

PIEDMONT FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWS & UPDATES FROM PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS





PIEDMONT

Public Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION JANUARY 2024 MEETING UPDATES

ROLL CALL

All board members were present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public participation.

PRESENTATIONS

Zonda Education - Demographic Study Update

Rocky Gardiner presented district growth projections using multiple data sources.

Stephen L. Smith Corp. - Bond Financial Presentation

Jordan Smith provided a comprehensive plan for the 2024 Bond Resolution. Additional discussion following the presentation included ideal timelines and items on the bond resolution. Dr. Eichelberger reviewed the project selection process. This process started with a meeting with the Superintendent's Advisory Council - a group of community members and parents. This group collaborated to select projects they deemed most important for the students of Piedmont Schools. The district then used this information to develop a survey for our school community. This survey provided insight on what our school community finds most important as our district grows.

Lingo Construction - Construction Presentation

Stan and Jacob Lingo presented "What is Construction Management?" The presentation included the many benefits of using a construction management company as opposed to a design/bid/build process, which is what the district has used in the past. There was discussion regarding legality, accountability, the bidding process, fee structures, and more from the board.

Center for Education Communication - Bond Marketing

Kathleen Kennedy presented "Winning Student Investment Campaigns" to the board. This presentation included the process of using her services and how the Center for Communication and Engagement can assist school districts in passing a bond issue.

Dr. Eichelberger emphasized the importance of passing the bond in 2024 due to our increasing student population. He continued by stating how working with an expert with a proven track record for passing bonds would be ideal.

BOARD REPORTS

Dr. Eichelberger highlighted a few points in the district and school site updates provided to the board.

BUSINESS ITEMS

A. The board skipped business item A "Discuss and take possible action, in the absence of the President and/or Clerk, to appoint an acting President and/or acting Clerk for the School District to execute any and all documents pertaining to the calling of a special election to authorize general obligation bonds."

This was not needed, as both the BOE President and Clerk were in attendance.

B. The board unanimously approved the resolution authorizing the calling and holding of a special election to be held in the Piedmont School District to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds.

C. The board discussed an Agreement between the Owner and the Architect with The Stacy Group, Inc. for architectural services for the 2024 Bond Program, subject to review and approval by the District's legal counsel. Dr. Eichelberger confirmed this has been approved by the legal counsel. Derek Jones motioned to approve. The board unanimously approved the motion.

CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the consent agenda were unanimously approved. Katie Cornman asked what we do with items once we declare them obsolete. (item H. Declaration of Obsolete/Surplus Items) Those items can be resold if possible or disposed of.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board did not convene into executive session.

ACTION ITEMS

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

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board convened into executive session to discuss the appointment of an individual and/or interview candidates for vacant school board ward #3. 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1) and 70 O.S. § 5-118.



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BOARD OF EDUCATION JANUARY 2024 MEETING UPDATES



The board returned to open session at 10:06 p.m. to discuss the appointment of an individual and/or interview candidates for vacant school board ward #3. 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1) and 70 O.S. § 5-118.

No action was taken.

ACTION ITEM

Steven Cox motioned to appoint Jerrod Moser to vacant school board ward #3. The motion was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Tonight, we witnessed a significant moment in the history of Piedmont Public Schools. Our board voted to approve a bond resolution of over 100 million dollars. The bond, if passed by the Piedmont patrons, will play a crucial role to continue moving this district forward. The word is out, Piedmont is the district to send your kids for a great education from great teachers, staff administrators, and board members.

SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH

January is School Board Appreciation Month. It is a time to recognize the men and women who share their time, vision, and voice on our local school board. We offer thanks to our board for their dedication and passion to our district.

Our school board members are an integral part of the Wildcat family. They help develop important school policies, manage an annual budget of nearly 40 million dollars, plan school bond initiatives to provide vital funding to our schools and make tough decisions on complex educational and social issues. Our school board ensures our students are taught the necessary skills to make them successful members of our community and society.

Our school board members carry out the truest form of representative government in our democracy – volunteer public service – and they preserve the core of our democratic society – public education.

TEACHER HIGHLIGHT

I received an email from a parent and staff member, Ashley Waddell, Speech-Language Pathologist at Piedmont Elementary. Ashley wanted to brag on her daughter's teacher at Piedmont Intermediate, Mrs. Theresa Griffin, for the relationships she has built with her students. Ashley reports that Mrs. Griffin's kids were up early this morning "begging" for a class Zoom with their teacher. Mrs. Griffin happily obliged.

"The majority of their class logged on just to chat and see her! My husband and I are so thankful for her and the time and energy she puts into our daughter and all of her students!! THANK YOU, MRS. GRIFFIN! You are so appreciated!" - Mrs. Ashley Waddell

We focus on positive, appropriate relationships with our students. Research supports that positive relationships improve student learning and teacher job satisfaction.

JANUARY 2024

DISTRICT UPDATES



ACADEMIC SERVICES

Our Leadership Development group currently has approximately 30 participants. December's focus was servant leadership and included a panel of servant leaders from various areas of our district.

Our Reading Specialists are working to finalize our reading essential skills for K-6th. This follows the initial step of teachers selecting the essentials on our Professional Development Day in November. The next step will be creating a district document with this information.



DATA-DRIVEN SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

District and school site leaders are working together to assess data from various sources, such as Oklahoma School Report Cards, Oklahoma School Testing Program scores, ACT scores, academic cohort data, graduation rates, and attendance data. Our school sites are developing personalized School Improvement Plans and specific goals as we begin the second semester using this data. This collaborative effort is a strategic initiative to improve academic outcomes for all students.



OPERATIONS

Piedmont Public Schools is actively participating in Sodexo's "Best In Class" Menu pilot program, introducing innovative features to enhance the dining experience. The recently launched menu focuses on "Perfect Pairings," where each entrée is thoughtfully matched with a specific fruit or vegetable to promote a well-balanced diet. Additionally, a "Made from Scratch" entrée is introduced weekly, aligning with the commitment to providing wholesome and nutritious meals. The district plans to gather feedback through surveys and tasting events in the coming weeks, aiming to refine and optimize the menu based on the preferences of students and their families. The initiative not only prioritizes the well-being of students but also positions our district as a leader in providing innovative and nutritious dining options. We are thankful for the continued support in implementing positive changes to our culinary offerings.



MAINTENANCE UPDATES

- Replaced 3 rooftop HVAC units over PHS band and choir facilities.
- Replaced over 250 damaged or missing ceiling tiles at PES
- Replaced over 350 damaged or missing ceiling tiles at PHS
- In response to multiple recent reports of leaking fixtures, inspected and serviced all toilets and urinals at ECC. Replaced rubber components in nearly every fixture in the building
- 113 maintenance work orders completed during the month of December.

DISTRICT UPDATES



SUPERINTENDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

On December 13th, district leaders met with an outstanding group of parents and community members about the growth our district is experiencing. The thoughts and contributions of this group will help us move forward as we plan our next steps as a district. .

Following this meeting, we distributed a district-wide survey to assess the needs that our families believe exist for our students.

We extend our gratitude to each participant for their time and insightful contributions!

NEW STUDENT COUNCIL SELECTION PROCESS FINALIZED AT PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL

APPLICATION: The application will feature short-answer questions related to leadership and will undergo anonymous evaluation, with no student names attached. A committee of five, including administrators, will review the applications.

INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS: A selection committee, consisting of five individuals, including Mr. Spears and Mr. Melton, will conduct individual interviews. This process provides an opportunity to get to know the candidates and understand their interest in joining STUCO. The interview phase is expected to span 1-2 days.

STUDENT VOTING: The final phase of the selection process involves student voting. Candidates will have the chance to campaign before the voting period. The student body will cast votes for candidates in their respective grades, with the vote counting overseen by an administrator.

The implemented changes aim to achieve our primary goal of establishing a fair, objective, and transparent process. We extend our gratitude to the committee of PPS employees and community members who played an important role in developing this new process for Piedmont High School.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Congratulations to Charity Cain, Logan LaRue, and Julie Cuming graduated from Piedmont's Special Education Boot Camp.

Individuals who complete a Special Education Boot Camp in the state of Oklahoma have undergone an intensive and specialized training program designed to equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the complexities of special education. The Special Education Boot Camp graduates are now able to apply for their provisional teaching certificate with the OSDE.



DISTRICT UPDATES

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES



ACADEMIC TEAM:

The Froshmore Academic team continues to see immense success. They recently won the Science and Humanities games. They will now head to the Tournament of Champions in March!



BAND:

Fourteen Piedmont Band students participated in the CODA All Region Clinic/Concert at OU on January 5th and 6th.

Our band program continued to shine throughout the winter concert season! Our students showcased their abilities during 6th Grade, Middle School and High School Winter Concerts along with a successful Jazz and Percussion Concert.

E-SPORTS:

Our PHS E-Sports team are the OSSAA State Semi Finalists in the following categories: Mario Kart, Rocket League, Splatoon, Super Smash. Congratulations on a another great year!

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING:

4th Place at Mid-America Nationals, 18th Place at Kansas City Stampede (Second highest finish of Oklahoma participants), 9th Place at Geary Invitational (Oldest Wrestling Tournament in the Nation)

ENROLLMENT CENTER

	12-8-2023	1-11-2024
PIEDMONT ECC	626	628
NORTHWOOD ELEM.	486	487
PIEDMONT ELEM.	447	448
STONE RIDGE ELEM.	637	642
PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE	864	868
MIDDLE SCHOOL	762	764
HIGH SCHOOL	1516	1531
TOTAL	5344	5370



ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES CONTINUED...

SWIMMING:

Completed nine meets so far, with upcoming competitions in Stillwater and the COAC Conference Meet at the Mitch Park YMCA in Edmond.

HS BOYS BASKETBALL:

10-3 record

HS GIRLS BASKETBALL:

4-9 record



JANUARY 2024

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

PIEDMONT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Celebrating the holidays at the Early Childhood Center is really "The Best Time of The Year." Our teachers transformed their classrooms into cultural showcases that reflect the diversity of holiday customs and celebrations worldwide. The friendly competition of a door decorating contest added joy to the season as our teachers unleashed their artistic talents, bringing magic to our pods. Each door showcased the collaborative, community nature of our staff. Students participated in writing letters to Santa and also received letters from Elves, thanks to the support from Mrs. Ludwig's high school FACS students.

Amid the holiday buzz, our school community experienced an outpouring of generosity as our ECC families embraced the spirit of giving and filled all requests from our Giving Tree project. The holiday spirit extended beyond the classroom as our school came together for a festive sing-along. Students and teachers alike joined in a sweet celebration, sharing holiday songs. The best part of our sing-along was a visit from Santa himself. Who knew that Santa could play the sousaphone?



PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL

PHS Spanish club members went Christmas Caroling to all the other Piedmont school sites on December 15th. The Spanish club is sponsored by all of our Spanish teachers - Andrea Carpenter, Jamie Johnson, Cassidy Baker, and Corbyn Hume.

PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE

As we kick off a new semester, we are excited about four brand-new portable classrooms to better accommodate our growing student population. Our teachers and students have shown incredible resiliency and flexibility in sharing, creating, and using spaces this year to teach and learn. We are putting the final touches on the new classrooms to ensure our teachers have everything they need to start fresh in classrooms they can finally call their own.



PRINCIPAL REPORTS

MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT

We are eager to get the second semester kicked off at MSP. The second semester brings new elective classes for our students, continued Winter activities, and the anticipation of Spring sports and performances. We continue to see progress on the construction project and are eager to occupy our new facilities very soon!

We have introduced The Village concept to our staff, starting the semester with intentional efforts to connect with the students selected for this initiative. We hope students feel supported on their journey, knowing that The Village is here for them. The Wildcat team is eagerly awaiting the names of their Village students, brainstorming creative and personal ways to foster connections within the school day.



NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY

At Northwood, we continuously strive to ensure our school has a positive culture & atmosphere. This year, we have implemented several different activities that have boosted morale. Some of those things include monthly PTO-sponsored lunches, school-wide events & competitions, and holiday games throughout the month for teachers with donated prizes for winners.



PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY

At Piedmont Elementary, our Parent Teacher Organization has worked diligently to increase the number of parents involved and host events to help everyone feel school is their home away from home.

One example of their hard work was our Night at the North Pole event. Parents grabbed their cookie dough orders, and Santa joined the fun for photos and chats with students. Turquoise Spur Design, owned by one of our Piedmont parents, captured all the magic on camera.

We encouraged parents to spread the word and invite everyone in our community to take pictures with Santa. We had a fantastic turnout! Parents loved that it was a familiar spot for kids, where kids could see their friends and parents could get high-quality photos at a great price. It was a blast for the PTO, students, and parents! It showcased how our PES PTO is connecting with parents and bringing more families into our school.



PRINCIPAL REPORTS



STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY

Dr. Erin Nation has tirelessly collaborated with our community to provide presents for families in need through Sparky's Donation Station. She spent countless hours after school and on her own time to make sure families had their needs met with support from our school community. Additionally, she played a vital role in orchestrating a video and dance presentation on the last Friday before winter break, creating a memorable celebration to wrap up 2023!



Mrs. Alicia Gorman, a 3rd-grade teacher, has gone above and beyond to support our new teachers, particularly with integrating technology in the classroom. She works diligently behind the scenes to ensure our team is successful. She truly makes a difference in our school community.



Mrs. Adrienne Morgan, also a 3rd-grade teacher at Stone Ridge, took over organizing our lost and found by photographing and numbering items and sharing the photos on social media to help reunite lost belongings with their owners. This effort was a HUGE success, especially during our winter party days when parents visited the school and could see items their student was missing.