie Charon, Classroom Relay and Schoology
- Brenda Davis, Elementary Curriculum
- Patricia Balensiefen, HR
- Riley Thomas, Communications
- Amy Bixler and Brenda Davis, HMH Overview

We especially appreciate the members of our IT team and HR team who provided support at Piedmont Intermediate.



# DISTRICT UPDATES

## Human Resources

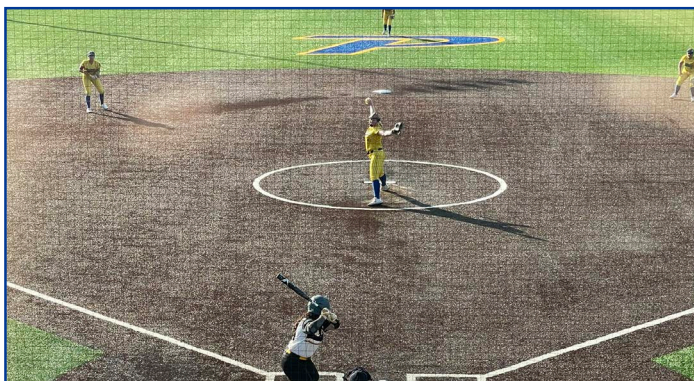
### PPAT PARTY WITH PATTY

We met with all emergency and alternative certified teachers on July 26 to explain the process and timeline to take the PPAT, a national required portfolio assessment for all non-traditional certified teachers. Teachers learned about the four tasks and timeline for these assessments. Most teachers completed task 1 or had enough resources to complete task 1.

HR also met with all tier 2 paraprofessionals on August 8 to set up a plan to get them credentialed through WorkKeys.

### HR IS ON THE MOVE

- We plan to meet with UCO, SNU, and online Grand Canyon University representatives to offer a cohort or discounted coursework for our emergency and alternative certified teachers.
- Working collaboratively with PAE on additional topics and language items
- Working on a plan to get all duties equally assigned to different teacher groups.
- Ensuring state accreditation standards are met by auditing and guaranteeing all teachers are given the required weekly minutes of scheduled plan time.
- Designating a lactation room in each school facility per SB121, which requires school districts to provide paid breaks and a private, secure, sanitary location for lactating employees.



## ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

High School and Middle School fall activity numbers are very competitive with other Class 6A schools (489 Total Students)

- HS Cross Country: 46
  - HS Fast Pitch Softball: 31
  - HS Football: 123
  - HS Volleyball: 32
  - MS Cross Country: 80
  - MS Fast Pitch Softball: 26
  - MS Football: 109
  - Volleyball: 34
- Varsity Fast Pitch is off to a fast start. The Wildcats went 2-0 at the East/West Classic with wins over Claremore and Pryor, and they won both district contests over Santa Fe South in Run Rule fashion, 15-0 and 13-0. Their next competition is the Veteran's Bat Tournament in Norman.
  - High School Volleyball is 1-1. The Wildcats lost in 5 sets to Mustang and won in 5 sets versus Moore. The next competition is the Coweta Tournament.
  - Piedmont Unified Volleyball opens the season on August 31st at home against Yukon at 6 p.m.
  - Varsity and Junior Varsity Cross Country begin their season at the Deer Creek Field Run Festival on August 19th, and the middle school begins competing on August 24th at Deer Creek.
  - Piedmont football hosted their Wildcat preview on Saturday, August 12th, at the F&M Bank Stadium. The first scrimmage versus Ardmore is on August 19th.
  - The Pride of Piedmont hosted their annual Meet the Pride event on August 11th at 7 p.m.