

# PIEDMONT FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWS & UPDATES FROM PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS





# PIEDMONT *Public Schools*

## BOARD OF EDUCATION MARCH 2024 MEETING UPDATES

### ROLL CALL

All board members were present.

### PRESENTATIONS

A. Evan Blasingame of Angel, Johnston & Blasingame, P.C. who co-led this year's audit, provided information regarding the 2022-2023 audit. He covered the responsibilities of the auditors (Angel, Johnston & Blasingame, P.C.) and the responsibilities of the auditees (Piedmont Public Schools). The company has issued a good opinion of the sample of district financial statements.

B. Lisa Campbell, Assistant Superintendent, presented data regarding the spring Elementary School Improvement Plans. This presentation included information on state assessment data, cohort data to analyze trends in ELA and Mathematics across grade levels, and information on the Piedmont Literacy Continuum. She shared the S.M.A.R.T. goals for each site and celebrations and successes at our schools.

C. Mark Melton, Executive Director of Secondary Education, presented data regarding the spring secondary School Improvement Plans. This presentation included information on grades on the State Report Card. A S.M.A.R.T. Goal for secondary schools is for Math and ELA scores to increase by 10% on state assessments. He reviewed data for ACT data, as well. Another S.M.A.R.T. Goal for secondary schools is to see ACT Composite scores increase to 20.6. He also shared celebrations and successes at our schools.

D. Brenda Davis, Executive Director of Academic Services, provided an update regarding identifying essential standards in math and reading. Ms. Davis shared the importance of our teachers owning this work and leading the process of identifying essentials. This provides a formula for new teachers to follow and helps teachers understand the core areas necessary for mastery.

Dr. Eichelberger stated that teachers are tasked with teaching an expanded set of standards and substandards. While we strive to cover as much content as possible, our primary focus is ensuring all students master the essential concepts. Identifying standards serves as a measurable benchmark and forms the foundation of our curriculum.

### BOARD REPORTS

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

### BUSINESS ITEMS

A. The board unanimously accepted the 2022-2023 Audit

B.- J. The board unanimously approved revisions to the following policies:

- BJC-Evaluation of the Superintendent
- CRT-Prohibition on Race and Sex Discrimination in Curriculum and Instruction
- DE-R1-Salary Schedules
- EGAA-Curriculum Development to combine/ include EFAA-Textbook Selection and EHA-Basic Instructional Program
- EHBE-Limited English Proficiency Instruction
- EHDD-Concurrent Enrollment Student
- EHDD-R-Concurrent Enrollment Student (Regulation)
- FFA-R-Head Lice (Regulations)
- FO-Student Discipline

The drafts of these policies will be finalized and added to the website by Monday, March 18th, 2024.

K. The board discussed a quote from Frontline Management for time and attendance timesheet management. This will take the place of paper timesheets district-wide. This was approved by the board.

### CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the consent agenda were unanimously approved.



# PIEDMONT

## Public Schools

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Jennifer Fuller, Piedmont Schools Chief Financial Officer, provided a financial report update to the board.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board did not convene into executive session to discuss employment as listed in Attachment C. 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1)

### ACTION ITEMS

A. The board unanimously approved employment as listed in Attachment C.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

### NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

I want to thank Brenda Davis, Lisa Campbell, and Mark Melton for their board presentations. There is excellent work being done by teachers and administrators with respect to curriculum, instruction, and student achievement. We are making significant strides in each of these areas.

Thank you to each of our departments for their hard work and flexibility this year. This year has been a year of change. Many people have been asked to do things differently or take on additional responsibilities. We appreciate you all.

We have expectations for all Piedmont administrators. We want to build strong relationships with students, staff, parents, and the community, provide high-quality customer service, focus on servant leadership, and listen to understand. If you are not seeing these attributes in all site and district administrators, call us on it. We can always improve.

Finally, thank you to Steven Cox for ten years of service on the Piedmont Public Schools Board of Education. He has provided steady leadership and continuous support for all components of Piedmont Public Schools. We greatly appreciate your service.

Lastly, these are exciting times for Piedmont Public Schools. Look for more educational information about our bond via email and social media!

# DISTRICT UPDATES

## ACADEMIC SERVICES

### SUCCESSFUL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

On February 19th, we had an excellent professional development day throughout the district. The day was split between sessions organized by the district and sessions held at individual school sites.

The site-based professional development was customized to address specific needs at each location. At the secondary level, both our high school and middle school collaborated to offer a diverse range of sessions. These sessions were not only engaging, creative, and relevant but were also facilitated by our own team members.

Furthermore, teachers at all levels had the chance to learn about and provide feedback on one of the state-approved Math publishing companies, which will be considered for the upcoming math adoption.

We appreciate our building administrators for leading this process, and we applaud our teachers for their dedication to continuous improvement and development!



## ENROLLMENT CENTER

	2-8-2024	3-5-2024
PIEDMONT ECC	633	636
NORTHWOOD ELEM.	488	489
PIEDMONT ELEM.	451	447
STONE RIDGE ELEM.	643	644
PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE	865	859
MIDDLE SCHOOL	766	766
HIGH SCHOOL	1524	1521
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5372</b>	<b>5369</b>

### MATH ADOPTION UPDATE

This year, we are selecting a new math curriculum. Our priority is to ensure significant teacher involvement in this critical decision-making process. So far, two companies have presented their materials to our teachers, and teachers have carefully evaluated and rated them.

We have one more company scheduled to present before all math teachers vote on which curriculum to adopt. The prospect of accessing high-quality math resources district-wide is exciting as we look ahead.

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### BIG CHANGES AHEAD AT PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE

Piedmont Intermediate is undergoing significant changes as we transition to a more age-appropriate approach for our students. This school year, we added Wildcat Wake-Up for all students and a "home base", where students have a central "hub" to make connections and start their day. We implemented standards-based grading and report cards for fifth grade.

Next school year, the schedule for fifth graders is aligned with an elementary model, with only one transition for core classes.

# DISTRICT UPDATES

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

In February, the Information Technology Department has successfully completed multiple infrastructure and device management projects to improve educational environments at Piedmont Public Schools. Our team has expanded network connectivity at Piedmont Intermediate, repaired 160 Chromebooks, replaced six staff devices, and collaborated on repairs for 13 intercom systems at the High School.

Additionally, we assisted in the installation of sound paneling at the Wildcat Athletic Center and installed an access point for a baseball player monitoring and tracking system.

## Good News AT PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Piedmont High School's Caleb Houston has achieved an exceptional academic milestone! He has secured a remarkable trifecta, earning recognition as Academic All-State, attaining the status of National Merit Finalist, and achieving a perfect score on his ACT exam.

## SPECIAL SERVICES

PHS Unified Olympics Club participated in the Oklahoma Polar Plunge for the first time. They raised more than \$3000 for Special Olympics Oklahoma!



# DISTRICT UPDATES

## OPERATIONS

Our District has hosted a range of events this school year! Highlights include:

- Piedmont Elementary's gym served as the venue for Piedmont Youth Basketball League games and practices since October.
- The Wildcat Athletic Center accommodated nearly 700 youth wrestlers for the Northwest Oklahoma Kids Wrestling Association Regional tournament.
- Hosted a Winter Guard Percussion of Oklahoma contest with 36 schools and 1,500 students participating.
- Organized and hosted the four-team 6A Wrestling District Duals and the three-day 6A Area Basketball Tournament
- Hosted a 6A Women's Soccer Festival at F&M Stadium, featuring our defending state champions!

We appreciate the dedication of our staff, coaches, sponsors, administrators, volunteers, and our supportive community for providing impactful experiences for our student-athletes of all ages!



## TRANSPORTATION

In February, our school district marked a milestone with 2,500 registered bus riders. With ongoing district growth, our focus now shifts to the upcoming school year as we strategize how best to support our school community.

As new neighborhoods emerge district-wide, we're actively documenting street signs and recording hundred blocks to integrate them into our routing system. When new students from these areas register for transportation, their addresses will be added to our maps, allowing us to establish new stops within their neighborhoods. This, plus the implementation of tablets in each bus, has significantly improved navigation for our drivers and substitutes.

## MAINTENANCE

- Completed 168 work orders district-wide during February.
- Relocated classrooms into new portables at Piedmont Intermediate with assistance from Piedmont Intermediate staff and Piedmont High School student volunteers.
- Assembled all new furniture for classrooms at the Intermediate.
- Applied non-slip grit surfacing to ramps and decks for new and existing portables at Piedmont Intermediate and Stone Ridge Elementary.
- Executed the second of two annual rotations for STEM, Art, and Spanish classrooms across all three elementary schools.
- Installed digital carbon monoxide detectors in all rooms at Piedmont Elementary.
- Replaced incorrect door hardware in four classrooms at PHS, ensuring these doors now default to the locked position when closed. All doors received new lock and latch hardware.
- Replaced two rooftop HVAC units at Piedmont Elementary, bringing the total number of replaced RTU units district-wide to seven for the current school year.



### HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY, FRED PYLE!

We celebrated Mr. Fred's 80th birthday on Friday, February 23rd! Fred is a dedicated member of our operations team and a true Wildcat. We were happy to eat cake and celebrate this big milestone birthday with him.

# DISTRICT UPDATES

## FINE ARTS & ACTIVITIES

### ACADEMIC BOWL

High School 7th Place NAQT State  
Noah Ferguson selected to play in the 2024 Individual Player National Championship in April in Chicago

### BAND

February 23rd Midwinter Concert was great success.  
Band Recruitment Day at PI was greatly attended.  
Google Sign Up for 5th Graders to be sent soon.  
Indoor Percussion excellent first competition of their season

### WINTER GUARD

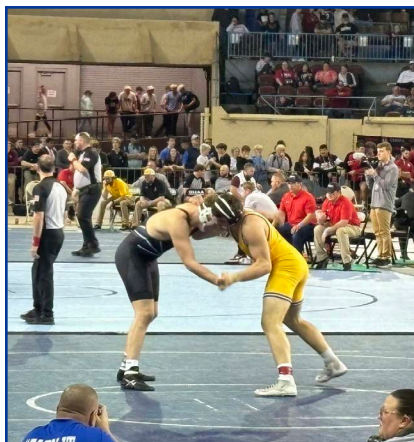
Varsity Team placed 3rd in Scholastic A Category  
Middle School Received an excellent rating.

### CHOIR

High School - Antonio Bianchi advanced to OSSAA State in the Solo Contest  
Middle School – OSSAA District Choir Contest @ Carl Albert HS on March 5

### ESPORTS

Spring Season underway. State Rankings and Categories:  
Mario Kart #1  
Rocket League Varsity #8  
Rocket League Junior Varsity #9  
Super Smash Brothers Varsity #11  
Splatoon #1



## ATHLETICS

### BOYS BASKETBALL SEASON RECORD 17-8

OSSAA District Consolation Participant  
District 6A-1 All District Honors  
1st Team – Walker Kennedy  
Honorable Mention – Cam Hainirhar, Braeden Lloyd, Connor Beard

### GIRLS BASKETBALL SEASON RECORD 12-15

OSSAA Area Consolation Participant  
District 6A-1 Post Season Honors TBD

### BOYS WRESTLING SEASON RECORD 9-1

Dual State Qualifier  
Class 6A West Regionals 3rd Place w/10 State Qualifiers:  
Blake Thomas, Brody Heusel, Cash Donnell, Barrett Byers, Kolton Mullings, Jayden Fuston, Ian Mitchell, Jackson Blackburn, Brogan Hardy, Jesse Knapp

Class 6A State Tournament 6th Place w/4 State Placers:  
Cash Donnell State Runner-Up, Brogan Hardy State Runner-Up, Jayden Fuston 4th Place, Jesse Knapp 3rd Place

### GIRLS WRESTLING

Class 6A West Regional 12th Place w/3 State Qualifiers: Carissa Martin, Makaylee Cannon, Klaire Luschen

Class 6A State Tournament 1 State Placer: Makaylee Cannon  
4th Place

### SPRING SPORTS – MARCH 1 BEGINNING OF SEASON

- Baseball
- Boys/Girls Golf
- Boys/Girls Soccer
- Boys/Girls Tennis
- Boys/Girls Track

**MARCH 2024**

# PRINCIPAL REPORTS

## PIEDMONT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

During the February professional development day, Piedmont Early Childhood Center staff participated in various activities aimed to advance our school's dedication to growth and learning. Our team created a rotation of enriching sessions tailored to enhance our skills to best support our students.

Mrs. Ogletree presented the "Brain Smart Start" approach, exploring innovative strategies to optimize learning environments and promote student engagement. Through hands-on activities, our team discovered practical ways to integrate this approach into daily practices, fostering relationships in all classrooms.

Mrs. Kremeier and Mrs. Dial's presentation focused on understanding trauma and its impact on students, recognizing the importance of engaging children in rhythmic play. Rhythmic activities can promote emotional regulation and self-expression, providing a positive outlet for stress and anxiety.

The following rotation was led by our district occupational therapist, Mrs. Morrison, who shared expertise on "Handwriting Without Tears." We learned tips and techniques to assist students in developing correct hand grip and improving handwriting skills.

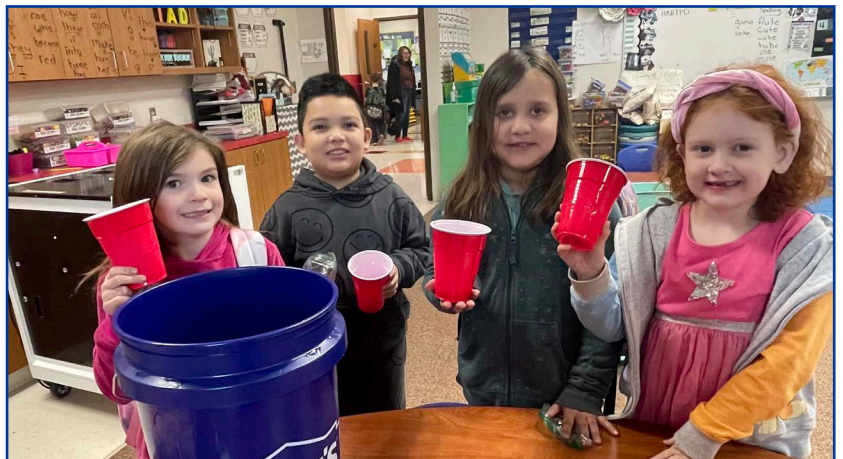
Our Last rotation, led by our speech-language pathologists, Mrs. Lopez, Mrs. Sanders, and Mrs. Steiner, emphasized the significance of intentional support for language development. By exploring various strategies and interventions, teachers deepened their understanding of how to effectively scaffold language skills, empowering students to communicate confidently and expressively.

Our presenters and dedicated staff worked together to actively contribute to our continued professional growth.



## PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE

Piedmont Intermediate appreciates the ongoing efforts of the district to tackle the challenges posed by our rapidly growing enrollment. During February, the school successfully transitioned into four new portable classrooms, providing classrooms for six teachers throughout each school day. This change was made possible through the help of the Operations department, high school athletes, the IT department, and numerous volunteers. With their assistance, classrooms were efficiently relocated and ready to welcome students before our school doors opened the following week.



## NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Northwood students collected coins to raise money for the Toby Keith Foundation's OK Kids Korral from February 6th through February 19th. The Kids Korral is a cost-free home for pediatric cancer patients and their families. Many families travel from all over the state to see the doctors at the OU Children's Hospital, and the Kids Korral gives them a place to be together during cancer treatments. Our Northwood community was up to the challenge, and we raised \$2,914.35 for this wonderful foundation!



# PRINCIPAL REPORTS



## PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Our Piedmont Elementary 4th-grade leadership group visited the Regional Food Bank on February 21st. The Regional Food Bank does so much for our community and our Wildcats wanted to give back. The sixteen students who attended prepared food items for the food backpack program that serves many students across the state, including some of our own.

Students worked together in pairs and demonstrated great teamwork and leadership qualities. On the way back to school, several students commented they were tired from filling so many packages for the backpack program, but they couldn't wait to go back and help again. We are proud of our PAW Pride leadership students!



## MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

On February 19, the Middle School of Piedmont and Piedmont High School partnered to facilitate an engaging and interactive Professional Development experience for staff. Our morning began with DUCK Week presentations to prepare for our upcoming district-wide philanthropy initiative. The rest of the morning was dedicated to conference-style breakout sessions, each led by experienced middle school and high school teachers. Teachers were encouraged to "choose their adventure" for the morning and attend sessions they needed to grow personally and professionally. Session options included:

- The Active Classroom
- Differentiation and Intervention
- Building Community within the Classroom
- TiK-Tokify the Classroom
- Your Classroom-Your Community
- Multiple Intelligence Theory
- Fun With Puppies - Therapy Dogs
- Educational Games to Engage the Classroom.



# PRINCIPAL REPORTS



## STONE RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

This school year, we've established committees of teachers representing each grade level and area of focus. These committees aim to enrich our school environment and organize activities that make school more fun and engaging.

Our Professional Development Committee has done outstanding work in developing engaging professional development opportunities for our staff. These initiatives have introduced effective teaching strategies such as enhanced writing strategies, a focus on reading sessions in small groups, and visual aids for behavior management within classrooms.

Our DUCK Week Committee has collaborated closely with high school representatives to develop a plan that not only supports DUCK Week, but also ensures that the activities are appropriate and engaging for elementary students.

Additionally, we have a committee dedicated to organizing school-wide assemblies such as Grandparents Day and Veterans Day.

The collective effort of our team in creating a positive and engaging environment for all our students exemplifies what Stone Ridge is all about.

