

PIEDMONT FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWS & UPDATES FROM PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS





PIEDMONT Public Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION DECEMBER 12, 2023 MEETING UPDATES

ROLL CALL

All board members were present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public participation

PRESENTATIONS

Jordan Smith of Stephen L. Smith Corporation presented a Capital Improvement Plan and potential bond proposal options to the board. He provided an analysis of historical growth in valuation, at an average of 10.57% over the past five years and 15.44% last year. He also provided projections for growth at a conservative 5% annually.

Three options for possible bond issue amounts were presented to the board, including information on the funds available for projects and the repayment plan options. The option recommended to the board by Mr. Smith is an 11-year bond with an election amount of \$114,480,000. This amount would result in \$71,232,000 available for bond projects. This option also results in no tax increase, currently at 36.50 mils for property owners. A final proposal will be presented to the board for a vote in January.

BOARD REPORTS

During a conversation about the board reports, Mr. Layne Jones recognized Mr. Greg Duffy, a Piedmont Board of Education member who recently passed away. All board members expressed their sincere appreciation for his service to the district and his leadership as a fellow board member.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. The board approved the proposed payment of extra duty stipends as listed in Attachment D.
- B. Dr. Eichelberger provided the new vision statement, mission statement, and core values to the board of education. These statements were developed by the executive team drafted with feedback from administrators and teachers across the district. The board motioned to adopt the following:



C. The board discussed and approved the revision of Policy CFB - Activity Funds.

D. The board discussed and approved an agreement with Fuelman OMNIA Partners for fuel fleet cards.

CONSENT AGENDA

The board moved to approve all items on the consent agenda, including the PPS Wellness Plan 2023-2024.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board did not convene into executive session to discuss employment as listed in Attachment C.

ACTION ITEMS

The board approved employment as listed in Attachment C.

NEW BUSINESS

The board approved the resignation of Isaac Balma, paraprofessional, effective 12-11-23. The resignation was received after the agenda was posted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board convened into executive session to conduct an ongoing evaluation of the Superintendent pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307 (B) (1) at 7:04 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT



HONORING GREG DUFFY

This past week we lost a friend, colleague, supervisor, father, husband, career public servant and board member, Greg Duffy. I only had the pleasure of knowing Greg for a short time. During that time, I found him to be intelligent, caring, funny, reflective and an excellent listener. Each time I saw Greg, he greeted me with a smile. He truly cared for the students, teachers, and staff of our school district. Greg volunteered countless hours to our district. He wanted Piedmont Schools to be a great place for students to learn and staff to work. I believe the best way to honor Greg is to carry out the vision he had for our district.

I am proud of the work done on our district vision, mission, and core values statements. Defining these standards is the first step in developing plans for improvement for our schools as well as the district. This will not be a document that relegated to a dusty shelf. We envision this document to prominently displayed in our schools and, even more importantly, evident in what we do.

It is an exciting time to be part of the Piedmont Schools staff and community. We are blessed to have supportive school board, a hard-working staff, and an amazing community. Together, there is nothing we can't accomplish!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Drew Eichelberger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Drew Eichelberger, Superintendent
Piedmont Public Schools

DISTRICT UPDATES

PARENT UNIVERSITY SUCCESS AT PPS



Our inaugural Parent University event was a success! The educational seminar hosted in collaboration with OSSBA's Brandon Carey drew approximately 100 parents and students from our school community. The session focused on enlightening attendees about the hazards, implications, and consequences of social media, risky applications, and cyberbullying in the context of Title IX. The event took place on December 6th at the Wildcat Athletic Center.

THE PIEDMONT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COHORT IS BACK!

We are happy to share we have a group of thirty-five PPS staff members actively participating. This group is committed to developing their leadership skills through monthly meetings covering a wide range of topics. This year, we have broadened the cohort to welcome anyone interested in leadership roles, not exclusively limited to administration. More than half of the attendees are returning from last year, highlighting the ongoing value this collaborative initiative.

ENROLLMENT CENTER

| | 11-9-2023 | 12-8-2023 |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| PIEDMONT ECC | 621 | 626 |
| NORTHWOOD ELEM. | 486 | 486 |
| PIEDMONT ELEM. | 445 | 447 |
| STONE RIDGE ELEM. | 637 | 637 |
| PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE | 864 | 864 |
| MIDDLE SCHOOL | 757 | 762 |
| HIGH SCHOOL | 1519 | 1516 |
| TOTAL | 5339 | 5344 |

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Middle School

- Furniture coordination nearing completion with final proposal scheduled for Jan. 8th
- Data installation has begun in areas one (classrooms) and three (gym)
- Electrical, HVAC, and plumbing rough-in completed in admin and band areas
- Interior framing in the media center, band, commons, and kitchen areas completed
- Locker rooms in the gym painted
- Admin drywall completed 12/5
- Plan for fence layout coordinated with LBI
- Number of VB system sleeves added to the gym floor
- Southside hardscape completed 12/6
- The asphalt top coat will be completed over the winter break
- Estimated project completion - Mid-April 2024

Coryell Roofing

- MSP, HS, PI, PES work has been completed
- SR and NW will begin Spring of 2024

Administration/Childcare Center

- Sod laid



DISTRICT UPDATES

DRIVER SPOTLIGHT

GAYLA PAXTON
BUS 15



Gayla has been driving a bus for Piedmont since 1996! Her favorite part of driving a bus is getting to know the kiddos and getting to hear all their stories. When Gayla isn't driving she likes to spend time with her Grandchildren, go camping and riding horses. Growing up Gayla wanted to be a race car driver. We are thankful to have such a warm and kind bus driver like Gayla!



SPECIAL SERVICES

We have received our OSDE District Determination report for Special Services. We are happy to share the results of the Differentiated Monitoring Report indicating we are at Level 1 Support and Fully Compliant with no concerns detected. We have fulfilled all requirements with 100% of the target met for District SPED Ed Determination.

On December 4th, Kaitlin Smith and Jessica Cahill Hodges and psychologists/psychometrists, Misty Granger, Betsy Roark, and Kacie Olson, attended Facilitator Training through SERC. The training provided a comprehensive overview of facilitation, covering facilitator qualities and skills, key functions of a facilitator, and the facilitator's role before, during, and after a meeting. The session also provided attendees with a toolbox of practical strategies and techniques, with a specific focus on developing in-house facilitators for IEP meetings.



COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS & OPPORTUNITIES

Secondary principals and Mark Melton recently took tour of the Canadian Valley Juvenile Justice Center. We spent the morning with Kimberly White, Director of Behavioral Health. Their facility is outstanding, and the resources it offers for kids and families in Canadian County is truly special.

In light of the valuable insights gained during our visit, we have scheduled a session for secondary counselors and Licensed Professional Counselors on our upcoming February 19th Professional Development day. We are committed to investing in and strengthening our partnership with Canadian Valley, ensuring that we make the most of the resources they have to offer to our students and families.

DISTRICT UPDATES

MAINTENANCE UPDATES

The Maintenance department now has dedicated office and meeting space within the maintenance shop. Special thanks to the IT department for providing wifi and printers, the Transportation department for hosting our daily meetings throughout the year, and to Dr. Eichelberger and the board for their efforts in establishing a functional maintenance department.

Roof Unit Replacements: Over the Thanksgiving break, two RTU pack units on the roof of Piedmont Elementary were successfully replaced. Both units are up and running efficiently.

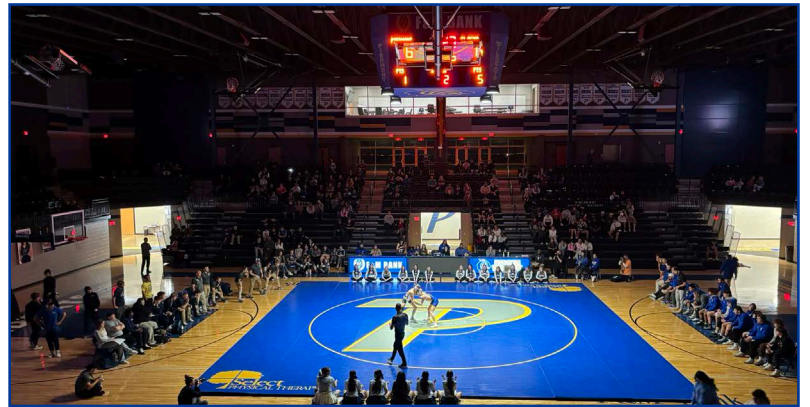
Gym Floor Protection Initiative: We are working to equip each school site with a full set of custom-sized tarps for gym floor protection. This strategic move eliminates the need to transfer tarps between sites, ensuring better floor protection, increased flexibility, and a more professional appearance during events. Piedmont Elementary has already received new tarps and a custom-built rolling cart, with other sites to follow suit.

November Work Order Summary: In November, the Maintenance department successfully completed 176 work orders, addressing various maintenance needs across the district.

Heating System Repairs: Responding to 58 requests for non-working heaters since the fall began, the Maintenance team has successfully fixed the overwhelming majority. Ongoing preventative maintenance efforts aim to minimize similar issues next fall.

Stone Ridge Library Improvement: A new wall section with a door has been added at Stone Ridge, ensuring the special services classroom in the back of the library is secure and compliant with all fire codes.

Efficient Supply Management: The implementation of a new system for requesting and delivering janitorial supplies and copy paper to sites has proven highly effective. Notably, no school has required emergency deliveries this school year, a significant improvement from last year.



ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

BAND

Congratulations to the following students for their selection for all-region, all-state and other honor groups:

OkMEA All-State Band:

Jewel Horn - Baritone saxophone
Sadie Carlton - Flute
Brooklyne Sprague - Flute
Cloe Abner - Trombone
Avery Weed - Trumpet

Central Oklahoma Director's Association All-Region Band:

Cloe Abner - Trombone
Josh Bird - Trombone
Sadie Carlton - Flute
Aly Dennie - Bass Clarinet
Jewel Horn - Alto Saxophone
Brennon Nave - French Horn
Peyton Nguyen - Bb Clarinet
Brooklyne Sprague - Flute
Kate Baldwin - Bb Clarinet
Jackson Bryan - Trumpet
Keegan Curtis - Trombone
Sammie Mondt - Flute

Oklahoma Youth Jazz Ensemble:

Cloe Abner - Trombone
Jewel Horn - Baritone Saxophone
Avery Weed - Trumpet
Ryder McGillicuddy - Drum Set

DISTRICT UPDATES



ESPORTS:

All five of our teams eligible for playoffs qualified. Six teams secured positions in the top 10 overall rankings within their respective leagues. Rocket League and Super Smash Bros earned number 2 seeds entering the OSSAA playoffs.

FOOTBALL:

Concluded the season with a 7-4 record and a first-round exit in the playoffs following a fall to Elgin.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL:

2-0 record

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL:

1-1 record

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL:

7th Girls: 4 Wins, 0 Losses

7th Boys: 3 Wins, 1 Loss

8th Girls: 2 Wins, 2 Losses

8th Boys: 1 Win, 3 Losses

POM:

Preparing for the OSTDA State Competition in Tulsa on December 9.

SWIMMING:

Completed three meets so far, with upcoming competitions against Harrah and Edmond, along with the Yukon Invitational at Edmond's YMCA at Mitch Park.

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING:

Currently hold a 0-1 record.

Future dual meets are scheduled against El Reno and Shawnee.

Upcoming tournaments include the Mid America in Enid and the KC Stampede in Kansas City.

MIDDLE SCHOOL WRESTLING:

Varsity achieved the title of Shawnee Dual Tournament Champions.

JV secured 10th place at Kingfisher, with Nixon McCaulla earning the title of Outstanding Wrestler.

Upcoming dual meets are set against El Reno and Shawnee.

Upcoming tournaments include Boys at Elgin and Girls at Cache.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

#PIEDMONTPROUD

Our Piedmont community is the driving force behind the success of Piedmont Public Schools. The support, active involvement, and dedication to our students contribute significantly to our thriving educational environment.

HONORING VETERANS AT PIEDMONT SCHOOLS

Students across the district honored the men and women who have bravely served our country through musical performances, art projects, recognition programs, and more. We are happy to share a glimpse into our Veterans Day celebrations.

We are forever grateful to all who have served and are currently serving in our armed forces. We are especially thankful for the Veterans who pour into our students at Piedmont Public Schools as educators, bus drivers, paraprofessionals, and more.

On Wednesday, November 15th, Mr. Steve Ham led the Piedmont Elementary 4th-grade Music Club in a visit to the Veteran's Center. During the visit, they presented a condensed rendition of our Veterans Day Assembly to the audience. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and the Veterans and senior citizens in the audience expressed their appreciation, enjoying the company of our students. The organization warmly invited our students to return anytime!



STUDENTS SERVING OTHERS AT MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT

Our Middle School of Piedmont Student Council volunteered with the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma this week, packing food bundles for the student backpack program. They successfully boxed 411 packages, benefiting 2,466 children enrolled in the program. This effort translates to a total of 6,507 meals provided for children in need!

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

UNLOCKING THE MAGIC OF LEARNING *Where School Meets Fun*



PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY

The annual Macy's Thanksgiving Parade at Piedmont Elementary featuring our 2nd-grade students is a highly anticipated event for the entire school. Taking place on the Friday before Thanksgiving break, PES parents are invited to attend and enjoy the lively parade showcasing colorful balloon creations. In this creative process, each second-grade class picks a book, and students skillfully design balloons inspired by the characters within those stories. To amplify the festive atmosphere, our PHS Pride of Piedmont drummers guide the classes around the gym. Pausing in the center of the gym to share smiles with their supportive audience (parents), the students proceed with the parade throughout the school, delighting teachers and students alike.



NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY

The week of November 13th, Northwood Elementary celebrated Kindness Week, led by our counselor, Emily Little. Mrs. Little facilitated engaging lessons and activities for teachers and students, emphasizing the importance of spreading kindness throughout our school and community. In honor of this special week, our Wildcat Pack club organized a schoolwide food drive to contribute to the City Center of Bethany. Under the guidance of Mrs. Fuston and Ms. Nadia Kattan, the Wildcat Pack delivered an impressive 2270 items to the center, making a positive impact on those in need.



STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY

On December 1st, the Oklahoma FBI SWAT team visited Stone Ridge to provide an exciting presentation for our 2nd-grade classes. The students had the opportunity to witness firsthand the impressive tools and techniques employed by the SWAT team in carrying out their duties. The presentation showcased drones, robots, and various specialized equipment. Additionally, the students were introduced to the SWAT team's response vehicle, the Bearcat, adding an extra element of fascination to the experience.



MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT

On November 15th, Mrs. Graham and her FCCLA group participated in the FCCLA STAR event. We are proud to share all of our students excelled in the competition, with some advancing to the regional level this spring. Beyond their accomplishments at the event, Mrs. Graham's students engaged in a thoughtful community service activity, preparing pies and personally delivering and serving them at the Senior Citizens lunch hosted by The Bridge Church.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

WILDCAT WOW FACTOR



PIEDMONT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

In her first year as a Piedmont Wildcat, Mrs. Cheyenne Ogletree has swiftly established herself as a highly effective leader within her pod. With four years of teaching experience under her belt, Cheyenne brings passion and dedication to her role as a Kindergarten educator. Her ability to foster a safe and nurturing classroom environment is exemplary, and she skillfully implements Conscious Discipline techniques in her teaching approach.

Beyond her individual classroom, Cheyenne actively supports her colleagues and contributes positively to the overall atmosphere of the green pod. The Early Childhood Center is truly fortunate to have Mrs. Ogletree as a valuable member of its educational community.

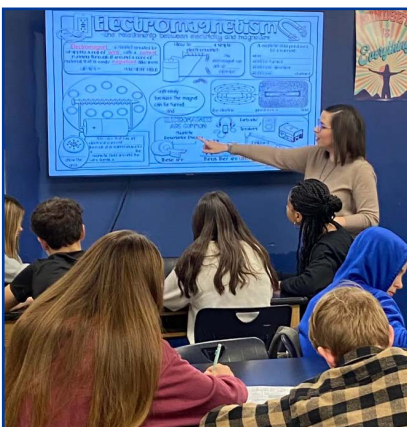


ACADEMIC FOCUS

Just as a village collectively contributes to the upbringing of a child, our school community is dedicated to fostering the growth and well-being of our Wildcats. Teachers, classmates, and parents each play crucial roles in guiding students through the challenges of adolescence. With over 2,200 Wildcats in our middle and high schools, many face obstacles and distractions outside of the classroom that hinder their learning.

Recognizing the potential for students to thrive with additional support, school counseling teams and staff have collaborated to identify specific students who could benefit from extra attention. These students will soon be paired with staff members at both the site and district levels for regular, intentional interactions.

Our goal with this "Village" program is for staff members to establish connections with these students, offering support and encouragement along their journey. We believe that this initiative will have a lasting impact on students who require more than the daily doses of support they currently receive. We want our students to understand that they are not alone; there is a community ready to assist them in becoming the best versions of themselves.



MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT

Blaire Dallis is an 8th-grade Science teacher with eight years of experience in education, now in her second year as a Piedmont Wildcat. Mrs. Dallis stands out as a leader in the classroom and among her peers. She recently led a session on Trauma Informed Classrooms during the Professional Development day.

Mrs. Dallis makes learning a fun and engaging process for her students. They are currently gearing up for a lab where they will create electromagnets. This hands-on activity aims to explore the intricate relationship between electricity and magnetism. Students will experiment with various methods to manipulate the strength of an electromagnet, improving their understanding of these scientific principles.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

WILDCAT WOW FACTOR

PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL

Ken McQueen serves as a dedicated instructor for AP World History at Piedmont High School, boasting an impressive career spanning forty-eight years in education. Surprisingly, his goal is to achieve the fifty-year milestone, after which he plans to take it one year at a time! Throughout his extensive career, Mr. McQueen has made a lasting impact on numerous students.

Mr. Spears, Piedmont High School Principal, shares a unique connection with Mr. McQueen. In 1980, Mr. McQueen served as his Sophomore basketball coach! The enduring lessons on discipline and determination taught by Mr. McQueen during that period continue to resonate in Mr. Spears's life today.



STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY

Denise Ashmore, a dedicated 2nd-grade teacher at Stone Ridge, has demonstrated exceptional commitment to Stone Ridge Elementary by actively supporting her colleagues. She has taken the initiative to present professional development sessions on de-escalation strategies when working with students who may face difficulties. Denise's valuable background and wealth of experiences contribute significantly to the professional growth of our staff at Stone Ridge.

NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Laura Pope has dedicated the past 13 years to serving as the music teacher at Northwood. With a career spanning 23 years, Mrs. Pope has contributed her talents to various districts, but she has found her home in Piedmont and its schools. Diligently working to foster a love for music and the arts, she engages students through activities, programs, and online experiences.

A significant milestone in her professional journey, as of December 15th, Laura will have completed her Masters in Educational Leadership. She aspires to continue her career as a Fine Arts Coordinator, furthering her impact on the enrichment of education through the arts. Mrs. Pope's passion for music and commitment to education shine, and we are lucky to have her at Northwood!



PRINCIPAL REPORTS



PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE

Sara Rhoades, Library Media Specialist at Piedmont Intermediate, stands out as a leader at Piedmont Intermediate. Beyond her role, she sparks a genuine passion for reading in students. Stepping into the library under her guidance creates an immediate desire to pick up a book!

Sara serves as the driving force behind several beloved school events, including Kona Ice, Thunder field trips, and DUCK week. Her commitment to student engagement is evident in the various activities she spearheads, such as Craft Club, Yearbook, dress-up weeks, and lunch karaoke. These initiatives provide opportunities for students to enjoy themselves and have fun at school. Piedmont Intermediate is incredibly fortunate to have Sara Rhoades, whose dedication and creative approach significantly contribute to the school's vibrant and positive atmosphere.

PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY

Steve Ham has been an invaluable music teacher at Piedmont Elementary for the past three years. Mr. Ham is a one-of-a-kind teacher who can connect with every student at every level. He goes above and beyond to foster a sense of pride and accomplishment in his students, encouraging them to take risks.

One notable aspect of Mr. Ham's teaching approach is his commitment to showcasing students' musical talents. Whether it's playing the piano, trombone, or drums or performing vocal ensembles, he actively promotes students' musical performances during events like Wildcat Wakeups and school lunches. Witnessing the students' achievements is impressive, but the transformation in their confidence is truly remarkable.

Mr. Ham truly brings out the best in everyone at Piedmont Elementary. He actively seeks out students who may not always receive acknowledgment and helps them find reasons to be proud. Piedmont Elementary is fortunate to have a teacher like Mr. Ham, who consistently significantly contributes to the positive atmosphere at PES.

