

BLACKHAWK BULLETIN

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November 2024 Volume: 51 Number: 3



*Improving America's Future...
One Student at a Time*

It is the policy of the Port Edwards School District that no person may be denied admission to any public school in the district or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curriculum, co-curricular, pupil service, recreational, career and technical education classes or other program or activity regardless of race, religion, political affiliation, sex or sexual orientation, age, national origin, handicap, pregnancy, marital or parental status, ancestry, color, creed, physical, mental, emotional or learning disability, arrest or conviction record, membership in the National Guard, state defense force or any other reserve component of the military forces of the United States or Wisconsin, or any other reason prohibited by state or federal law.

The district encourages informal resolution of complaints under this policy. A formal complaint resolution procedure is available to address allegations of violations of the policy of the Port Edwards School District.

For assistance, please contact James Bena, Non-Discrimination Compliance Officer, at 801 Second Street, Port Edwards, WI 54469 or call 715-887-9000, ext. 102.

Blackhawk Bulletin is an official publication of the Port Edwards School District, offering news, announcements, and details of upcoming events. The school district welcomes newsletter contributions, comments, questions, and suggestions.

Write to: Port Edwards School District
801 2nd Street
Port Edwards, WI 54469
Phone: (715) 887-9000
Fax: (715) 887-9040
Website: www.pesd.k12.wi.us

Editor: Callie Kulinski
Mascot Artwork: Cameron Clark

Elementary School Programs that Build Community and Character

Submitted by: James Bena, Superintendent & 4K-5 Principal



In addition to teaching foundational learning skills, the staff of Ed Heuer Elementary School (E.H.E.S) are always looking for ways to improve and make our school community more closely connected. With that as one of our primary goals, E.H.E.S. offers a number of programs outside of the classroom that help to grow student confidence, interpersonal skills and a sense of community.

Mrs. Elle Bogdan, 4th/5th grade teacher, organized the Ed Heuer Elementary School **Blackhawk Families** Program this year. Once a month, students in grades Kindergarten-5 meet for an all-school assembly in the gym to discuss that month's positive character trait (Kindness & Respect during September, Responsibility in October).

Following the assembly, students from each grade level are divided into small groups of 10-12, including students from each grade. A homeroom teacher leads the groups, where they participate in games and activities designed to help them get to know one another better while also learning about that month's character trait.



After several years of being inactive, the **Young Authors** Program is once again taking place at E.H.E.S. Young Authors is being organized in 2024-25 by 4th/5th grade teacher Mrs. Jessica Decker. Young Authors exists to teach student confidence in their writing as well as in public speaking and listening. Twice each month, all students and staff gather in the elementary library to hear two students from each grade level read a recently created piece of writing. Families of the readers are invited and encouraged to attend the event as well.

In addition to the two programs that were reintroduced this year, **Story Time** with retired Port Edwards School District educator Mrs. Kathy McGrath continues to be a well-loved weekly tradition at E.H.E.S. Each Wednesday, from 11:00 – 11:45 in the elementary library, Mrs. McGrath leads fun, engaging activities for 3, 4, and 5 year-old students who are not in school. Activities that Kathy leads include the reading of popular children's books, sing-along time, puppets, nursery rhymes, and book checkout. All P.E.S.D. families who have children ages 3 – 5 are invited to join Kathy at Story Time for an enjoyable and educational program!



Wisconsin Winter Weather & Port Edwards Schools

We have just finished a beautiful season of fall colors, which means that winter weather will be arriving soon. A downside to our winter season is, at times, hazardous road conditions and dangerous cold temperatures. If either of these occur on a normally scheduled day of school, P.E.S.D. will work as quickly as possible to make a determination about whether or not it is safe for travel. If school is canceled due to weather conditions, this will be communicated to families through t.v. (Channels 9 & 7, Wausau), the school district website, social media, and through the Infinite Campus communication system (text messages and/or emails to families). *A reminder that if you have recently changed telephone numbers, please contact your school's office to inform them of your new number.*

November: Give Thanks and GRIT

Submitted by: Shane Steltenpohl, 6-12 Principal



As we enter November, I want to take a moment to reflect on our progress this school year and share some important updates and upcoming events.

Academic Progress

We are now well into the fall trimester, and I'm proud of the dedication our students have shown. Trimester 1 will wrap up on November 26th and will be followed by a well-deserved five day Thanksgiving Break from November 27th-December 1st. I encourage everyone to take the time to review their student's academic performance. Remember, our teachers are here to support you—don't hesitate to reach out for help or clarification.

GRIT

John Edwards Middle and High School students were introduced to a new motto this school year. We are focusing on a new program that I call "GRIT." Our staff have been challenged to look for all the good in this building. Each time they notice students showing GRIT, they make a note of it. Our middle school students receive a "GRIT Coupon" and they have to bring it to the office and enter into their grade level box. So many times they come in excited and share with Mrs. Kulinski the story behind their coupon. Our high school staff notify and thank the students they notice and send an email to Mrs. Kulinski or myself. At the end of each month we get together as a school and have our GRIT drawings.

These drawings are small prizes that reward our students for all the good they do here day in and day out! We are blessed with wonderful staff and students and it is so fun to celebrate all the good that is happening in this building.

Show Us Your Grit

**Get To > Got To
Resiliency
Integrity
Tenacity**

Holiday Meal

Mrs. Bruener's Ecology Club will host our annual Holiday Meal on November 12th. This is a chance for our staff, students, Port Edwards Lions and school board to sit down as a "family" and enjoy homemade food, great conversation and show gratitude for all that we are blessed with. This holiday meal is a perfect example of the amazing things that school districts our size can do! Thanks Mrs. Bruener and Ecology Club!

Entertainment News

November is a busy month for our JEHS Drama Club, JEHS/JEMS Choir, and Band! Under the leadership of Mrs. Rebischke, Mrs. Frizzell, Ms. Parszewski, and Ms. Anderson, all shows are guaranteed to be worth the price of admission!

- Million Dollar Meatballs, November 15-16th at 7:00 pm
- JEHS/JEMS Band Concert, November 21st at 6:30 pm
- JEHS/JEMS Choir Concert, November 25th at 6:30 pm

Winter Sports

November kicks off our boys' and girls' basketball seasons. Coach Beck and Coach Jensen are excited to get our athletes and supportive village back into the gym for some Blackhawk basketball! Our Lady Blackhawks begin November 11th and our boys begin November 18th. Our middle school boys began on October 28th! Please check out <https://www.pesd.k12.wi.us/> for schedules!

We have so many amazing things happening in our building. Thank you for your continued partnership and all the support! It truly does take a village!



News from the MSHS Counseling Department

Submitted by: Jennifer Moore, 6-12 Counselor

Senior Scholarships

Seniors are reminded to check the [Scholarship Opportunity](#) list on a regular basis, it is updated as opportunities become available.

Fall 2025 Secondary Education

There is still time to apply to colleges, universities, and tech schools for the fall of 2025. Housing options fill quickly, we encourage you to apply if you still need to do so.

Informational websites for secondary education

Federal site for grants FAFSA: studentaid.gov/

Application for admission: apply.wisconsin.edu/homepage

UW Help: uwhelp.wisconsin.edu

2024-25 ACT Test Dates

Juniors will take the ACT on March 12, 2025 at John Edwards High School.

Off Site Test Dates are as follows:

December 14, 2024

February 8, 2025

Registration Deadline

November 8, 2024

January 3, 2025

To register for any of these additional test dates, at your cost, please go to

www.actstudent.org

2025-26 High School Class Registration

High school class registration packets for the 2025-26 school year will be sent home in early winter. Parents are asked to go over the course registration materials with their students.

At the upperclassman level, we offer a variety of coursework that may be transferred to colleges/tech schools. We encourage students to take advantage of these offerings.

Caring Closet Winter Coats

John Edwards MSHS has lightly used winter coats if you have a child in need. Please call the Counseling Department or have your child stop in to see us. We will try to accommodate their needs.

NCAA Eligibility

Any high school student considering playing sports at a Division I or Division II school should visit the NCAA Clearinghouse website to review academic eligibility. It is the student's responsibility to comply with all requirements.

The website is www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/eligibility-

Notes from the Nurse

Submitted by: Katie Bortz, CESA 5 School Nurse

- ! Fall is officially here and the colors in central Wisconsin are gorgeous!
- ! Did you know that November is national smoking cessation and lung cancer awareness month? On the 3rd Thursday of November, the American Cancer Society hosts the Great American Smokeout. On this day, people are encouraged to quit smoking, even if it's only for a short period of time.
- ! While smoking cessation is an important piece of the puzzle, it is important for families to know that tobacco is changing, and the next generation of tobacco products don't look anything like a package of cigarettes. With sweet candy flavors and products designed to hide addiction in plain sight, it's tough for parents to recognize tobacco when they see it, and even harder for parents to talk to their teens about the damage these products can cause.
- ! Up to 70% of Wisconsin teens report they feel stressed. Often times, that stress, anxiety or even depression is what causes teens to turn to vapes or other nicotine products which claim to relieve stress. Research has shown that nicotine and other addictive products found in vapes make those symptoms worse. When teens vape, they stress more—so they vape more. It's a dangerous loop that damages their mental health and can leave our kids with a lifelong addiction.
- ! What can parents do to help prevent their teen from getting caught in this dangerous cycle? Experts recommend learning the products, understanding the industries tactics, talk to your kids about the dangers of tobacco and set a good example by living tobacco free. SmallTalksWI.org is a website with great resources to help you get the conversation started. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has an entire page devoted to helping families learn the products. If you google "Tobacco is Changing - Learn the Products" - it is the first website that pops up. A flyer is also included in this newsletter for your convenience.
- ! As always, please let me know if there is anyway we can support your student's health!



Katie Bortz
CESA 5 School Nurse
608-535-9541
bortzk@cesa5.org

Pertussis

You may have heard from the county health department, or by word of mouth, about an uptick in the number of pertussis cases that were being seen around wood county. It appears that the initial outbreak (17 positive cases) have been treated and numbers are declining. Pertussis can begin with symptoms similar to a common cold: runny nose, sore throat, sneezing, low-grade fever and a mild, occasional cough and may progress to spells of explosive coughing that can interrupt breathing, eating, and sleeping. After a coughing spell, patients may make a loud crowing or "whooping" sound as they struggle to inhale air (hence the name "whooping cough") and may also gag or vomit. Persons may experience severe coughing spells for several weeks or months. To prevent the spread of illness, wash hands often, cover coughs, stay home when sick and ensure your family is up-to-date with vaccinations.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Have you ever heard of the term, *Period Poverty*? Period Poverty is when someone does not have enough menstrual supplies (tampons or pads) during their monthly cycle. Studies have shown that this state of need significantly impacts student's mental health and school attendance.

Dr. Amy Falk and medical student, Erin Gruber, will be completing a needs assessment to better understand Period Poverty here in the secondary schools of the Port Edwards School District.

Your child will be invited to participate in this research study on Period Poverty because they are a student at Port Edwards who identifies as female. If you would NOT like your child to participate in this survey, please contact school nurse Katie Bortz by this date: November 15, 2024.

Your child's response to this survey will help us understand Period Poverty within Port Edwards schools and its influence on anxiety and class attendance. Data will be collected about the topics of period status, access to period supplies, anxiety levels, free and reduced lunch status, class attendance, and more. You can find a preview of their survey [here](#).

The survey will take less than 5 minutes to complete. The answers to the survey are anonymous which means no names will appear or be used on research documents, or be used in presentations or publications. If we write about this study, your child will not be identified and their name will not be used in presentations or publications.

We are also interested in your response to this topic as a student's guardian. **If you would be willing to complete this survey [here](#)**, it would be greatly appreciated to better understand familial needs.

If you have questions about the study, please feel free to ask. Your school can send concerns and comments along to the team

Sincerely,

Dr. Amy Falk
Aspirus Pediatrician

Erin Gruber
Medical College of Wisconsin

TOBACCO IS CHANGING

Learn the Products

Cigarette use may be dropping among Wisconsin's youth, but newer, less recognizable tobacco products are gaining popularity fast. And that's not good, because there's no such thing as a safe tobacco product.



TOBACCO IS CHANGING

Watch Out for Nicotine in Disguise

One way to keep kids hooked? Prevent adults from learning the young people they care for are addicted, with new products specifically designed to look like everyday objects.



Toy-like Shapes and Colors

Many e-cigarettes come in slick shapes, fun colors, and can look like fidget-spinners and other small toys.



Look-alike Products

It's easy to mistake tobacco products for everyday objects like makeup compacts, USB drives, or writing pens.



Candy Copycats

With juicy colors and clever packaging, tobacco products can look like mint tins, packs of gum, taffy, and more.



Stealthy Wearables

Now they're integrating vaping devices into items that young people wear, like backpacks, hoodies, and smartwatches.



Deceptive Shipments

Few online retailers verify age, and many promise plain packages, and purposely vague invoices and shipping labels.

TOBACCO IS CHANGING

Watch Out for Kid-Tempting Candy Flavors

How tempting are tobacco flavors like cherry, grape, root beer float, and cotton candy? Very. In Wisconsin, 95 percent of middle schoolers say they wouldn't use an unflavored tobacco product. Despite new federal restrictions, these dangerous flavored products are still on the market:



Menthol

Menthol's cooling sensation and minty flavor make cigarettes, vapes, smokeless tobacco, and cigar products easier to use and harder to quit.



Flavored Disposables

Disposable e-cigarettes can deliver hundreds of sweet, addictive nicotine puffs. They're also cheap, widely available, and growing in popularity.



Flavored E-liquids

E-liquids and refillable vaping cartridges hook kids with thousands of flavors, like graham cracker, popsicle, cherry limeade, and gummy bear.



Flavored Little Cigars and Cigarillos

Sold individually or in packs ranging from two to 20 cigars, young people can get a sweet flavor fix for just a few dollars at the convenience store.



Flavored Smokeless Tobacco

Minty or fruit-flavored smokeless products are often packaged in tins and pouches that look like candy. There are even nicotine toothpicks.

What Can You Do?

Support Tobacco-Free Environments and Prevention Policies

We can react to Wisconsin's tobacco problems, or we can adopt proactive policies that work together to prevent tobacco use. You can help. Visit TobaccoisChanging.com to connect with a local coalition and find out how you can support comprehensive tobacco policies in Wisconsin.

Learn more about the next generation of dangerous and deceptive tobacco products at TobaccoisChanging.com.



JEHS DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS

MILLION DOLLAR MEATBALLS

By Todd Wallinger

Friday, NOVEMBER 15th 7:30

Saturday, NOVEMBER 16th 3:00

IN THE DOROTHY ALEXANDER AUDITORIUM



**all tickets \$5 at the door, doors open 30 minutes before each
show.**

PEEF Fall Fundraising Letter

October 2024

Dear Friends of the Foundation,

For the past 29 years, the Port Edwards Education Foundation (PEEF) has been providing money for teachers and staff who submit innovative ideas that enhance creative and diverse educational opportunities for students in the Port Edwards School District. Since our letter from last year, we have awarded eight grants for a total of \$22,918, bringing the total grant money awarded since PEEF began in 1995 to \$352,650. This year, because of the generous support of donors like you and the profits from our Golf Scramble, PEEF was able to fully fund the following grants:

- The Story of Us
- Creating Confident Artists
- Better Vision
- Lawn Games for Life
- Building Fine Motor Skills Through Play
- Music in the Parks
- Increasing Student Engagement in Reading
- Piano 101



It is through our fundraising campaign each fall and the Golf Scramble each summer that we are able to provide these grants. The Foundation is deeply appreciative of the time and effort put in by staff to write the grant proposals to provide money for many wonderful enrichment activities for Port students.

We are equally grateful for you, our donors, whose generosity helps fund these grants.

We thank you for your past contributions and hope you will continue to support us with your donations this year and in the future. With your help, we promise to continue our efforts to provide enhanced learning experiences for the students of the Port Edwards School District.

Sincerely,
Corey Searles
PEEF President



The Port Edwards Education Foundation

Founded 1996


P.O. Box 99
801 Second Street
Port Edwards, WI
54469-0099

Board of Directors

Paula Bassuener
James Bena
Lisl Detlefsen
Kurt Heuer
Karen Isaacson
Walter Iwanski
Pat McGrath
Judy Miller
Sue Mitchell
Sharon Morell
Marissa Rebischke
Corey Searles
Karen Thiel
Sue Thomasgard
Kristin Winters



PEEF Donor Card



Founded December 22, 1995

☐ Yes. I want to support the work of the **Port Edwards Education Foundation**. I have marked the category of my tax-deductible gift below.

<input type="checkbox"/> Valedictorian: \$1,000 and up	<input type="checkbox"/> Class President: \$100 to \$249
<input type="checkbox"/> Salutatorian: \$500 to \$999	<input type="checkbox"/> Honor Roll: \$25 to \$99
<input type="checkbox"/> Dean's List: \$250 to \$499	<input type="checkbox"/> Booster: Under \$25

☐ I have enclosed my check for \$_____ payable to the Port Edwards Education Foundation.

☐ I would like to discuss a planned gift. Please contact me.

Name: _____ Date: _____
(as you wish it to appear on a report)

Maiden Name: _____

Address: _____

City & State: _____ Phone: _____

Make check payable to PEEF and mail to: 801 Second Street, P.O. Box 99, Port Edwards, WI 54469-0099



Holiday Senior Citizens Breakfast

John Edwards Middle School Council is planning to ring in the holiday season by hosting the school's annual Senior Citizens' Holiday Breakfast. This breakfast is to show our appreciation for all of the support you have shown in our students and school through the year.

All Port Edwards seniors are welcome to attend!

Please note the important details of the events below:

- Friday, December 13th, 2024 in the John Edwards Middle/High School Cafeteria
- Breakfast will be served at 8:45 AM
- Event is hosted by John Edwards Middle School Student Council
- Music provided by Middle & High School Band & Choir
- Please RSVP by November 26th to Mr. Steltenpohl
(715) 887-9000, ext 103 or email steltsh@pesd.k12.wi.us

November 2024 ES Breakfast Menu

Elementary School

Breakfast Prices:

All Students: \$1.70 Adults: \$2.55

Menus Subject to Change

This institution is a equal opportunity provider.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1 Frudel Fruit Juice Milk
4 Yogurt Bug Bites Fruit Juice Milk	5 French Toast Sticks Syrup Fruit Juice Milk	6 Pop-Tart Fruit Juice Milk	7 WG Banana Bread Fruit Juice Milk	8 Frudel Fruit Juice Milk
11 Fuel 4U Cereal Kit Fruit Milk	12 Omelet Bagel Fruit Juice Milk	13 Chex Mix Cheese Stick Fruit Juice Milk	14 WG Glazed Donut Fruit Juice Milk	15 Frudel Fruit Juice Milk
18 Yogurt Bug Bites Fruit Juice Milk	19 Waffle Syrup Fruit Juice Milk	20 Mini Donuts Fruit Juice Milk	21 WG Banana Bread Fruit Juice Milk	22 Frudel Fruit Juice Milk
25 Fuel 4U Cereal Kit Fruit Milk	26 Breakfast Pizza Bagel Fruit Juice Milk	27 No School	28 Happy Thanksgiving!	29 No School

November 2024 ES Lunch Menu

Alternate Lunch Choice:

Monday: Smuckers

Tuesday: Taco Salad

Wednesday: Pizza Roll Up

Thursday: Chef Salad

Friday: See Menu Below (in **Bold**)

LUNCH PRICES:

Elementary: \$2.70 Middle School: \$2.85

High School: \$2.90 Adults: \$4.20

Menus Subject to Change

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1 Big Daddy's Pizza Green Beans Banana Ice Cream Sandwich No Alternate
4 All American Chicken Wrap Mashed Potatoes Mixed Veggies Peaches	5 WG Nachos Taco Meat Cheese Sauce Refried Beans Mandarin Oranges	6 Mac N Cheese Green Beans Pineapple Jell-O	7 French Toast Sticks Applesauce Juice Syrup	8 Mini Corn Dogs Hash Brown Patty Baked Beans Banana Mozzarella Dippers
11 Chicken Nuggets Smiles Cooked Carrots Apple Slices Pudding Cup	12 Orange Chicken Rice Broccoli Pineapple Fortune Cookie	13 Hot Dog WG Bun French Fries Baked Beans Mixed Fruit	14 Rotini Meatballs & Sauce Garlic Bread Warm Apple Slices Peas	15 Mozzarella Dippers Marinara Sauce Corn Banana Cheese Pizza
18 Hamburger WG Bun French Fries Baked Beans Slushie	19 Beef & Macaroni Casserole Corn Pears	20 Hot Ham & Cheese Curly Fries Green Beans Peaches Sherbet Cup	21 Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potatoes Broccoli Grapes Sauces	22 Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Cheez-Its Peas Apple Slices Mozzarella Dippers
25 Pepperoni French Bread Pizza Green Beans Apple Slices Ice Cream Cup	26 Turkey and Gravy Mashed Potatoes Corn Stuffing Cranberry Sauce Pears Dinner Roll	27 No School	28 Happy Thanksgiving!	29 No School

November 2024 MS/HS Breakfast Menu

Middle/High School

Breakfast Prices:

All Students: \$1.70 Adults: \$2.55

Menus Subject to Change

This institution is a equal opportunity provider.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1 Frudel Cheese Stick Apple Slices Juice Milk
4 Cereal Bar Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk	5 Omelet Bagel Fruit Juice Milk	6 Caramel Mini Cinni Sunflower Seeds Fruit Juice Milk	7 Crunch Mania Graham Crackers Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk	8 Cinnamon Roll Cheese Stick Banana Juice Milk
11 Pop-Tart Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk	12 Breakfast Sandwich on Croissant Fruit Juice Milk	13 WG Muffin Sunflower Seeds Fruit Juice Milk	14 WG Banana Bread Sunflower Seeds Fruit Juice Milk	15 Cinnamon Roll Cheese Stick Banana Juice Milk
18 Cereal Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk	19 Omelet Bagel Fruit Juice Milk	20 Mini Donuts Cheese Stick Fruit Juice Milk	21 WG Glazed Donut Cheese Stick Fruit Juice Milk	22 Frudel Cheese Stick Banana Juice Milk
25 Pop-Tart Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk	26 Breakfast Sandwich on Croissant Fruit Juice Milk	27 No School	28 Happy Thanksgiving!	29 No School

November 2024 MS/HS Lunch Menu

Alternate Lunch Choice:

Monday: Smuckers

Tuesday: Taco Salad

Wednesday: Pizza Roll Up

Thursday: Chef Salad

Friday: See Menu Below (in **Bold**)


LUNCH PRICES:

Elementary: \$2.70 Middle School: \$2.85

High School: \$2.90 Adults: \$4.20

Menus Subject to Change

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1 Hamburger WG Bun Tater Tots Baked Beans Grapes Cheese Pizza
4 All American Chicken Wrap Mashed Potatoes Mixed Veggies Peaches	5 WG Nachos Taco Meat Cheese Sauce Refried Beans Mandarin Oranges Sugar Cookie	6 Mac N Cheese Bar Diced Chicken Taco Meat Pears Broccoli Dinner Roll	7 French Toast Sticks Omelet Applesauce Juice Syrup	8 Mini Corn Dogs Hash Brown Patty Baked Beans Banana Sugar Cookie Mozzarella Dippers
11 Sub Sandwich Baked Chips Cooked Carrots Apple Slices	12 MS: Big Daddy's Pizza Green Beans Pineapple HS: Holiday Dinner No Alternate	13 Hot Dog WG Bun French Fries Baked Beans Peaches	14 Rotini Meatballs & Sauce Peas Warm Apple Slices Garlic Bread	15 Mozzarella Dippers Marinara Sauce Corn Banana Ice Cream Sandwich Cheese Pizza
18 Hamburger WG Bun French Fries Green Beans Slushie	19 Beef & Macaroni Casserole Corn Pears Breadstick	20 Hot Ham & Cheese Curly Fries Pineapple Baked Beans Sherbet Cup	21 Beef or Chicken Burrito Bowl Rice/Chips Refried Beans Corn Grapes	22 Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Cheez-Its Apple Slices Peas Mozzarella Dippers
25 Pepperoni French Bread Pizza Green Beans Apple Slices Ice Cream Cup	26 Turkey and Gravy Mashed potatoes Corn Stuffing Cranberry Sauce Pears	27 No School	28 Happy Thanksgiving!	29 No School

PORT EDWARDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Business Meeting of the Board of Education

5:30p.m., Wednesday, August 21, 2024 – Elementary IMC, Fifth Street., Port Edwards, WI

Minutes

Meeting called to order by President John Daven at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

PRESENT: John Daven, Leo Thomasgard, Kathy McGrath, Cary Hildebrandt, Dana Duncan

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: James Bena, Superintendent, Lisa Miller, Business Director

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Birno

1. Consider Approval of Agenda

Motion by Hildebrandt, second by Duncan to approve the agenda as posted. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

2. President's Report

A. Board Member Attendance

President Daven reported that all Board members were in attendance.

B. Next Board Meeting

President Daven reported that the meeting of the Board of Education will be September 11, 2024.

3. Administrative Reports

A. Elementary Principal Report - Principal Bena

Principal Bena stated that on August 12th that he along with elementary classroom teachers in grades 1-5, special education teachers and interventionists participated in the 3-hour Keys to Beginning Reading Training lead by CESA 5. Principal Bena reported that all training for this will be complete by March 10, 2025, this is in compliance with ACT 20.

The Port Edwards Parent Organization (PEPO) held its first meeting for the school year on August 12th. PEPO has eight events planned for the year. Along with these events there will be a PEPO night at El Café where a portion of the proceeds will go to benefit the elementary parent organization. The date is to be determined.

Principal Bena reported that we are prepared for the YMCA wrap-around daycare to open. He also reported that Mrs. Moldenhauer, our 4K teacher, has been working hard to prepare the classroom for the first day of school.

Principal Bena shared that the elementary school will be bringing back the Young Authors program beginning trimester 2.

B. Middle/High School Principal Report - Principal Steltenpohl

Principal Steltenpohl shared that the policy for cell phones will be changing in the middle/high school. There will be a box called "Phone Home" in every classroom. Middle school students will be leaving their cell phones in the boxes until the end of the day. High school students will be putting their phone in the box at the beginning of class and will be allowed to take it at the end of the class period.

Principal Steltenpohl shared the new GRIT program that will be implemented in the middle school.

C. District Administrator Report - Superintendent Bena

Superintendent Bena stated that he is looking forward to working with Principal Steltenpohl and commented on all of the good things he has been preparing for the new school year. He said that Mr. Steltenpohl is responsive to staff members, is hardworking and engaged. Superintendent Bena gave and updated on the in-service days, new teachers started yesterday and all staff will have in-service beginning on August 27th.

On July 16th, Superintendent Bena reported that he and Principal Steltenpohl attended a Department of Justice Safety Program.

Superintendent Bena reported that on August 22nd, CESA 5 will be leading CPI Training at the elementary school.

4. Questions and Comments from People in Attendance

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

7. Consider Approval of Minutes of Past Meeting – July 10, 2024

Motion by McGrath, second by Hildebrandt to approve the minutes of the past meeting. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

8. Consider Approval of Financial Reports

A. Check Summaries July 1-31, 2024

#35027—35052 & 202301396—20240059 - \$328,481.79

B. District Revenue Report July 1-31, 2024

C. District Expenditures Report July 1-31, 2024

D. July Cash Receipts Report.....July 1-31, 2024

E. July Cash Balance Report

F. Budget Revisions

G. Consider Approval of Gifts

Motion by Duncan, second by Thomasgard to approve the financial reports as presented. Voting yes – Daven, Thomasgard, McGrath, Hildebrandt, Duncan. Motion Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS:

7. Consider Approval of Handbooks

- A. Employee Handbook
- B. Compensation Guide
- C. Elementary School Student Handbook
- D. Middle/High School Student Handbook

Motion by Duncan, second by Hildebrandt to approve the 7A-7D as present. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

8. Consider Approval of Cooperative Agreements (66.030)

- A. Nekoosa School District

Motion by Duncan, second by Hildebrandt to approve to table the approval. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

9. Consider Approval of 2023-24 Seclusion and Restraint Report

Motion by Duncan, second by McGrath to approve the 2023-24 Seclusion and Restraint Report. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

10. Consider Approval of Sick Day Payout

Motion by Thomasgard, second by McGrath to approve the sick day payout scenario one as present by Superintendent Bena. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

11. Consider Approval of Co-Curricular Positions:

- A. Deb Martin—Middle School Volleyball
- B. Crissy Robinson—JV2 Volleyball
- C. Angela Rogers—JV Volleyball

Motion by Duncan, second by Hildebrandt to approve the co-curricular positions. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

12. Consider Approval of Contract with Lamers Bus Lines, Inc. for 2024-2025 Services

Motion by Duncan, Second by Thomasgard to approve the 2024-25 Lamers Bus Lines, Inc. contact for 2024-25. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

13. Opportunity for Individual Board Member Comment

Thomasgard – shared information from the fire department regarding a vocational tech program through MSTC that could benefit our students, working towards the 2-year degree.

Hildebrandt – stated that he is excited to hear that the Young Authors program will be coming back to the elementary.

McGrath – shared that the community picnic was wonderful. Ms. Anderson did a great job with the community band. Praised Mr. Bena for all that he does to support the school and the community.

14. Establish Future Board Meetings

Monday, October 28, 2024, Executive Session at 5:00 (if needed); Business Meeting at 5:30 p.m. Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting, 6:15 p.m. – Elementary IMC

15. Consideration of motion to adjourn into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute:

19.85(1)(c) for the purpose of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility

Motion by Hildebrandt, second by Duncan to adjourn into closed session. Voting yes – Daven, Thomasgard, McGrath, Hildebrandt, Duncan. Motion carried.

- A. Consider Approval of Past Executive Meetings – July 10, 2024

- B. Business Manager Evaluation

- C. District Administrator Evaluation

16. Adjourn Executive Session and Reconvene into Open Session to take any action deemed necessary from the closed session.

Motion by McGrath, second by Hildebrandt to adjourn executive session and reconvene into open session to take any action deemed necessary from the closed session. Voting yes – Daven, Thomasgard, McGrath, Hildebrandt, Duncan. Motion carried.

Motion by Hildebrandt, second by Thomasgard to approve the Administrative Compensation Plan, as discussed in closed session. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

17. Call for Adjournment

Motion by Hildebrandt, second by Thomasgard to adjourn the meeting. Voting yes – Daven, Thomasgard, McGrath, Hildebrandt, Duncan. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Lisa Miller, acting secretary

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