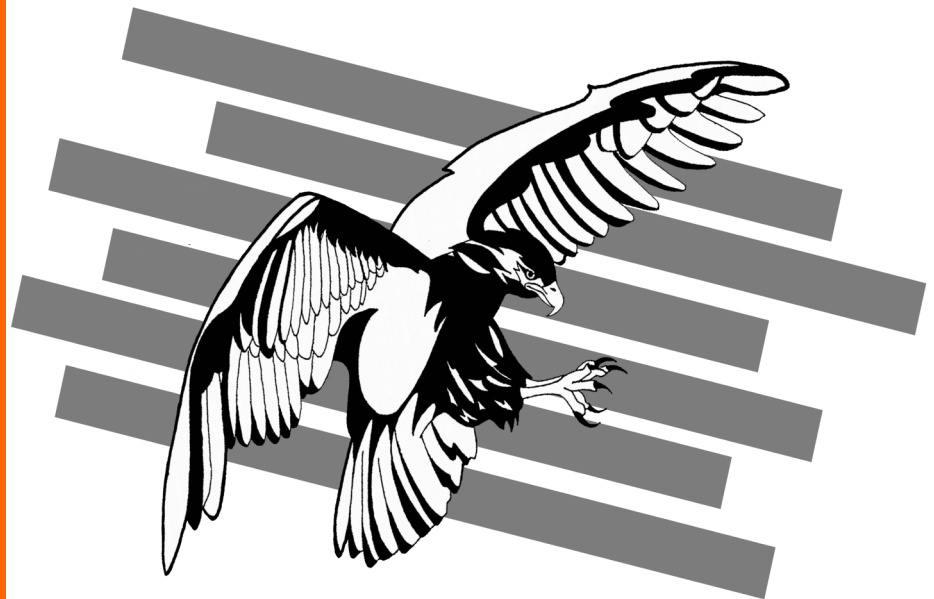


BLACKHAWK BULLETIN

What's Inside...

- 3-4 *Superintendent's Article*
- 5 *MS/HS Principal Article*
- 6 *MS/HS Counseling News*
- 7 *Notes from the Nurse*
- 8 *HOSA Community Event*
- 9-10 *Honor Roll*
- 11 *PEEF*
- 12 *United Way Book Drive*
- 13 *Community Clothing Drive*
- 14-17 *Menus*
- 18-19 *Board Minutes*

April 2025 Volume: 51 Number: 7



*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
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Port Edwards, WI 54469
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Editor: Callie Kulinski
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Learning & Achievement Beyond the Classroom Walls

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

The Port Edwards School District prides itself for not only offering an excellent education for our students, but for also providing a large number of outstanding extracurricular programs. Students who actively participate in PESD's extracurricular programs sharpen their performance skills, strengthen their self-confidence, develop their resilience and work ethic, and make memories that last for a lifetime. Here are recent updates from just a few of our many outstanding extracurricular programs:



Choral & Instrumental Music: Mrs. Tamara Parszewski & Ms. Emilie Anderson



Congratulations to Band and Choir students on a great month of competitions and performances! At District Solo & Ensemble at Wild Rose High School, our middle and high school musicians competed in over fifty events and received some of the best ratings all around!

The following students qualified to compete at State Solo & Ensemble on May 3rd at UW-Stevens Point:

Vocal competitors include: Alea Bonner, Olivia Allworden, Ari Schultz, Nataya Saint-Vil, Tony DeMarco, Jack Schraeder, and Felicity Clouse.

Band competitors include: Oracio Hernandez, Joey Doeberiner, Jason Doeberiner, Alex Contreras, Caden Issacson, Jasper Detlefsen, Miles Hanson, Rayna Dassow, and Wesley Detlefsen.

The Music Department also had two lovely concerts this trimester! Ms.P and Ms. Anderson are so proud of all our students and the hard work they have been putting in this year!

We hope to see you at our next concerts! Tuesday, May 6th for Choir and Monday, May 12th for Band.

Forensics - Advisors: Mrs. Tami Griffith & Mrs. Rachel Frizzell

Congratulations to this year's JEHS Forensics Team! The following students have qualified for the state competition on April 11th & 12th, which is being held at UW-Madison:

Joana Moreno - Prose

Maya Horbal and Storm Rahier - Group Acting

Mireya Cueto - Impromptu Speaking

Valedia Hernandez - Solo Acting



Elementary Students Shine at Regional Math 24 Competition - Advisor: Elle Bogdan



On Tuesday, March 18th, twelve talented students from our elementary school showcased their math skills at the second annual Regional Math 24 Competition, held at the Performing Arts Center in Rapids. Six 4th-graders and six 5th-graders represented our school in this fast-paced mental math challenge.

Math 24 requires students to quickly and accurately use addition, subtraction,

multiplication, and division to reach the target number 24. Our competitors demonstrated not only impressive mathematical abilities but also great sportsmanship throughout the event. Out of our 12 participants, four advanced to the championship rounds. Two fourth graders earned fourth and fifth place, while two fifth graders claimed first and third place. Our first-place 5th-grade winner achieved an especially remarkable feat—defending their title after also winning first place as a fourth grader last year!

We are incredibly proud of all our students for their hard work, determination and support for one another. Congratulations to our competitors for their outstanding achievements!



4th-Grade Competitors



5th-Grade Competitors

Middle/High School News

Submitted by: Shane Steltenpohl, 6-12 Principal

Spring is Here: Fresh Air and the Smell of Baseball Season!

As we welcome the month of April, the season of renewal is upon us. Spring brings fresh air, outside recess, and the unmistakable smell of my favorite season of the year: baseball! As the weather is warming up, so is the energy at John Edwards Middle and High School! It's time to focus, finish strong, and gear up for all the exciting events happening this month. Remember, our teachers and staff are here to support you, so don't hesitate to reach out if you need help. As always we appreciate your role in our community and remember, it truly does take a village!



State Testing

As we approach the final two months of the school year, it's time to start preparing our students for the state testing. We know this can be stressful for students and parents, but with the right preparation, we can ensure that our students are ready to give their best effort. The Forward Testing schedule is listed below. Our goal of testing is two-fold. Goal one is for our students to do their best. Goal two is at least 90% attendance on your student(s) testing dates! Rumor has it that our very own Mrs. Willcome will be bringing in a couple of her goats for staff members to kiss if we reach our goal! Her pet goats Little Lady and April 12, are excited to join John Edwards Middle/High School on the afternoon of April 15th! I've provided some helpful tips and strategies to support your child in preparing for state testing and setting them up for success.

- **Encourage a Healthy Routine**

Rest is crucial for peak performance. Make sure your child is getting enough sleep, especially the night before the test. A well-rested mind is better able to focus and recall information.

- **Establish a Study Schedule**

Help your child break down study material into manageable chunks. Encourage them to review content a little each day leading up to the test, rather than cramming all at once.

- **Practice Test-Taking Strategies**

Discuss strategies like time management, reading all instructions carefully, and eliminating incorrect answer choices. Practicing these strategies can help your child feel more confident and prepared.

- **Provide Positive Encouragement**

Remind your child that the goal of state testing is not perfection but demonstrating what they have learned. Encouragement and positive reinforcement can help reduce test anxiety.

- **Make Test Day Stress-Free**

Ensure that your child has a healthy breakfast, arrives on time, and feels ready for the test. Try to avoid any last-minute stress or pressure.

Key Dates:

- **April 3** **10th Grade Forward Testing**
- **April 8** **6/7/8 Grade Forward Testing**
- **April 10** **8th Grade Forwards Testing**
- **April 15** **6/7/8 Grade Forward Testing**
- **April 18** **No School - Easter Break**
- **April 21** **No School - Professional Development Day**
- **April 24** **Trimester 3 Grade Check**
- **April 26** **Junior Prom**

News from the Counseling Department

Submitted by: Jennifer Moore, MS/HS Counselor

Senior Dessert

Seniors, please mark your calendar: **SENIOR DESSERT – Wednesday, MAY 21st, 6:30 p.m.**

Seniors are reminded to check the [Scholarship List](#) regularly. There are still opportunities to earn award money.

If your son or daughter is awarded a scholarship from a college or a source not shown on the scholarship list, please email Ernestine Neve at neveer@pesd.k12.wi.us. We want to be sure to recognize everyone's awards at Senior Dessert.

Remaining Off-Site ACT Test Dates

ACT Testing Dates:	Register By:
April 5, 2025	March 16, 2025
June 14, 2025	May 9, 2025
School Code 501840	

Websites for additional information on these assessments:

<http://www.actstudent.org/sampletest/>



Grades 6-10 Spring Assessments

Grades 6-8 will test the **Wisconsin Forward Exam** on Tuesday, April 8th, Thursday, April 10th and Tuesday, April 15th.

Grade 10 will take the **Wisconsin Forward Exam** on Thursday, April 3rd.



Looking Ahead to Graduation

Mark your calendars: **Saturday, May 31st at 11:00 a.m.**

Notes from the Nurse

Submitted by: Katie Bortz, CESA 5 School Nurse

April is recognized as Alcohol Awareness Month. A key focus of this month is addressing the issue of underage drinking, which carries significant health & safety risks.

Alcohol misuse during adolescence can cause negative long-term effects due to the physical changes it creates in the brain as it develops. These changes occur in areas of the brain involved in planning, decision-making, working memory and fear-sensing. A growing body of evidence suggests that the earlier people start drinking alcohol, the more likely they are to experience a measurable negative impact on cognitive functions that may last into adulthood.

The good news is that now, more than ever, most kids are not drinking alcohol. In the last 10 years, alcohol consumption among 8th graders has dropped 49% and binge drinking among the same age group has dropped 63%. Ease of access to alcohol for minors has also reached an all-time low.

Use this important time in your child's life to let them know that binge drinking is not the norm. Practice with them ways to refuse a drink or get out of a difficult situation. Reinforce that it is never safe to get into a vehicle with someone who is drunk or impaired in anyway. Model responsible behavior if and when you choose to drink. When discussions about staying alcohol-free increase, underage drinking rates decrease.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or if there is anyway I can assist your family.



Katie Bortz
CESA 5 School Nurse
608-535-9451
bortzk@cesa5.org

HOSA Happenings

On April 16th, we invite you to take a night off of cooking dinner and support Port Edwards HOSA students attending state leadership conference! Walking tacos will be for sale at the Port Edwards fire station. A variety of activities for the kids, such as face painting, decorating an easter cookie and pictures with the easter bunny will be available. See flyers in the newsletter or around town for more information. Please reach out with questions! We hope to see you there!



JOHN EDWARDS MIDDLE SCHOOL
2023-2024 Trimester 3
HONOR ROLL



STRAIGHT A's

8th Grade

Colton Burns
Noelle Combs
Aaron Mingo
Evelyn Shaffer

7th Grade

Natalee Combs
Easton Contreras
Annabelle Ellenberger
Madeline Farragut
Teegan Griffith
Jeremy Luebke
Adyson McDonald
Makenzie Mykisen
Campbell O'Connor
Kamden O'Neil
Rhett Tranel

6th Grade

Andrew Goodwin
Shelby Robinson
Noah Schumer
Joshua Shaffer

HIGH HONORS

8th Grade

Aurora Bares
Ella Bender
Julia Doebereiner
Titus Doran
Rebekah Hillemeyer
Savannah Schmelzer
Bentley Teske
Jace Winters

7th Grade

Noah Coenen
Kaeden Price
Kyrie Shampeau
Lillian Suzda

6th Grade

Trinity Bell
Caden Bush
Christian Hatton
Aiden Houchin
Lillie Torke
Luke Yach
Timothy Zindars

HONORS

8th Grade

Natalie Goodwin
Kaelyn Green
Emery Heckendorf
Summer Hogan
Dayton Johnson
Hayden Kaufman
Parker Polubinsky
Gage Struzynski
Brayden Weis

7th Grade

Samuel Casey
Carter Friday
James Hatton
Lilliahna Isaacson
William Johnson
Noah Krejcarek
Liam Landon
Jerrett Nieman
Kaitlyn Raab
Mia Rayo
Harlow Teske

6th Grade

Nevaeh Borths
Erik Breitrick
Elise Mancl
Aubrie Martin
Charles McDonald
Sierra Rahier
Noah Roberson
Lilian Van Ryzin
Isabella Willison

**JOHN EDWARDS HIGH SCHOOL
2023-2024 Trimester 3
HONOR ROLL**



STRAIGHT A's

12th Grade

Carson Bender
Felicity Clouse
Rayna Dassow
Jason Doebereiner
Noah Haltner
Caitlyn LaCour
Shelby Nelson
Nevada Rice

11th Grade

Jasper Detlefsen
Joseph Doebereiner
Caleb Hillemeier
Breanna Ingram
Samuel Martinson
Taylin McDonald
Ariana Schultz

10th Grade

Brooke Altman
Abbigail Baumgart
Mireya Cueto
Kaden Dassow
Caden Isaacson
Amber Martinson
Aubreigh Martinson
Khayla Peckham
Keely Rzepka
Nataya Saint-Vil

9th Grade

Emma Baumgart
Kelson Casey
Wesley Detlefsen
Jackson Haase
Brylee O'Neil
Kaelee Price
Aliya Sievers
McKenzy Smith
Izaiah Van Lysal

HIGH HONORS

12th Grade

Olivia Allworden
Natalee Barstow
Oracio Hernandez
Jack Schraeder

11th Grade

Evelyn Fletcher
Trinity Peckham

10th Grade

Milie Robinson

9th Grade

Hayden Kleifgen
Brody Krueger
Nora Smith
Grace Yach

HONORS

12th Grade

Arik Andreasen
Nolan Bastien
Brynden Beck
Aleea Bonner
Naomee Gruba
Kailey Horbal
Cameron Johnson
Makayla McGuffey
Maximus Michels
Timothy Pillsbury

11th Grade

Lindsey Anderson
Ethan Boerner
Anthony DeMarco
Rylee Duckart
Sierra Eklund
Price Hanson
Taylor Hermanson
Austin Irwin
Kaylee Mendieta
Joana Moreno
Mackenzie Orheim
Gabrielle Plawman

10th Grade

Carter Doran
Valedia Hernandez
James Leverance
Ayden Schumer
Aydyn Stebbins
Griffin Tranel
Paige Van Meter
Elizabeth Van Ryzin
Ashlynn Weiler
Lukas Ziska

9th Grade

Karl Breitrick
Claire Duckart
Cambree Flugaur
Elise Irwin
Rowan Schmelzer
Evelyn Tranel
Ruth Tranel



**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
Karen Thiel
Sue Thomasgard

The following is the president's letter from the Port Edwards Education Foundation 2024 Annual Report. The report is provided to our current year donors, recent year donors and Blackhawk Scramble participants and sponsors. To view the complete report, contact Board President Lisl Detlefsen.

March 2025

Thank you once again! Your generosity has led to another busy, successful, and productive year for the Port Edwards Education Foundation. This news comes as little surprise because each year you folks reliably donate so our group can continue its mission of enhancing the educational experience for the students of Port Edwards.

In 2024, our capital campaign and golf outing raised \$33,725 in unrestricted donations, which will be used to fund eight or nine thoughtful and creative grants totaling approximately \$30,000. We also continue to administer several memorial funds for individuals and families. Sadly, our most recent fund was begun by the Clement family on the passing of former PEEF member, Port luminary and my friend Mike Clement.

As I thank this fine board for another year of volunteering their time and talents, I also announce my departure from the Education Foundation. When Mr. Heuer stepped down as president six years ago, I accepted the offer to fill the position. With the backing of the board and the support of you, our donors, it has been a fantastic and rewarding run! Now PEEF deftly steps forward under the leadership of decade-plus member Lisl Detlefsen. Lisl has served as Vice President for the past six years and, with two sons in high school, has a fine grasp on the ways and means of both this foundation and the Port schools.

I wish President Detlefsen, PEEF, and the PESD continued good luck and success moving forward. It has been my great honor to contribute to this endeavor. Now, onward!

Sincerely,
Corey Searles



UNITED WAY
South Wood &
Adams Counties



BOOK DRIVE

Donate your new or gently used children's books to United Way! Donated books will be distributed to local children at Great Book Giveaway reading events June 9th-13th in Adams-Friendship, Nekoosa, Port Edwards, Rome, Rudolph, Vesper, and Wisconsin Rapids.

**APRIL 1-25,
2025**

DROP OFF BOOKS OR MONETARY
DONATIONS AT UNITED WAY OFFICE
OPEN FROM 8:30 AM-4 PM
351 OAK STREET, WISCONSIN RAPIDS

BIGGEST NEEDS:

- BABY BOARD BOOKS
- EASY READERS



@UWSWAC

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO: [UWSWAC.ORG](https://www.uwswac.org)

COMMUNITY CLOTHING BANK

2pm - 5pm on Saturday, April 19th
McMillan Library in Wisconsin Rapids
490 E. Grand Ave.

Clothing, shoes, etc. of all kinds for anyone in need of it!
All items were donated by caring members of your community!



April 2025 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 Breakfast Pizza Fruit Juice Milk	2 Mini Cinni Fruit Juice Milk	3 Bagel Cheese Stick Fruit Juice Milk	4 Frudel Fruit Juice Milk
7 Cereal Bar Cheese Stick Fruit Juice Milk	8 Mini Pancakes Syrup Fruit Juice Milk	9 WG Muffin Cheese Stick Fruit Juice Milk	10 WG Glazed Donut Fruit Juice Milk	11 Frudel Fruit Juice Milk
14 Fuel 4U Cereal Kit Fruit Milk	15 Caramel Mini Cinni Fruit Juice Milk	16 Breakfast Bowl Bagel Fruit Juice Milk	17 Cereal Bar Cheese Stick Fruit Juice Milk	18 No School!
21 No School!	22 French Toast Sticks Syrup Fruit Juice Milk	23 Pop-Tart Fruit Juice Milk	24 WG Banana Bread Fruit Juice Milk	25 Frudel Fruit Juice Milk
28 Fuel 4U Cereal Kit Fruit Milk	29 Omelet Bagel Fruit Juice Milk	30 Chex Mix Cheese Stick Fruit Juice Milk		

April 2025 ES Lunch Menu

Alternate Lunch Choice:

Monday: Smuckers

Tuesday: Taco Salad

Wednesday: Pizza Roll Up

Thursday: Chef Salad

Friday: See Menu Below (in **Bold**) *This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

LUNCH PRICES:

Elementary: \$2.70 Middle School: \$2.85

High School: \$2.90 Adults: \$4.20

Menus Subject to Change

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1 Chicken Noodle Soup Oyster Crackers Sub Sandwich Corn Pears	2 Cheese Ravioli Sauce Peas Pineapple Bosco Stick	3 Chicken Patty WG Bun Rotini Pasta Baked Beans Mandarin Oranges	4 Big Daddy's Pizza Green Beans Banana Ice Cream Sandwich No Alternate
7 Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes Gravy Sweet Potatoes Peaches Dinner Roll	8 Mini Tacos Spanish Rice Refried Beans Orange Wedges Salsa/Sour Cream	9 Baked Potato Diced Ham Shredded Cheese Broccoli Blueberries Rice Krispie Treat	10 Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potatoes Gravy Corn Pears Dinner Roll	11 Sloppy Joes WG Bun Baked Chips Coleslaw Applesauce Mozzarella Dippers
14 Chicken Tenders Sauces French Fries Peas Slushie	15 Softshell Taco Spanish Rice Refried Beans Pears Salsa/Sour Cream	16 Chicken Alfredo Penne Pasta Broccoli Peaches	17 Chicken Patty WG Bun Rotini Pasta Cooked Carrots Mandarin Oranges	18 No School!
21 No School!	22 WG Nachos Taco Meat Cheese Sauce Refried Beans Mandarin Oranges	23 Mac N Cheese Green Beans Pineapple Jell-O	24 French Toast Omelet Sticks Applesauce Juice Syrup	25 Mini Corn Dogs Hash Brown Patty Baked Beans Banana Mozzarella Dippers
28 Chicken Nuggets Smiles Cooked Carrots Apple Slices Pudding Cup	29 Orange Chicken Rice Broccoli Pineapple Fortune Cookie	30 Hot Dog WG Bun French Fries Baked Beans Mixed Fruit		

April 2025 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 Breakfast Sandwich on Croissant Fruit Juice Milk	2 Mini Pancakes Syrup Sunflower Seeds Fruit Juice Milk	3 Breakfast Pizza Bagel Fruit Juice Milk	4 Cinnamon Roll Cheese Stick Apple Slices Juice Milk
7 Cereal Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk	8 Omelet Bagel Fruit Juice Milk	9 WG Muffin Sunflower Seeds Fruit Juice Milk	10 WG Glazed Donut Cheese Stick Fruit Juice Milk	11 Frudel Cheese Stick Banana Juice Milk
14 Pop-Tart Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk	15 Breakfast Bowl Bagel Fruit Juice Milk	16 Waffle Envy Syrup Cheese Stick Fruit Juice Milk	17 WG Banana Bread Sunflower Seeds Fruit Juice Milk	18 No School!
21 No School!	22 Cereal Bar Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk	23 Caramel Mini Cinni Sunflower Seeds Fruit Juice Milk	24 Blueberry Mini Bites Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk	25 Cinnamon Roll Cheese Stick Apple Slices Juice Milk
28 Pop-Tart Yogurt Fruit Juice Milk	29 Breakfast Sandwich on Croissant Fruit Juice Milk	30 WG Muffin Sunflower Seeds Fruit Juice Milk		

April 2025 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**) *This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

LUNCH PRICES:

Elementary: \$2.70 Middle School: \$2.85

High School: \$2.90 Adults: \$4.20

Menus Subject to Change

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1 Chicken Noodle Soup Oyster Crackers Sub Sandwich Corn Pears	2 Cheese Ravioli Sauce Bosco Stick Peas Pineapple	3 Chicken Patty WG Bun Rotini Pasta Jell-O Baked Beans Mandarin Oranges	4 Big Daddy's Pizza Pasta Salad Green Beans Banana Ice Cream Sandwich No Alternate
7 Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes Gravy Sweet Potatoes Peaches Dinner Roll	8 Mini Tacos Spanish Rice Refried Beans Orange Wedges Salsa/Sour Cream	9 Baked Potato Bar Diced Ham Chicken Broccoli Blueberries Rice Krispie Treat	10 Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potatoes Gravy Corn Pears Dinner Roll	11 Sloppy Joes/Bun Baked Chips Applesauce Coleslaw Pudding Cup Mozzarella Dippers
14 Chicken Tenders Sauces French Fries Peas Slushie	15 Softshell Tacos Spanish Rice Refried Beans Pears Salsa/Sour Cream	16 Chicken Alfredo Penne Pasta Broccoli Peaches Breadstick	17 Chicken Patty WG Bun Rotini Pasta Jell-O Cooked Carrots Mandarin Oranges	18 No School!
21 No School!	22 WG Nachos Taco Meat Cheese Sauce Refried Beans Mandarin Oranges Sugar Cookie	23 Mac N Cheese Diced Chicken Taco Meat Pears Broccoli Dinner Roll	24 French Toast Sticks Omelet Applesauce Juice Syrup	25 Mini Corn Dogs Hash Brown Patty Baked Beans Banana Sugar Cookie Mozzarella Dippers
28 Chicken Nuggets Smiles Cooked Carrots Apple Slices Rice Krispie Treat	29 Orange Chicken General Tso Rice Egg Roll Broccoli Pineapple Fortune Cookie	30 Hot Dog WG Bun French Fries Baked Beans Peaches		

PORT EDWARDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Business Meeting of the Board of Education

5:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 12, 2025 – Elementary IMC, Port Edwards, WI

Minutes

Meeting called to order by President 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: Shane Steltenpohl, Cambree Flugaur, Nick Flugaur, Jen Moore

1. Consider Approval of Agenda

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

2. Report from Student Representatives

Student Council members Mireya Cueto and Cambree Flugaur gave an update on the current activities at JEHS:

Student Council is raising money for a fellow Student Council member at New Lisbon High School who has been diagnosed with an autoimmune disease. All proceeds from the penny war will be presented to a member from the New Lisbon School District at the boys and girls basketball game on Monday, February 17th. Student Council is also doing the annual Crush sale for Valentine's Day. The Student Council members reported on HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America), led by school nurse, Katie Bortz. The 5 members of HOSA have had the opportunity to hear a variety of speakers, have attended a conference in Green Bay and Oshkosh, and participate in competitive events.

The pep band performed at the Admirals hockey game in Milwaukee last Friday. The band will be selling tumblers from February 27th – March 9th to raise money for their trip to Hawaii.

The students reported on the current status of the athletic programs. Both boys and girls basketball teams are beginning to prepare for the play-off season. The co-op wrestling team won the conference championship. Makayla McGuffey and Kelson Casey both finished 3rd in their weight bracket and earned honorable mention.

Student Council will be hosting a blood drive on February 19th from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

3. President's Report

A. Board Member Attendance

President Daven reported that all Board members were in attendance.

B. Reading of DPI Proclamations

- National School Counseling

- Adult Crossing Guard Recognition

President Daven read the proclamations.

C. Next Board Meeting

President Daven reported that the next school board meeting will be held on March 12, 2025.

4. Administrative Reports

A. Elementary Principal Report – Principal Bena

Principal Bena reported that the elementary staff is about 83% complete with ACT 20 training. Mr. Bena reported that as of today, there are 26 students enrolled for kindergarten for the 2025-26 school year. This is the highest February enrollment the district has seen in quite some time. He stated that 100% of the 4K students have enrolled in the Port Edwards 5K. On January 31st, the Opera for the Young performed the Magic Flute. This was funded by the Mead-Witter Foundation. Principal Bena reported that PEPO held family bingo night on January 19th and will host a winter dance this Friday.

Principal Bena reported that there has been an increase in the kindergarten enrollment and have split the class into two sections.

The kindergarten will now have a full-time aide along with an additional teacher, long-term sub, Alison Breitrack.

B. MS/HS Principal Report – Principal Steltenpohl

Principal Steltenpohl stated that they have been busy working on the middle school schedule for 2025-26 to now include the 5th grade which will be moving to the middle/high school building. Mr. Steltenpohl shared results of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data from spring 2023 and stated that they have worked with Dr. Hartwig to address issues. The GRIT program has been very positive which has increased school climate and has improved the year. Jen Moore shared information on the R.O.X. program. (Ruling our Experience). Ms. Moore shared that this is a 20-session program for girls in 5 – 12 and has great results. This year, the 8th grade girls will be using this program and as of today has had one session with the girls and feels confident that it will be beneficial.

Principal Steltenpohl shared that we have joined Nekoosa to offer the Care Solace program. This program is a resource to students and families for mental health needs.

C. District Administrator Report – Superintendent Bena

District Administrator Bena reported that work has begun on the 2025-26 budget and shared the timeline for budget requests with

the board. Superintendent Bena reported that he and Ms. Miller will be meeting with USI on Friday to discuss the health insurance renewal for 2025-26. The 2nd Friday count in January was 421, last year the count was 425. Superintendent Bena publicly thanked the retirees, Deb Martin – High School Math Teacher, Ernestine Neve – Guidance & Counseling Administrative Assistant and Frank Neve – Director of Building & Grounds. Combined, these retirees have over 50 years of experience in our district. Their dedication is greatly appreciated.

5. Questions and Comments from People in Attendance

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

6. Consider Approval of Minutes of Past Meeting – January 8, 2025

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

7. Consider Approval of Financial Reports

A. Check Summaries..... January 1-31, 2025

#35535 – 35649 & 202400697 – 202400786 - \$456,759.34

B. District Revenues Report January 1-31, 2025

C. District Expenditures Report January 1-31, 2025

D. January Cash Balance Report

E. January Cash Receipt Report

F. January Substitutes Report

G. January Budget Revisions

H. Consider Approval of Gifts

Business Director reported a gift from Emilie Anderson's mother, Sara Anderson, of \$800 to help cover a portion of the band trip to the Admirals Hockey Game.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

8. Set Annual Reimbursement Rates for Per Diem Meals and Mileage

Motion by Duncan, second Hildebrandt

9. Consider Approval of Academic and Career Plan (ACP) and Education for Employment Plan (E4E)

Motion by Duncan, second by Thomasgard to approve the Academic and Career Plan and the Education for Employment Plan. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

10. Consider Request for Post-Employment Benefits

A. Deborah Martin

B. Frank Neve

C. Ernestine Neve

Motion by Duncan, second by Thomasgard to approve the request for post-employment benefits. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

11. Consider Approval of 2025-26 CESA 5 Service Contract

Motion by Duncan, second by McGrath to approve the 2025-26 CESA 5 Service Contract. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

12. Consider Approval of Cooperative Agreement – 66.030 - Nekoosa School District

Motion by Duncan, second by Thomasgard to approve the 66.030 from Nekoosa School District. Voting yes – all. Motion carried.

13. First Reading of Neola Policy Updates 34-1

Superintendent Bena presented the first reading of Neola policy updates 34-1.

14. Opportunity for Individual Board Member Comment

McGrath – Thank you to the Port Edwards Education Foundation for the grants that have been granted this year and to all those that applied. There was approximately \$30,000 granted this year. We are very fortunate to have this opportunity for our teachers and thanked the PEEF board members and all those that have donated.

Hildebrandt – Thanked the students for their report. Thank you to Deb, Frank and Ernestine for their years of service.

Thomasgard – Shared that the League of Women Voters will be holding a meet and greet for the school board candidates on Thursday.

Daven – Thanked Jen for the R.O.X. program, this is another great way to improve the culture in our school

15. Establish Future Board Meetings

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, Closed Session at 5:00 (if needed); Business Meeting at 5:30 p.m. – Elementary IMC

Wednesday, April 9, 2025, Closed Session at 5:00 (if needed); Business Meeting at 5:30 p.m. – Elementary IMC

16. Call for Adjournment

Motion by Hildebrandt, second by McGrath to adjourn the meeting. Voting yes – all. Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

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