

# PIEDMONT FOCUS

**MONTHLY NEWS & UPDATES FROM PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS**





# PIEDMONT

## Public Schools

### BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY 8, 2023 MEETING UPDATES

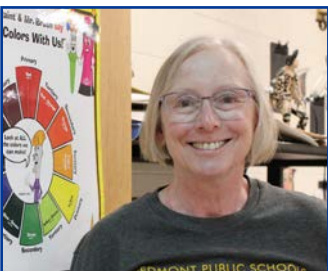
#### ROLL CALL

All board members were present.

#### SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Retirees were introduced by school site principals and district administrators. Leaders share their appreciation for our retirees and applauded their hard work in their years of service at Piedmont Schools.

Piedmont Early Childhood Center - Denise Woodson  
Piedmont Elementary - Judy Wilkerson  
Stone Ridge Elementary - Sue McLemore & Shelly Nutter  
Piedmont High School - Frances Williams  
Transportation - Johnny Tatum



#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Terry Herndon addressed the board regarding usage of Piedmont Schools gymnasiums for youth basketball leagues.

Jason Thomas addressed the board regarding the superintendent search and termination of the contract with OSSBA

#### BOARD REPORTS

Board reports were discussed as outlined in the following pages of this document. The Energage survey results are now available to board members. Results of this survey will be presented at the next regular board meeting.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION/BUSINESS ITEMS

Piedmont Public Schools Board of Education convened into executive session.

#### ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Layne Jones made a motion to approve employment as listed on attachment A of the board agenda. The board approved this motion unanimously. This motion included the hire of Mr. Steve Spears as the new Piedmont High School Principal.

After board discussion, Mr. Derek Jones motioned to name Mrs. Lisa Campbell as Interim Superintendent of Piedmont Schools until June 30, 2023. The board unanimously approved the motion.

Mr. Greg Duffy motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, items A-R. All board members voted in favor of this motion.

#### NEW BUSINESS

No new business

# DISTRICT UPDATES

## HUMAN RESOURCES & EMPLOYEE RELATIONS



### CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINAR FOR PPS EMPLOYEES

On Friday, April 28th, Piedmont Schools hosted representatives from OSU-OKC, the University of Central Oklahoma, and Grand Canyon University to guide employees on the next steps in earning their college diplomas.

The seminar was open to any employee or family member interested in completing their degree.

We appreciate the employees who joined us at this event. We hope to continue to offer these types of opportunities to our team.

### ENERGAGE SURVEY UPDATE

Piedmont Schools continues to work with Energage to identify strengths and areas of growth in our district. The spring survey was sent to all employees on April 14th by the company. The survey closed on April 30th.

We will process these results in the coming weeks to gain insight into how we can improve outcomes for our employees and students.

ENROLLMENT CENTER		4-3-2023	5-2-2023
	PIEDMONT ECC	609	613
	NORTHWOOD ELEM.	477	479
	PIEDMONT ELEM.	456	455
	STONE RIDGE ELEM.	596	598
	PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE	766	763
	MIDDLE SCHOOL	769	768
	HIGH SCHOOL	1412	1411
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5085</b>	<b>5089</b>

## Good News AT PIEDMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS



### COX CHARITIES SELECTS TWO PIEDMONT EDUCATORS FOR GRANTS

Congratulations to Mr. Connor Gowriluk, Assistant Band Director, and Ms. Cathy Adams, Piedmont Elementary Counselor, for their individual selections as Cox Charities Grant for Educators recipients!

Mr. Gowriluk received \$9,000 to purchase jazz band and percussion equipment to bolster the Piedmont Band program.

Ms. Adams received \$1,200 to purchase books to support students navigating challenging situations, from overcoming worry or losing a loved one, to divorce, family illness, or adoption. Parents can contact Ms. Adams to use these books as a resource to help have difficult conversations with their students.



MAY 2023



# DISTRICT UPDATES

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The following projects are slated to take place throughout the summer.

- If approved by the PPS Board of Education: Construction crews will relocate four portable classrooms at the conclusion of the school year at the Middle School. The road project will then begin.
- It is imperative this project begins immediately following the end of the school year or else the completion of this project will be delayed by one year.

### PROJECT LIST:

- Relocate two portable classrooms at the middle school to just south of the east building
- Relocate the construction trailer and staging area
- Remove fencing
- Midwest Wrecking will be on-site to demo the parking lot
- Leveling and grading begin for a new road that loops around the bus barn area
- Water lines, fire lines, and storm drain lines will be installed
- OG&E will be on site to install conduit for the new transformer
- GPC will be on site to excavate and grade the parking lot demo
- Turning Point will be on site to pour concrete curbs and install the first layer of asphalt
- Steel will continue to go up in areas 3 and 4
- CMU block walls will continue
- Remodel existing three hallways - New ceiling grid, flooring, walls, and LED lighting

Mr. Blankenship has provided the board photos of the current overhead doors that need to be replaced in the custodial/bus barn areas.



## SPECIAL SERVICES



The directors of Piedmont Special Services are participating in the Oklahoma State Department of Education Alternate Diploma Collaborative Committee. This committee is establishing standards and programs for students with significant disabilities who intend to continue school post-graduation.

### HIP HIP HOORAY FOR PARAPROFESSIONAL DAY!

Special Services celebrated Paraprofessional Appreciation Day on April 5th with the help of students across the district. We loved seeing these special deliveries!



Our Wildcats participated in several Special Olympics events including Unified and Singles Cornhole, Flag Football, and Cheer.

We were thrilled to also have our Young Athletes, students aged 3 to 7-years-old, compete for the first time in age-appropriate events for Special Olympics.

In addition, we hosted our annual Field Day event on May 3rd. Our Wildcats had a blast!

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

SOOK Summer Games: May 17-19 at Oklahoma State

**MAY 2023**

# DISTRICT UPDATES

## SECONDARY CURRICULUM

This month marks the end of the semester, and we are preparing for semester tests while completing our final summative assessments. As a curriculum team, we have reviewed this year's assessments and discussed potential changes for the upcoming school year. Michelle Jones and the Instructional Resource Specialists are excited to reflect on this year's experiences over the summer, using Mastery Connect to analyze the data on our students' learning in the classroom. They look forward to comparing the results of state tests with the summative assessments that our students have taken throughout the year.



## HEALTH SERVICES

### VACCINE CLINICS FOR PIEDMONT STUDENTS

Piedmont Schools Health Services team has worked diligently to provide opportunities for students to receive vaccines for school. Forty Piedmont Intermediate students received TDAP vaccinations as part of this effort.

### MYHEARTCHECK SCREENING EVENT

On Saturday, April 22nd, Piedmont Schools hosted MyHeartCheck, a comprehensive youth heart screening program that can detect hidden heart defects and issues in children. Forty-four students were scanned at the event. Three were found to have elevated blood pressure, while, luckily, none were referred on for major heart-related issues.

## TRANSPORTATION

PPS Assistant Superintendents, Lisa Campbell and Shawn Blankenship, and Josh Critchfield, PPS Transportation Director, met to discuss emergency procedures for buses and expectations for students riding the bus. This was done as part of an ongoing effort to maintain a safe and respectful environment for all students, both on the bus and at school, following an incident on a bus. After the meeting, adjustments were made to ensure that students feel safe and supported.

## ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM

The 'Yes We Can!' group completed their book study, which focused on building collaborative partnerships between general education and special education teachers to enable all students to learn at high levels.

The team will now shift their focus to identifying and implementing action steps based on what they learned in the book.



### ADMINISTRATOR DEVELOPMENT COHORT

The inaugural Administrative Development Cohort concluded with a presentation on 'Communicate for Success' by District Communications Coordinator Riley Thomas.

The goal of the ADC program was to develop leadership capacity among educators in the district. We are happy to report its success as three participants move into leadership roles in the upcoming school year.

The cohort has been a valuable opportunity for educators to enhance their skills and prepare for future leadership positions.

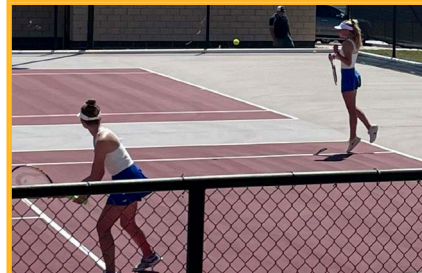
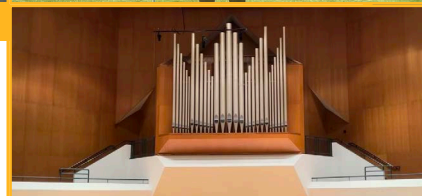


# DISTRICT UPDATES



## ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

- The Piedmont baseball team won the district championship and hosted the regional tournament.
- The Special Olympics hosted their annual field day games at the football stadium.
- The Lady Wildcats soccer team hosted Duncan, while the men's team traveled to Duncan for the first round of the state playoffs.
- For the first time in school history, the Piedmont jazz band earned superior ratings in both big band and combo categories.
- The Piedmont band earned a superior rating and sweepstakes for Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Bands.
- Several athletes signed for colleges of their choice during the spring signing day, including Fallon Brock, Jackson Califano, Kanyon Cobbs, Jillian Crawford, Emery Hulme, Amanda Lane, Kaylie Marshall, Addison Tuter, and Reese Fricke.
- The men's and women's track teams competed in regionals at Broken Arrow.
- The Lady Wildcat cheer team took second place at the STUNT state competition.
- The Lady Wildcat tennis team finished fourth as a team in regionals, sending Sophia Shepard, Ava Devane, and Addison Harris to state.
- The Lady Wildcat golf team qualified for the state tournament in Ardmore.
- **The ESports team won the OSSAA League of Legends state championship!**





# PRINCIPAL REPORTS

## Elementary

### FOCUS: WRAPPING UP THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

#### PIEDMONT ECC

ECC welcomed more than twelve hundred adoring fans to our kindergarten music program! Mrs. Cooper, our music teacher, directed a wonderful, camping-themed program. Our team of specials teachers and kindergarten teachers supported two evenings of showcasing our children's musical talents and abilities. Students donned camping attire and sang songs about hiking in the woods, roasting marshmallows, and swimming on hot days. They also recited poems about staying warm by the campfire. This camping adventure was a great opportunity for students, teachers, and parents to come together and celebrate the achievements of our school community.



## LET'S DO OUR BEST ON THE STATE TESTS!

Our elementary schools geared up for third and fourth-grade state tests by shifting perspective from pressure to do well to a fun, encouraging experience for our Wildcats. Each school hosted assemblies with games, dance parties, and video entertainment to encourage students to do their best on the state tests.

**Stone Ridge Elementary** centered their assembly on the theme "Show What You Glow!" with a glow-in-the-dark dance party that included a special appearance by the Wildcat mascot!

**Piedmont Elementary** third-grade teachers created a slide show with encouraging messages and music. Third and fourth-graders were then challenged with a Minute To Win It game to see who could mummify their teacher the fastest. The assembly concluded with a special chant from the first and second graders, and the whole school sang their new Piedmont Elementary school song.

**Northwood Elementary** drama club put their assembly together with assistance from third and fourth-grade teachers. Students in drama club led the school in dancing, interactive games, and video entertainment on testing strategies. Parents and students also wrote letters of encouragement for Northwood students participating in state testing.



# PRINCIPAL REPORTS

## Secondary

### FOCUS: PREPARING FOR TESTING SUCCESS

#### PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL

At Piedmont High School, students and staff prepared for State testing with intentional strategies.

Oklahoma high school students are required to take the United States History exam and the Science exam. Teachers offered tutoring sessions during our advisory periods for students who needed additional assistance in these subject areas. These exams allow students to show what they have learned over multiple years of learning.

High School Juniors in the state of Oklahoma are required to take the ACT, American College Test. Before the exam, PHS provided an in-person tutoring session with Olympia Prep Academy to further prepare our students. All students take the exam in the 600 hallway to provide a quiet atmosphere with less distraction.

We applaud the efforts and dedication of the PHS counseling team!




#### PIEDMONT INTERMEDIATE

While OSTP testing is “one test on one day,” Piedmont Intermediate teachers have been working to prepare students all year. Each department began the school year with a deep-dive analysis of standards covered in curriculum. These teams revised and restructured the scope and sequence of the curriculum to ensure essential standards were covered during instruction.

Teacher teams guided students in developing testing strategies and confidence, enabling them to show all they have learned. All students repeatedly practiced with the online test to become comfortable with the testing format, and teachers walked students through “mock” tests to demonstrate effective test-taking.

Our teachers have been very conscious of acknowledging our students’ hard work this year, reminding them that they are ready, and expressing how proud we are of our Wildcats.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PIEDMONT

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The staff and students at the middle school have been working hard to prepare for Oklahoma State Testing. As April approached, the focus shifted toward state testing to ensure our students were well-prepared for the tests. Additionally, students received test-taking tips and strategies and opportunities to review and practice sample test questions during advisory lessons on Wednesdays over the past few weeks.

To further motivate the students, a poster contest was held, where students submitted posters with uplifting words and quotes to encourage success during testing. The winners were awarded, and their posters were displayed around campus to inspire and motivate others.

Lastly, a special video was created by the yearbook students with guest appearances from teachers and staff to provide testing tips and words of encouragement. The school is proud of the hard work put in by both the students and staff in preparation for state testing.