

PIEDMONT FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWS & UPDATES FROM PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS





PIEDMONT Public Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION FEBRUARY 2024 MEETING UPDATES

ROLL CALL

All board members were present.

BOARD MEMBER OATHS

President Layne Jones administered the oath of office to newly appointed member Jerrod Moser, Seat #3.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cindy Parish spoke regarding her support of the district and public schools. She is running for House District 100 representing both Piedmont and Putnam City Schools. Cindy is a former Piedmont School teacher.

PRESENTATIONS

Lippert Brothers and Lingo Construction presented regarding construction management services for the potential 2024 bond projects. These companies both highlighted past and current projects and capabilities as construction managers.

BUSINESS ITEMS

A. The board discussed the presentations by Lippert Brothers and Lingo Construction. Mr. Jerrod Moser motioned to hire Lingo Construction, highlighting that safety is a value of their company and a quality earmark. Mr. Steven Cox stated he likes that out of the company's 32 active projects, 24 are repeat customers. Mrs. Katie Cornman said it appears Lippert is transitioning into this type of work while Lingo is at the top of the construction management space. The board unanimously approved the hire of Lingo Construction for construction management for the potential 2024 bond projects.

B. The board unanimously approved Form 307 Supplemental appropriation for \$2,651,818.74 additional General Fund.

C. The board discussed revisions to BOE Policy EHAC - Virtual, Blended, and Distance Learning. The revised policy was approved unanimously.

D. The board discussed revisions to BOE Policy EIA-R4 - Student Promotion/Retention Regulation. Mrs. Katie Cornman requested to add that the district appeals process will be provided at the time of the decision to promote or retain. The board approved the revised policy with the suggested change per Mrs. Cornman.

E. The board reviewed and approved proposed revisions to policy FM - Student Activities Scholastic Eligibility.

F. The board reviewed and approved proposed revisions

to policy FMA - Extracurricular Activities.

G. The board reviewed and approved proposed revisions to policy FOD - Suspension of Students

H. The board reviewed and approved proposed revisions to policy FOD-R - Student Suspension Procedures

The drafts of these policies will be finalized and added to the website by Monday, February 19th, 2024.

BOARD REPORTS

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

CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the consent agenda were unanimously approved. This included the 2024-2025 District Calendar.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board convened into executive session for the purpose of:

1. Discussing employment as listed on Attachment C. 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1)
2. Discussing the employment of superintendent. 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1)
3. Discussing the employment of the superintendent's executive team as listed on Attachment D. 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1)

The board returned to open session at 9:34 p.m. No action was taken.

ACTION ITEMS

- A. The board unanimously approved employment as listed on Attachment C.
- B. Mr. Jerrod Moser motioned to add an additional year to the contract of the superintendent. The board unanimously approved this motion.
- C. The board unanimously approved the employment of the superintendent's executive team as listed on Attachment D.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.



PIEDMONT

Public Schools

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Congratulations to our site teachers of the year. We have highlighted each school site's teacher of the year honoree in our newsletter. The Site Teacher of the Year award is special because each individual is chosen by their colleagues for their ability to impact the lives of students and staff in their building. We have amazing teachers in Piedmont, and we are blessed to have these teachers of the year winners at our school sites.



Congratulations to the Piedmont Public Schools Education Foundation on another successful Denim and Diamonds Gala! It was a fantastic evening of food and fun. We greatly appreciate our foundation and all they do to help our teachers and students.



These are exciting times for Piedmont Public Schools. Look for more educational information about our upcoming bond via email and social media.

CONGRATULATIONS

TEACHER OF THE YEAR HONOREES!



PIEDMONT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER DR. RAE LIGHTFOOT

"Dr. Rae Lightfoot never ceases to go above and beyond for her students. She is continuously growing as a professional in order to implement the most effective and efficient techniques with our students. She is always available and willing to help teachers with classroom interventions and ideas that are individualized to each student. She is passionate and driven, with a goal of helping each student achieve their maximum potential. Piedmont ECC is better because of Rae Lightfoot!"

NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY JENNIFER LAWSON

"Jennifer is patient, kind, and loving. Ms. Lawson is the true definition of teacher...a person who helps others. Her passion for children and learning is unstoppable. Jennifer believes in the whole child, and does not let a disability stand in the way of a child's learning. She uses innovative and exciting lessons going above and beyond expectations, while making learning fun and exciting for all students. Jennifer has the respect and admiration of her students and coworkers."



PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY LISA NUNES

"Lisa Nunes is new to PPS this school year and has been an invaluable addition to the SPED department at Piedmont Elementary. Lisa works great with students, teachers, and parents alike. She is knowledgeable on special education best practices and pulls from previous experiences in teaching. Above all else, Lisa is kind, a wonderful educator, great to collaborate with, and always quick to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. We're so thankful to have Lisa as a part of the Wildcat Family!"

STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY EMILY BUCKINGHAM

"Emily's influence is far-reaching throughout Stone Ridge. She is welcoming to ALL STUDENTS and teachers daily. She hugs each student every day that enters her room. She models and develops character-building within her classroom while motivating students to respect one another. Her love is genuine and intrinsic, and her students thrive under this guidance. Emily makes a difference by genuinely caring for others, her leadership, and her desire to better herself and others. These strong attributes affirm that she is an ambassador for this school and community, but she is also the essence of an accomplished professional."



CONGRATULATIONS TEACHER OF THE YEAR HONOREES!



PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE AMANDA BAUSTERT

"Amanda is an innovative educator who always goes the extra mile to make our school a positive place to work. She inspires her coworkers by leading by example. She challenges her students by providing meaningful lessons. Amanda Baustert has proven herself a master of all trades and a team player at Piedmont Intermediate. It's evident that she has a positive impact on both her colleagues and students, fostering not only academic growth, but also personal development. Amanda Baustert is a vital part of what makes Piedmont Intermediate so great. Recognizing and appreciating educators like Amanda is crucial for maintaining a thriving school community."

MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT HANNAH SAWYERS

"Hannah always goes above and beyond for her students and fellow staff members. She is always willing to jump in and help in anyway she can. Hannah makes her students feel welcome and safe in her classroom, allowing them to learn to their best ability."



PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL KELLY BECK

"Kelly Beck is the epitome of what it means to be a Piedmont Wildcat! Kelly is welcoming, understanding, equitable, empathetic, passionate, enthusiastic, and a life-long learner. Students are held to a high standard in his classroom and he promotes and models an unmatched work ethic. What is truly remarkable about Kelly is his opportunity to model and promote these characteristics in and out of the classroom. Kelly Beck embodies what it means to be a Piedmont Wildcat, and his impact in and out of the classroom is unmatched."

DISTRICT UPDATES

ENROLLMENT CENTER

	1-11-2024	2-8-2024
PIEDMONT ECC	628	633
NORTHWOOD ELEM.	487	488
PIEDMONT ELEM.	448	451
STONE RIDGE ELEM.	642	643
PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE	868	865
MIDDLE SCHOOL	764	766
HIGH SCHOOL	1531	1524
TOTAL	5370	5372



ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

PIEDMONT LITERACY PROCESS CONTINUUM

We are thrilled to have developed our latest Piedmont Literacy Process Continuum, crafted with the most current research findings and insights from our dedicated classroom teachers. With the collaborative efforts of our Reading Specialists, Interventionists and our Literacy Coordinator, Piedmont will have a refined literacy roadmap tailored for student achievement.

USING DATA SUPPORT STUDENT LEARNING

Elementary and Intermediate principals participate in weekly data meetings to help support teachers in determining instructional strategies and differentiated learning opportunities. For example, 3rd through 5th-grade students recently took a comprehensive ELA exam. Principals and teachers analyzed the data to develop Tier 1 instructional strategies and Tier 2 interventions for mastery of essential standards.

OPERATIONS

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Our school district's transportation department has experienced significant enhancements this school year to accommodate district growth and improve overall service to students and families.

Improvements include:

- The addition of four new bus routes to address the increasing demand for bus transportation district-wide.
- Implementing a new transportation pay scale has been instrumental in attracting and retaining qualified bus drivers, contributing to the overall quality of our transportation team.
- Our entire yellow fleet now features tablets with turn-by-turn navigation and GPS tracking, enhancing safety and efficiency, especially in the event of a substitute driver on a route.
- We've streamlined our training program to facilitate a quicker acquisition of a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) to ensure new hires are well-prepared to contribute to the smooth operation of our transportation department.

This month, we have welcomed three new CDL-certified Bus Drivers to our team. These individuals worked diligently to master the material and successfully pass the state exam. We are incredibly grateful that they have chosen to join our team here in Piedmont.

DISTRICT UPDATES

ACADEMIC SERVICES

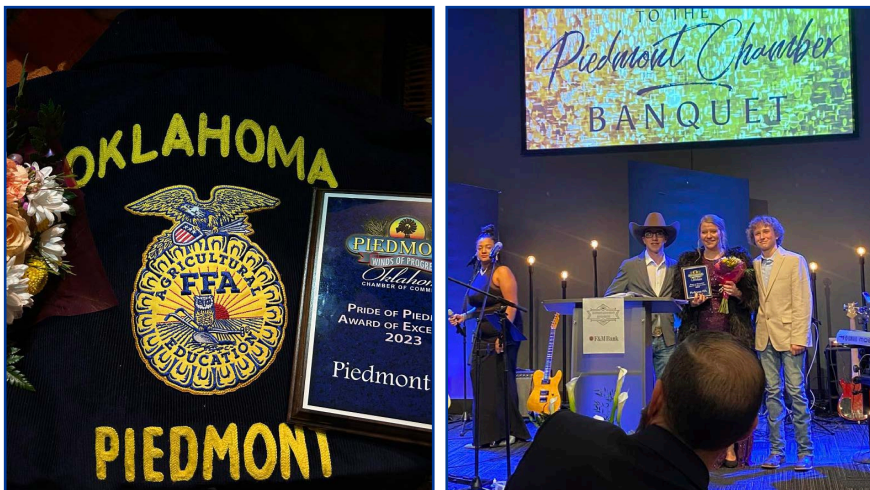
SELECTING MATHEMATICS CURRICULUM

A team of fifteen Piedmont educators participated in the OKSDE Math Textbook Caravan to begin the process of adopting a new mathematics curriculum for K-12 students for the 2024-25 school year. Two of the publishers represented at the caravan will present to our staff during our February 19th Professional Development.



CONGRATULATIONS ANNIE FARRIS, STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY 3RD GRADE TEACHER

Mrs. Farris received a \$479.92 grant from the Oklahoma Educators Credit Union to purchase systematic phonics activities based on the the Science of Reading for her classroom.



CONGRATULATIONS TO PIEDMONT FFA!

Our Piedmont FFA Chapter was honored by the Piedmont Chamber of Commerce with the Pride of Piedmont Award of Excellence at the January 20th Chamber Awards Banquet.

OPERATIONS

MAINTENANCE UPDATE

128 maintenance work orders were completed throughout the district in January

We now have the ability to do in-house key duplication. We have made 86 keys at a cost of \$79 for blanks. The cost at a locksmith for those 86 keys would be \$430.

Constructed and installed a new "gaga ball" pit on the playground at Stoneridge Elementary to replace the old one that had fallen apart.

Purchased and installed automatic hand soap dispensers in specific restrooms at two schools for use by wheelchair-bound students.

Purchased Carbon Monoxide detectors for all classrooms at Piedmont Elementary. Installation is scheduled to begin in February.

Poured new concrete entry pad and added 25 tons of gravel at and around the maintenance facility.



DISTRICT UPDATES

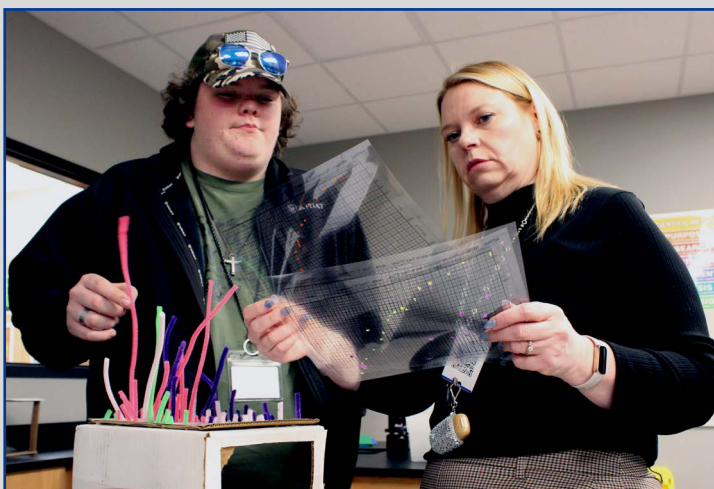


BEGINNING ENROLLMENT PROCESSES

Middle School of Piedmont and Piedmont High School are already beginning the process of pre-enrollment and scheduling for next school year. PHS is bringing back more semester electives to provide flexibility with scheduling. Introduction to Teacher Education is one of the newest elective options developed for our students interested in becoming educators. The school is eager to gauge student interest in this exciting opportunity!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In January, secondary Principals and Mr. Mark Melton participated in a professional development session focused on student searches. This session proved to be highly informative, underlining the significance of staying updated on proper procedures. While our schools aim to minimize the need for student searches, it's crucial that we adhere to the law and follow proper procedures when such situations arise.



SPECIAL SERVICES

Special Olympics State Winter Games was all about the action for our Wildcats! Middle School of Piedmont's Addie Behrens hit the pool, showing off her swimming skills. Athletes from Piedmont Elementary, Stone Ridge, Piedmont Intermediate, and Middle School of Piedmont were rolling strikes in bowling, while Piedmont High School athletes competed in Unified Volleyball. Our Wildcats brought their A-game during the basketball competition. It was a fantastic celebration of sportsmanship at the State Winter Games!



DISTRICT UPDATES

FINE ARTS & ACTIVITIES



BAND:

The following students were selected and performed with the Central Oklahoma Directors Association Honor Band: Cloe Abner, Kate Baldwin, Josh Bird, Jackson Bryan, Sadie Carlton, Keegan Curtis, Aly Dennie, Jewel Horn, Sammie Mondt, Brennon Nave, Peyton Nguyen, & Brooklyn Sprague

The following students were selected and performed with the Oklahoma Music Educators Association All-State Band/Orchestra: Cloe Abner, Sadie Carlton, Jewel Horn, Brooklyn Sprague, & Avery Weed

VOCAL MUSIC:

Casey Elrod (8th Grader) OCDA Junior High All State Choir honoree. Casey performed at the Oklahoma City Convention Center on January 13.

Antonio Bianchi (Senior) OMEA High School All State Choir honoree. Antonio performed in Tulsa on January 20.

ESPORTS:

40 Students on Roster
Spring Season Underway in Five Games (Mario Kart, Super Smash Brothers, Splatoon 3, Rocket League)

CHEER/POM:

Performing at Games and Wrestling Matches
Cheer is practicing for upcoming Stunt season.

ATHLETICS

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Season Record 15 Wins 4 Losses
District Record 7 Wins 3 Losses
Weatherford Tournament 3rd Place
Frontenac, KS Tournament 1st Place

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Season Record 8 Wins 11 Losses
District Record 4 Wins 6 Losses
Weatherford Tournament 7th Place
Newcastle "Sweet Pea" Tournament 3rd Place

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Boys 7th Grade Season Record 12 Wins 3 Losses –
Weatherford Tournament 1st Place
Girls 7th Grade Season Record 10 Wins 5 Losses –
Blanchard Tournament 3rd Place
Boys 8th Grade Season Record 3 Wins 12 Losses
Girls 8th Grade Season Record 10 Wins 5 Losses –
Blanchard Tournament 3rd Place

HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING

COAC Conference Meet (7 Swimmers set Personal Records)
Maya Johnson 20th Place – 50 Meter Free
Noah Morrison 14th Place – 100 Meter Breaststroke
Troy Brooks 19th Place – 100 Meter Breaststroke

WRESTLING

Season Record 9 Wins 1 Loss
Geary Invitational 9th Place Individual Medals 4
COAC Conference Tournament 3rd Place
Individual Medals 8
Chickasha Tournament 1st Place
Individual Medals 11
District Champions
OSSAA Dual State - February 9, 2024

GIRLS WRESTLING

COAC Conference Tournament 8th Place
Individual Medals 2
Yukon Tournament JH/HS Tournament 3rd Place
Individual Medals 9

MIDDLE SCHOOL WRESTLING

Season Record 11 Wins 1 Loss
Chickasha Tournament 3rd Place
Individual Medals 12
Edmond "Ted Anderson" Tournament – 11th Place
Individual Medals 4

FEBRUARY 2024

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY

Kerry Brinkley and Renee Hosmer, two outstanding Stone Ridge parents, co-lead our Parent-Teacher Organization. In their first year as co-presidents, they've made a lasting impact on our entire staff as strong supporters of Stone Ridge. They organized a successful Fall fundraiser, helping provide new sports equipment, support for teachers, and classroom resources. I'm grateful to work with them to ensure our school remains a great place for students to thrive.

Next, I'd like to spotlight Melissa Hoar. For several years, Melissa has been an incredibly dedicated member of our PTO, serving as the helping hands coordinator. She generously volunteers multiple days a week at our school and consistently advocates for Stone Ridge. The quality education Piedmont offers wouldn't be possible without the support of our community and parents like Melissa, along with those highlighted today!



PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL

Stephanie Payne's Biology class took a unique approach to studying protein synthesis by incorporating everyone's favorite treat—ice cream. This creative and innovative teaching method showcases dedication to engaging students in unconventional ways.

PIEDMONT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Mrs. Bethel is one of our fantastic kindergarten teachers at Piedmont Early Childhood Center. Her commitment to early childhood education and her passion for fostering literacy skills are evident in her daily instructional practices. Her students have been practicing critical writing skills in their January journals, working specifically on developing a story's beginning, middle, and ending. Mrs. Bethel is empowering her students to become confident writers.

PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE

Cross-curriculum collaboration is underway in 6th grade! Students are exploring the various aspects of Mexico in Social Studies classes while researching self-directed topics of Mexican culture in their ELA classes with sources provided by the Social Studies team. Students will conclude this project with an informative essay, a multimedia creation, and an informal speaking presentation. Intermediate Social Studies and ELA teams have worked cohesively over the past year to make this project a reality after last year's successful "National Parks" cross-curricular research collaboration.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY

On January 23rd, Lyric Theatre delighted Northwood Elementary 1st and 2nd-grade students with a performance of Cinderella, followed by a rendition of Oklahoma for 3rd and 4th graders. These engaging shows were made possible thanks to Mrs. Pope and Ms. Kimmel, who submitted a request to Lyric Theatre's Free School Program.



PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY

Mrs. McConnell's second-grade students have been diligently studying 2-D shapes. They began by identifying the sides, angles, and vertices of shapes like triangles, rectangles, and trapezoids. Then, they applied their knowledge by constructing these shapes using toothpicks and marshmallows. The students showcased both creativity and pride in their efforts. Mastering 2-D shapes at this stage serves as a foundation for understanding geometry in high school.

MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT

At Middle School of Piedmont, we've been exploring ways to make the most of our time with students during the school day by providing intervention and reteaching opportunities for those who may not have fully grasped a skill or standard initially. We've initiated six small, targeted groups during Advisory sessions, focusing on specific Math and ELA components identified through student assessment data as areas needing further instruction. With the collaboration of four teachers and one instructional coach, more than 75 students receive additional support from a teacher to enhance their understanding and practice in particular skills, fostering continued academic growth in those content areas.

We are proud of our teachers for delving into the data and identifying opportunities within our academic schedule to ensure students have more chances to grow their understanding. We are equally proud of our students for their commitment to putting in the extra effort. Exciting progress is underway at MSP!