



# RAIDER REPORT

PULASKI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2023

## Thank you for supporting education

Greetings, Pulaski Community School District members!

I hope this Raider Report finds all of you excited for the positive changes in the district! Throughout this newsletter you will find much noteworthy information on current happenings or what is to come in the near future! From the work of our Teaching and Learning Team, and continued work on Envisioning Our Future (five-year strategic planning), to the upcoming referendum driven building projects there is much to be excited about and get involved in!

How many ways can I express gratitude to all community members who are getting involved in the happenings in and around the district. We had a successful Envisioning Our Future event on Feb. 1 with about 100 participants learning and discussing the future path for the Pulaski Community School District! If you were unable to attend and would still like to participate or learn more about this, please contact me any time.

If you have been keeping track of district news via Pulaski News or through our monthly board meetings, you may have already heard our deep appreciation to this community for the support in the passing of both our operational and capital referendum! Your dedication to our school community spoke loud and clear and was heard by us all! Though it may seem quiet since the November



Allison Space

election time and passing of these referendums, we have been very busy in the work of moving forward.

**Operational Referendum Update:** The passage of the operational referendum allowed us to create a sustainable model for staff retention by making our wages market comparable. During the executive session of the January 25th board meeting, the Board of Education passed the recommended compensation model. All \$1.5 million have been allocated to salary and wages with 100 percent of our staff receiving an increase.

**Capital Referendum Update:** Within this Raider Report, you can specifically see a timeline of work for the building project. Throughout the projects we will have updates coming out to the community via our website and Pulaski News. Here is a little glimpse of what has been happening during this pre-construction phase!

**What's New:** The district began meeting with Bray Architects to further refine the needs identified during the referendum process. Focus groups have been created for each school to ensure the solutions meet the needs of both the administration and teachers. Recently, members of the District, along with teachers from Hillcrest, Sunnyside and Pulaski High School, toured several newly constructed schools in north and central Wisconsin to see the solutions they put in place, and to get their feedback

**See SUPERINTENDENT on Page 8**

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Website: [www.pulaskischools.org](http://www.pulaskischools.org)

LIKE the Pulaski Community School District and Red Raider Field of Dreams on Facebook.

Search #RaiderStrong on Twitter.

Search Pulaski Community School District on YouTube and Flickr.

See a complete guide to PCSD social media at: [www.pulaskischools.org/resources/social-media-directory](http://www.pulaskischools.org/resources/social-media-directory).



### PCSD

Founded on Tradition and Pride, Focused on Excellence!

### SCHOOLS

PULASKI HIGH SCHOOL	920-822-6700	@PCSD_PHS
PCMS	920-822-6500	@PCSD_PCMS
FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY	920-899-6300	@PCSD_FV
SUNNYSIDE ELEMENTARY	920-822-6200	@PCSD_SS
LANNOYE ELEMENTARY	920-865-6400	@PCSD_LN
HILLCREST ELEMENTARY	920-272-6900	@PCSD_HC
GLENBROOK ELEMENTARY	920-822-6100	@PCSD_GB

The Raider Report is published by the Pulaski Community School District.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### PULASKI HIGH SCHOOL

The PHS Art Department was recently awarded a grant to buy an additional 3D printer.



Pach



**LEFT: PBL students raked leaves this fall for six senior citizens in the village and the Pulaski Adult Activity Center .**



**PHS choir students, under the direction of Kathryn Brown, performed holiday songs on Fox 11 prior to Christmas. They are pictured here performing in the PHS holiday concert.**



**ABOVE: Students at PHS continue to master a rigorous curriculum inside the building and have been showcasing their strengths and talents outside of our building.**

*Jeremy Pach is principal of Pulaski High School.*

### PCMS



Fullerton

On behalf of everyone at PCMS, we hope you are having a great start to 2023! Our students completed our winter culture survey. We are very happy with our results. Examples include: 97 percent of our students feel physically safe at PCMS, 99.6 percent feel connected to at least one student at PCMS, 90 percent feel connected to at least one adult at PCMS, 90.5 percent feel part of our school and 97.9 percent feel they are treated fairly by principals at PCMS. We want all of the results to be 100 percent and will continue to work towards our goal.

The winter athletic season is still on-going at PCMS. Our girls and boys basketball teams along with our dance team finished up before the winter break. Now onto Wrestling. Our co-ed wrestling teams have already competed in Wausau and at Bay Port. Now they are onto our league competition and they hosted our own Pulaski Invite on Feb. 4 at Pulaski High School. Forensics is in full swing as is our musical. This year's musical is *Little Mermaid*, to be performed April 21-23.



**PCMS band students performed in concert at PHS in December. The PCMS Jazz Band and Honors Wind Ensemble performed Jan. 23 at PCMS while the choir performed in concert Jan. 10. Students are now learning in a remodeled band room.**

*Patrick Fullerton is principal of Pulaski Community Middle School.*

# ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

It has been a fantastic start to the 2022-23 school year for Pulaski's elementary schools! From PTO events and guest presenters, to concerts and field trips, our elementary schools are back in full swing. Needless to say there have been lots and lots of smiles to start the year and we're looking forward to seeing many more as our year continues.



## Principals



**Marc Klawiter**  
Sunnyside



**Niki Napralla**  
Fairview



**Peggy Goddard**  
Lannoye



**Kurtis Sufka**  
Glenbrook



**Kris Wells**  
Hillcrest

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Technology Department recently implemented Find me Printing for district staff.



Caelwarts

What is Find Me Printing?

Find Me Printing allows users to add a document to a universal print queue within the network and then walk to the nearest copier or whichever copier is convenient, tap their card and print the document!

Why Find Me Printing?

Find Me Printing helps to reduce paper waste. Find Me Printing eliminates documents that are never picked up from the printer, whether this is due to it being the wrong document or just sent to the wrong printer.



It also eliminates those documents that get printed by mistake. You can simply select the job at the printer and delete it before ink ever hits the paper. With Find Me Printing, you can edit the document print options at the printer when you collect them.

Speaking of saving money, we all know that documents get sent to the printer accidentally, and sometimes you just don't have the time to get the document; it's just the way of life! When using Find Me Printing, your device will automatically delete the record after a specific time, freeing up the print queue and meaning that you'll reduce the amount of paper waste produced.

Another great feature of Find Me Printing is that documents are kept completely confidential. With the Find Me Printing System the document can only be released by the person who sent it to the printing device. Within the queue, documents are kept safe and secure so that no documents can be accessed without being authenticated by the document owner.

Tina Caelwarts is director of Information Technology.

4K/EARLY CHILDHOOD

The Pulaski Community School District will offer 4-year-old kindergarten for the 2023-24 school year. The enrollment window opened Feb. 6.



Napralla

Enrollment for the 4K program is done online on the 4K website at www.pulaskischools.org/4k. As part of the enrollment process, you will be asked to complete the 4K enrollment form, an Ages & Stages Questionnaire, and a health history form.

If you do not have computer access to the online forms or need assistance filling out the forms, please call Alissa Tetzlaff at 920-822-6021.



Niki Napralla is PCSD 4K coordinator.

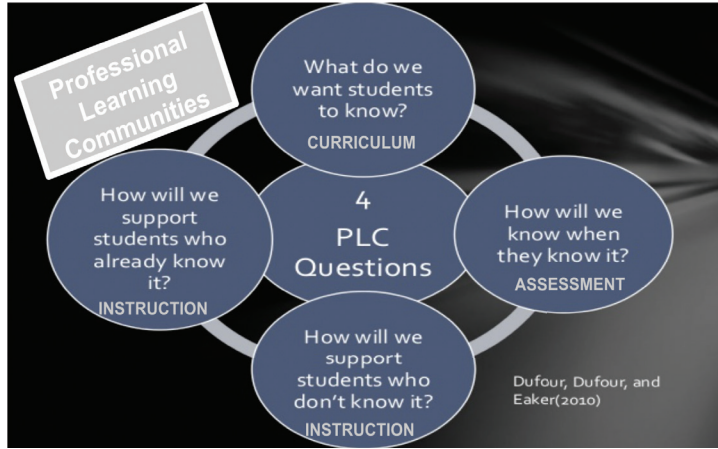
TEACHING AND LEARNING

The PCSD continues on the journey of our work to be Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). A Professional Learning Community (PLC) is an **ongoing** process in which schools/ districts work **collaboratively** in recurring cycles of **collective inquiry** and **action research** to achieve better **results** for the **STUDENTS** they serve. As shared previously in district newsletters, the work of the collaborative teams of teachers focuses on four critical questions centered around curriculum, assessment and instruction. The four critical questions include:

1. What do we want students to know? (Curriculum: Universal Instruction)
2. How will we know when they know it? (Assessment)
3. How will we support students who don't know it? (Instruction: Intervention)
4. How will we support students who already know it? (Instruction: Extension)

As educators, our work is focused on providing a guaranteed universal core instruction for all students. It shouldn't matter which school your child attends in the district or what teacher your child has; the power standards and learning targets should be the same for all students. We continue to focus on doing questions 1 (What do we want students to know? (Curriculum: Universal Instruction) and 2 (How will we know when they know it? (Assessment) really well for all students at high levels of learning.

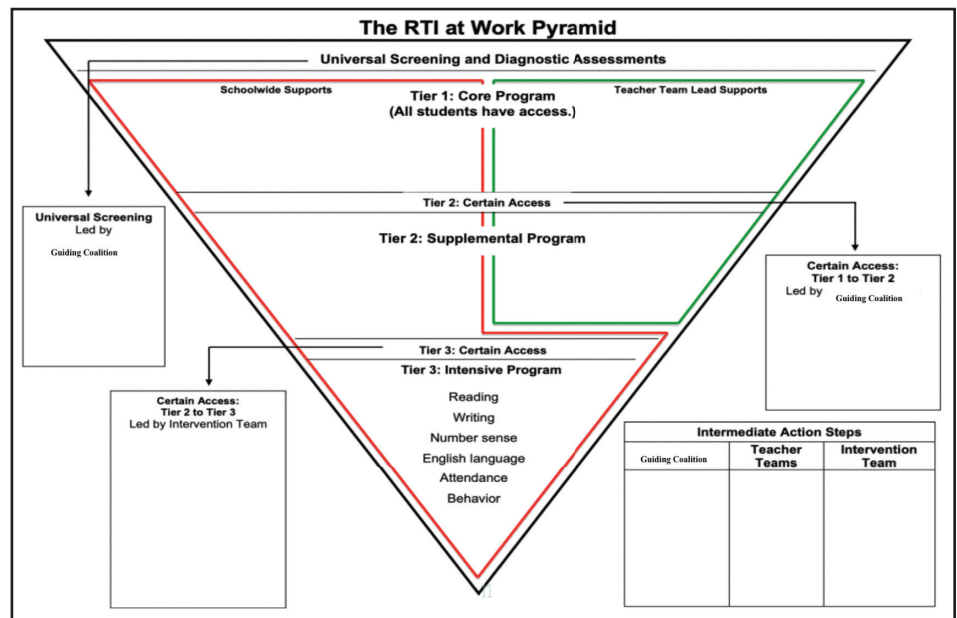
However, we also know even before the pandemic there was a need to support students who weren't



Gracyalny



Mathys



proficient in certain skills and required interventions. This brings question #3 (How will we support students who don't know it?) to the forefront. Together as a district staff throughout the year, we have focused on Response to Intervention/ Instruction (RtI) or Multi-Levelled Systems of Support (MLSS) to provide levels or tiers of support. The diagram shows the two levels of support through Tier 2: Supplemental Programming and Tier 3: Intensive Programming to help support students who require interventions in specific power standard, learning targets, skills and will (both academic and behavioral).

We continue our work of providing systematic interventions and enrichment when needed for students who need a little more than the universal curriculum.

Please know that our 600-plus staff members are committed to the PCSD mission which is to provide all students the opportunity to achieve the knowledge and skills necessary to become contributing citizens in our diverse world.

It is our compelling vision that: "One Community: Everyone succeeds as they learn, grow, serve, and inspire the world."

*Jennifer Gracyalny is executive director of Teaching and Learning. Lindsey Mathys is assistant director of Learning Services.*

# DISTRICT NEWS

## FACILITIES

It's exciting times across the Pulaski Community School District with the successful passing of the referendum.

While the planning and design work continues with Bray Architects and CD Smith daily, we are beginning to work on a more precise timeline on when certain projects will be completed.

While the major expansion and remodels at Hillcrest, Sunnyside, and Pulaski High School will be in the spring of 2024, we still have many other projects that will impact every school across the district.

Some of the projects will be completed this summer in preparation for moving summer school out of Hillcrest in 2024, systems that are beginning to fail, and also projects that can be grouped together for potential cost

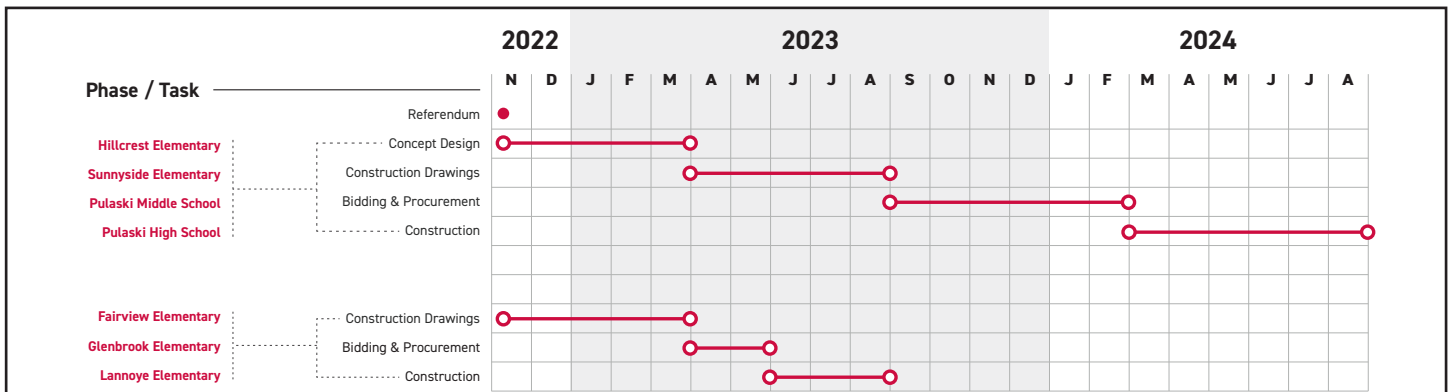
savings. Some of the projects you will see completed this summer include:

- Sitework at Lannoye including resurfaced and designed parking lots
- Sitework at Glenbrook including playground hard surface
- Sitework at Fairview including sidewalks and playground hard surface
- Pulaski High School fire system replacement and bathroom remodel
- Glenbrook office HVAC replacement and bathroom remodel
- School Safety upgrades including all door hardware across the district



Phillips

We are currently working off the timeline pictured below.



PCSD administrators and staff members have toured other new schools in the state to get ideas for upcoming renovations within the district.

Nick Phillips is PCSD Facilities director.

## DISTRICT NEWS

### INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

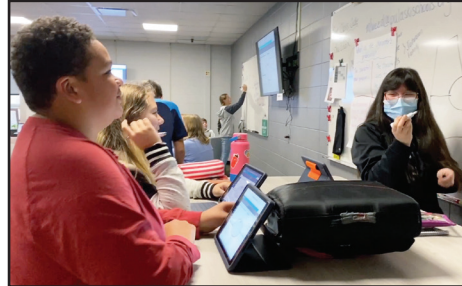
**The Perfect Learning Tool:** iPads continue to impact learning in our classrooms! After evaluating and piloting Android tablets, iPads, laptops and even iPod Touches (back in the day) in our classrooms in 2011, our district chose the iPad as the best technology device to support our vision for teaching and learning! And, it continues to be a valuable tool for our students, teachers and staff. See a variety of ways students are using iPad for learning ...



Uelmen



PHS students discuss a prompt in class as they notate ideas in the Notability app.

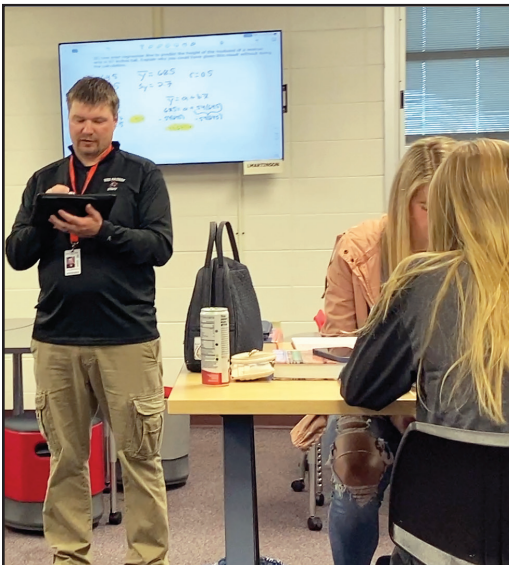


PCMS students brainstorm using the whiteboard in the Lumio app.



Elementary students look at a Seesaw activity to complete their work.

See a variety of ways teachers are using iPads for teaching and business efficiency ...



LEFT: Luke Martinson, PHS teacher, explains linear regression to AP Statistics students. ABOVE: Wayne Pierre, music teacher, showcases a student's work for other students in the class so they can check their work.



Bus driver Mary Schroeder completes a post-trip inspection form on an iPad.

The iPad continues to be a very effective learning tool because it has so many features built into it that allows students to write, draw, create, produce, narrate and explore. These skills are extremely important for jobs today and navigating the digital world.

Each elementary student is each issued an iPad that stays in school and middle and high schools student iPads travel to classes and home.

However, that does not mean students are on devices all the time. Our district values a balanced approach recognizing that students need learning connected with hands on practice, collaboration with their peers and the use of technology when it enhances the learning experience. The iPads provide a greater ability to learn anywhere at any time, allowing for more collaboration and facilitating increased access to information, peers and experts.

*Amy Uelmen is PCSD director of Instructional Technology.*

## STUDENT SERVICES

The Pulaski Community School District Student Services Department focuses on ensuring success for all students ages 3-21 through providing holistic services that focus on social, emotional, functional and academic skills.

We meet the individualized needs of each learner through the implementation of evidence-based practices including teaching strategies and providing comprehensive support for students and staff.

Student Services professionals are available in each of the seven schools within the Pulaski Community School District. More than 150 staff members including teachers, paraprofessionals, school counselors, nurses, therapists, English Language staff, school psychologists, educational interpreters, supportive diagnosticians, administrative assistants, school resource officers, Native American liaison and advocate, social worker and others work under the umbrella of Student Services.

The 2022-23 school year has been exciting as many students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) have been able to participate once again in community-based outings which is essential in the development of work and life skills. Additionally,

*Julie Harris is Student Services director. Lara Kuchenbecker is assistant director of Student Services.*

events such as the Valentine's Day Dance are returning to the Pulaski Community School District with several students and staff from surrounding school districts expected to participate.

The Student Services Department continues to focus on wellness for students and staff. Through providing a comprehensive school counseling curriculum at all schools along with offering small group and individualized therapeutic services, all student needs are able to be addressed. Additionally, staff participate in professional development activities focusing on wellness, compassion resilience, trauma informed care and other topics aimed at supporting the needs of our educators who serve our students. The goal of these services is to provide education and training for all members of our educational organization in order to best serve our students and community.

If you have questions about services offered from the Student Services department, please contact our office at 920-822-6020.



Harris



Kuchenbecker

## SUPERINTENDENT

From Page 1

on what has worked best in their few facilities.

**What's Next:** Surveyors will visit each school to help us define the properties in greater detail, in preparation for the changes happening on the exterior of our schools. Bray will meet individually with members from Glenbrook, Fairview, Lannoye and Pulaski Middle School to hone in on changes planned for those facilities.

As always, there are many highlights that ground us as a community school district in our philosophy of tradition, pride and excellence! As you read through this newsletter, you will see examples of learning excellence and highlights in our different departments of initiatives that are not necessarily new, but are being brought back to the forefront.

We know it is with your partnership and involvement that PCSD continues to be great. The future is bright for PCSD! Again, thank you to the many PCSD community members who support the district every day. It truly takes a community to come together to have a school district as phenomenal as this one. I look forward to the continued connection with you in the upcoming months.

Yours in Education,  
**Allison Space**  
Superintendent

## Election ballot set

The PCSD Board of Education has three seats up for election on April 4, two of which are contested.

Zone 2, which represents Chase, Little Suamico and Morgan, will have incumbent Alisa Anderson facing Dennis Kaminski. Anderson has served on the board since being appointed in September to fill the unexpired seat of Jeromy Delebreaux. Even though Delebreaux's seat didn't expire until 2024, appointed board members must be voted in at the next election to continue long term.

Zone 6, which represents Hobart and Oneida, will see incumbent Heidi Melzer opposed by Corey Juelich.

Michael Voelker, Zone 4 incumbent, filed non-candidacy papers in December. He has served on the board for 10 years. Jennifer Schwarz is running unopposed for the seat. Zone 4 represents Maple Grove and Lessor.



## TRANSPORTATION

There's a lot happening behind the scenes when it comes to making sure bus routes run smoothly during the winter. Our mechanics do a remarkable job making sure our yard is plowed, our buses are ready to go and our students are kept safe on the routes. And, be assured, bus drivers are doing everything possible to stay on schedule while maintaining safety as they plow through snow-covered roads. Students need to dress warm while waiting or walking to the bus, because depending on road conditions, winter routes could run 10-20 minutes behind. We appreciate that driveways are kept cleared, especially for our white buses, which are required to pick up and drop off students in their driveway and not on the road.



Szymanski



**The Pulaski Community School District is looking for school bus drivers to help transport students to and from school and to extracurricular activities.**

might be interested in what we have to offer, please contact the Transportation Office or the Human Resources Department. In as few as four weeks, you can be ready to go! Spring is just around the corner; our busiest season of all! Our students need you!

*Tracey Szymanski is PCSD Transportation supervisor.*

## PACE



PACE will make sure everyone is strong and healthy in 2023. Let us introduce our new community strength and conditioning coach and our new aquatics director.



Heck

Spencer Lichon, left photo, is now running our Fitness Center at PHS. Please contact Spencer and he will be able to tailor a workout plan specifically for you. Our community Fitness Center is open Monday - Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. and Monday - Thursday from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Stay Strong Raiders. 920-822-6783

The Pulaski Pool has a new aquatics coordinator as well. Robyn Bartal, pictured right, is determined to get the community soaked! We have parent-tot swim lessons, youth swim lessons, swim club, swim team and adult classes. There is something for everyone! Stop in, meet Robyn and sign up. 920-822-6060



*Mark Heck is PACE director.*

## DISTRICT NEWS

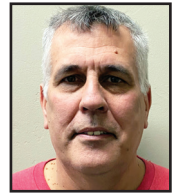
### FOOD SERVICE

As I completed my first year as director of PCSD this past January and have gotten acquainted with each school and staff, I have begun adding new entrée items, recipes and concepts to the district.

We use an interactive web-based program (Nutri-Slice) to post menus for each school. One highlight I would like to stress is the ability of the student or parent for the younger students to rate the menu entrées.

To find Nutri Slice, go to the Pulaski Community School District Web page ([www.pulaskischools.org](http://www.pulaskischools.org)), click on the tab for departments, click on food service, finally menus.

From there, you can choose which school and lunch or breakfast. After that simply click on the menu item and it will automatically bring the nutritional information about the entrée and at the bottom you can rate the food. Once the food is rated, you have the option to give accolades or constructive criticism.



Swanson

**STILL MAY APPLY:** It's never too late to apply for free or reduced lunch and breakfast. You can find this information at the PCSD Web page, departments, forms and documents. Then, click on the link on how to complete form.

*John Swanson is PCSD Food Service director.*

## PCSD has four 2023 Golden Apple Teachers of Distinction

Congrats to four PCSD teachers who have been named as Teachers of Distinction in the 2023 Greater Green Bay Chamber's Golden Apple program. They are: Becky Barry, Hillcrest Elementary School; Sarah Morgan, Pulaski Community Middle School; Wayne Pierre, Glenbrook Elementary School; and Derek Zahn, Pulaski High School. They are among 22 individuals and five teacher teams from around Green Bay who will be considered for 2023 Golden Apple Awards. The Golden Apple ceremony is April 19.



Barry



Morgan



Pierre



Zahn

**Lannoye:** EC Team - Sara Nys, Tracy Teske, Courtney Ambrosius, Amber Molle, Heidi Koeshall; Tasha Christensen, Kendra Wetzel, Bethany Dziekan, Stephanie Heezen, Sarah Hoverson, Danielle Schuster, Trisha Nguyen, Amanda Rodenhauser

"We are proud to share that 92 nominations were received recognizing the great work of our staff within the Pulaski Community School District," said Jennifer Gracyalny, Teaching and Learning executive director. "We are extremely proud of all of our educators!" Nominations were received from students, parents, colleagues, administrators and community members. Congratulations to the following nominees:

**Fairview:** Catherine Franke

**Hillcrest:** Becky Barry, Emily Fridland, Nate Thompson

**Glenbrook:** Katie Backhaus, Shannon Bishop, Cora Blackburn, Dennis Bogacz, Tracey Brewczynski, Shara Brunke, Nicole Diemel, Justin Depiesse, Beth Jaime, Staci Karcz, Sara Larsen, Sue Lewin, Rachel Nett, Sarah Olson, Wayne Pierre, Todd Skinkis, Tracy Wiedeman, Amy Wendricks, Samantha Wright

**Sunnyside:** Amanda Pevonka, Carmen Raymaker, Chris Wendorf, Elizabeth Awve, Emily Younkle, Jacqueline Baumann, Janel Vizina, Jessica Rosenberg-Fredrickson, Kelly Brennan-Calaway, Lydia Storby, Mikaela Rosenow, Molly Brotski, Nicole Shukoski, Paula Goeben, Sarah Hockers, Shelby Wilinski, Suanne Prestby, Taylor Theis; fifth-grade team: Shelby Wilinski, Janel Vizina, and Nicole Shukoski

**PCMS:** Andy Bock, Carrie Burch, Patricia Challe, Christian Dorst, Barbara Forsberg, Sara Hoffmann, Chris Karcz, Brianna Kehoe, Michael King, Dave Landers, Nichole Linsmeier, Kelly Logue, Colleen Cantlon-Marler, Sarah Matles, Jean McWey, Sarah Morgan, Erin O'Donnell, Lindsey Przybylski, Eliane Sieracki, Jackson Smith, Jenny Stehlik, Olivia Thomson, Jeff Uelmen, Andrew Wright; Attitude House: Carrie Burch, Sandra Schmidt, Eliane Sieracki, and Olivia Thomson, Journey House: Dave Landers, Erin O'Donnell, and Jenny Stehlik, Adventure House: Nichole Linsmeier and Sarah Matles

**PHS:** Tom Busch, Mike Guerrero, Samuel Hunt, Richard Kamps, Brianna Karcz, Paula Krause, John Krause, Kacie Langlitz, Jay Robaidek and Derek Zahn

# PCSD exceeds expectations in DPI report card

Five of the Pulaski Community School District's seven schools received a four-star (exceeds expectations) ranking while the two others earned three-star (meets expectations) rankings in the state Department of Public Instruction's 2021-2022 School and District Report Cards. The PCSD as a whole was deemed to exceed expectations.

The DPI creates a report card for every publicly funded school and district in the state, which was released today. They are ranked from five stars (significantly exceeds expectations) to one star (fails to meet expectations). PCSD school results are as follows:

Receiving a four-star rating and exceeding expectations was: The Pulaski Community School District, Fairview Elementary School, Glenbrook Elementary School, Hillcrest Elementary School, Lannoye Elementary School, and Pulaski High School. Receiving three-star ratings and meeting expectations were: Sunnyside Elementary School, Pulaski Community Middle School.

Report cards are intended to help schools and districts use performance data to target improvement efforts to ensure students are ready for their next educational step, including the next grade level, graduation, and college or careers.

The report cards measure:

- Student achievement proficiency in reading and math on state assessments.
- Student growth measured by year-to-year improvements in achievement.
- Target group outcomes using information for students with the lowest test scores during the previous testing year (the target group) to compare their current year performance versus the non-target group population.
- On-track to graduation which shows how successfully students are achieving educational milestones that predict later success (attendance rates, graduation rates, etc.)
- Besides the star ratings, schools are assigned a score from 0 to 100 that is not a "percent correct" measurement but a formula that combines the four priority areas.

Those scores are: Hillcrest Elementary: 79.9, Lannoye Elementary: 78.4, Pulaski High School: 76.7, Glenbrook Elementary: 73.4, Fairview Elementary: 71.7, Pulaski Community Middle School: 68.1, Sunnyside Elementary: 66.8



PCSD had an overall score of 73.1 (Exceeds Expectations), which ranked the fourth highest in the Fox River Classic Conference.

"We are proud that overall the district exceeded expectations and almost all of our schools exceeded expectations or met expectations on the state report card used as accountability measures," said Jennifer Gracyalny, executive director of Teaching and Learning. "We realize this is only one measure of student achievement and must be triangulated with other state, district and classroom assessments to truly support and drive student learning in our classrooms. Our staff do an amazing job of utilizing evidence of learning and data to meet our student, curriculum and instruction needs."

The 2021-2022 report cards use data from a variety of sources, including information reported through WISEdash and three years of Forward testing as well as three years of ACT Plus Writing, ACT Aspire and Dynamic Learning Maps testing. Please note that testing was canceled for all but the ACT Plus Writing assessment in 2019-2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, test participation was impacted in both the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 testing seasons. As a result, DPI continues to caution the interpretation of scores and ratings due to the influence that the COVID-19 pandemic had on testing conditions during the years of testing included in these report cards.

Report cards can be found on the Department of Public Instruction's Office of Accountability School and District Report Card webpage, <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards>.

# Improved bond rate means savings for taxpayers

The Pulaski Community School District's bond rating was recently upgraded by Moody's Investors Service to Aa2 from Aa3.

The improved rating, according to Moody's, was a reflection of the district's growing local economy, positive enrollment trends and strengthening financial reserve position that is expected to be maintained following voter authorization of an operational referendum.

A bond's rating reflects the likelihood that an issuing company will be able to pay off its debt.

Bond ratings earlier in the alphabet are considered better than those later in the alphabet, according to The Motley Fool website. From there, numbers or symbols further break down the letter-based rating. Moody's uses numbers to indicate relative quality, with Aa1 being the best Aa rating, followed by Aa2 and Aa3.

While that might seem convoluted, what taxpayers need to know is this: The district was able to secure a lower interest rate when it sold general obligation bonds on Jan. 24 for the \$69.8 million building projects that were approved by voters in a November 2022 referendum.

Prior to the referendum, the district projected an interest rate of 4.75 percent to 5 percent. Instead, when the district locked in financing on Jan. 24, it was able to secure an interest rate of 3.7 percent. The Board of Education previously gave Allison Space, superintendent, and Heidi Melzer, School Board president, the permission to lock in financing when the fluctuating bond market was at an advantageous point in regard to interest rates.

That will save the district more than \$10.3 million in interest payments over the life of the financing. But that's

not all. That lowers the average mill rate that taxpayers will pay for the building project over the payback period from \$1.28 per \$1,000 assessed value mill rate projected prior to the referendum to \$1.04 per \$1,000 assessed. That means, a property owner with a home valued at \$100,000 would pay \$104 instead of \$128. The owner of a home valued at \$200,000 would pay \$208 instead of \$256.

"It is a big deal," said board member Michael Voelker. "It really points to our fiscal responsibility and the timing of this, too. It's great, as good as you could possibly hope for."

"And Moody's doesn't just give out increases in the ratings like candy," said board member Barb McKeefry.

Logan said such rating improvements are rare and are the result of an in-depth and intense look at district financials by Moody's. In fact, at the Jan. 25 Board of Education meeting, Logan said he had never previously seen a bond rating improvement at a district where he worked.

**PROJECT UPDATE:** Space noted at the Jan. 25 board meeting that a flurry of activity is happening in what is called a pre-construction planning phase. School administrators have visited other schools that have been recently built or remodeled to gather information to best fine-tune building plans. Regular communication between district administrators and Bray Architects and contractor C.D. Smith. is occurring during this planning phase.

Most of the work will take place at Sunnyside Elementary, Hillcrest Elementary, and Pulaski High School; however, all buildings will receive updates and improvements to major building systems and improved site safety. The preliminary schedule calls for the improvements to start in the spring of 2024.



**BAND, CHOIR TO PASADENA:** The Pulaski Red Raider marching band and PHS choir have been chosen to perform in the 2024 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California. The band has performed at this event in years prior, but this time the PHS choir also gets to show its talents alongside them. The PHS choir was recommended for the event from their past performances at Carnegie Hall and Disney World. The band has been preparing since February 2022, organizing rehearsals to practice their music and choreography. In the months leading up to audition day, they rehearsed two nights a week, every week, marching in the ever-changing Wisconsin weather. They recorded their audition video in the PHS parking lot on May 8. The band will have about 200 marchers from ninth to 12th grade and the choir will have performers from eighth to 12th grade as well.

## DISTRICT NEWS

---

**80 YEARS OF PULASKI NEWS:** Pulaski area residents have now received student-produced information via the Pulaski News for 80 years. The newspaper holds the title of being the longest-running community newspaper produced by students in the nation. Over the past eight decades, many student editors, reporters, photographers, ad sales representatives and more received practical training while helping disseminate information to area residents. The Pulaski News dates back to the Pulaski HI - NEWS and the Tricopa (tri-county paper) in 1938. However, in August 1942, the start of the Pulaski News produced by high school students was heartily received by the community. The first few weeks, 1,800 papers were printed.

**FFA HONORS BAND:** PHS senior Emily Skala recently performed with the National FFA Honors band on bass clarinet. To be eligible, she had to be a second year in the state band, and show her abilities through a chromatic scale and solo audition. Her FFA advisor was also a part of the process, helping to fill out paperwork. This ensemble takes roughly 80 students, and performs at the National FFA Convention sponsored by Corteva Agriscience. Previously, she earned a spot on the State FFA Honors Band. Skala earned a seat as the only bass clarinet among 70 musicians this year.

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** One Pulaski High School student was named a semi-finalist in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program. Additionally, three others have been named as Commended students. Jonathon Hanson, Sobieski, is a semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program (NMSP) while Charles Duffrin, Oneida; Aiden Mikulsky, Sobieski; and Jack Ryan,

Oneida, were named Commended students.

**FRANCE TRIP:** The PHS French Club will travel to France this summer, exactly 10 years since the last trip in 2013. The club will leave for France on June 16 and will stay in the country for 15 days — exploring the outskirts of France as well as favorite tourist attractions in Paris.

**A CENTURY OF YEARBOOKS:** One-hundred years of student-led yearbooks is happening this school year. “This yearbook doesn’t just represent who’s working on it today, but 100 years of students who worked on it before,” stated yearbook officer Alyssa Spates. The Yearbook Club meets at PHS each Wednesday during homeroom in Aaron Sperduto’s classroom. Sperduto has been assisting the yearbook staff for the past 16 years. Twenty-three staff members are capturing the moments this year at PHS for the 2022-23 yearbook.

**MUSIC ACHIEVEMENTS:** The WSMA State Honors Band and Choir took place on Oct. 28, 2022, and PHS had seven individuals chosen to take part in this opportunity. The individuals who were selected were seniors: Callie Widi, Madeline Diefenthaler, Janelle Erickson, Audryn Just, and Timothy Huber, and sophomores: Olivia Hodge and Kaden Brown. Widi was also recently selected to perform with the National Association for Music Education concert band program in Maryland. Widi has played tuba for seven years and made nationals three years in a row, though two of those years were virtual due to lock-down restrictions. This year, nationals were at the Gaylord Convention Center in National Harbor Nov. 3-6, 2022.

**NEW CLUBS:** Pulaski High School has two new clubs. The first is dedicated to teaching American Sign Language. The club is being led by Pulaski High School senior Breann Hodge and is being advised by social studies teacher Paula Krause. Hope Squad is a Pulaski High School club that focuses on peer suicide prevention. The program runs across the United States. It was created in Utah after that state experienced a spike in teenage suicides. Julie Harris, PCSD director of Student Services, introduced the idea for the Pulaski Community School District. Program advisers are Brianna Karcz, Jeff Waggoner, Leah Grant, Shelby Kaisershot, Carly Cerrato and Mallory Lichon. Hope Squad members are from grades 9 to 12, and 39 members are in the program. At the beginning of the year, students nominated three students to be a part of Hope Squad. They selected students that they feel comfortable talking to and that they can trust.

**DUFFRIN APPOINTED:** Charlie



Duffrin

Duffrin, PHS senior, son of Jeff and Becky Duffrin, was recently appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Duffrin has wanted to join the Naval

Academy throughout his high school career, since freshman year. “It’s a great educational institution and the career paths that it gives me access to are things that I’m really interested in,” Duffrin shared. When he was appointed into the Naval Academy, Duffrin felt really great, especially since the outcome was so long-awaited after submitting his application back in late July of 2022.

## Busy fall in Pulaski Red Raider varsity sports

PHS spring sports will begin soon. Schedules are subject to change. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/PCSDsports> to view the most current schedules. Here are highlights from the beginning of the school year:



Janel Batten

**INDIGENOUS GAMES:** Vivien Ninham, Pulaski High School junior golfer, was selected to participate in the 10th North American Indigenous Games (NAIG). The games are July 15-23 in Nova Scotia, Canada. NAIG 2023 will bring together more than 5,000 athletes, coaches and team staff from 756-plus indigenous nations celebrating, sharing and reconnecting through sport and culture.

**SOCCER TEAM TO STATE:** Ben Uelmen scored the winning goal to send the Pulaski Red Raiders boys soccer team to a 1-0 victory over Tomah to advance to the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association State Tournament. Although the team fell in the state semi-final game, most were happy with how their season as a whole had gone. The PHS boys soccer team later received a team Sportsmanship Award for the 2022 fall State Tournaments. The WIAA, in cooperation with Rural Mutual Insurance Co., sponsor the awards. It marks the second time Pulaski has received the award overall. Their previous recognition came in softball in 1996.

**DOUBLES TEAM TO STATE:** On Oct. 13, 2022, Pulaski tennis players Madeline Diefenthaler and Ruth Krause competed in the 2022 WIAA tennis state championship in Madison. They played Greenville and ended up losing 6-2, 6-0. Greenville took fifth place overall. "I think we played well. We did our best and had fun doing it," said Diefenthaler. This past season was Diefenthaler's fourth and final year playing on Pulaski's varsity tennis team and her first year as team captain. "Being a team captain this year truly was an honor. Being voted as one of the captains this year by the team and (being) seen as a leader by them really meant a lot to me."

**OPOLKA TO STATE:** On Oct. 29, PHS student Angela Opolka competed in the WIAA state cross country meet in Wisconsin Rapids. Out of 190 runners, she came in 88th place in the girls Division I. Her time was 20:50. This was Opolka's first time at state. Opolka said, "My goal for the race was to be in the top half and I accomplished that, so I'm really happy about that." Other than competing, she enjoyed running at state. "I really enjoyed the experience, and it was really cool to be in a place where there were so many fans and spectators that were like, really into the sport," said Opolka. Her sectional time of 20:23.9 was strong enough to advance to state.

*Janel Batten is PHS athletic director.*



Taya Schmidt placed fifth in diving at the recent WIAA swimming and diving meet. She is pictured springing off the board in FRCC competition at Ashwaubenon High School.

**SCHMIDT FIFTH AT STATE:** PHS senior Taya Schmidt advanced to the WIAA Girls Swimming and Diving Championship in Madison on Nov. 12, after placing first at the WIAA Girls Division I Sectional with a score of 461.35 on Nov. 6. At state, Schmidt placed fifth with a total score of 428.45. She will dive collegiately at Delta State University, Cleveland, Mississippi.

**BRUSS HONORED:** Emily Bruss, a Pulaski High School junior, was nominated for Fox River Classic Conference co-player of the year this past fall during volleyball season. Co-player of the year is given to the athlete the coaches think is one of the best in the conference. It's a step further than first team all-conference honors.

**NEW TRACK COACH:** Rick Kamps is the new PHS varsity track and field coach. He replaces Kim Noe, who resigned after last season. We are excited to have coach Kamps take over as the head varsity track coach at Pulaski High School. Rick has been a coach and teacher here for years. We are excited to have him lead our track athletes and coaches. Kamps is a technical education teacher at Pulaski High School for Project Lead the Way Engineering, CAD, Architecture, Graphics and CISCO IT Essentials – Hardware and Raider Graphics classes.

# DISTRICT CALENDAR

## July 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## August 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## September 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## October 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## November 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## December 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## January 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## February 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

## March 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## April 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## May 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## June 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aug 15, 2023 • New Teacher Orientation</li> <li>Aug 16, 2023 • New Teacher Orientation</li> <li>Aug 17, 2023 • New Teacher Orientation</li> <li>Aug 22, 2023 • PD Day</li> <li>Aug 23, 2023 • PD Day</li> <li>Aug 24, 2023 • PD Day</li> <li>Aug 25, 2023 • PD Day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aug 28, 2023 • 1st Day of School</li> <li>Sep 4, 2023 • Labor Day - No School</li> <li>Sep 29, 2023 • PD Day - No School</li> <li>Oct 19, 2023 • PD Day - No School</li> <li>Oct 20, 2023 • No School - Students and Staff</li> <li>Nov 1, 2023 • End of 1st Quarter</li> <li>Nov 22, 2023 • No School - Students and Staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nov 23, 2023 • Thanksgiving - No School</li> <li>Nov 24, 2023 • No School - Students and Staff</li> <li>Dec 25, 2023 • No School - Students and Staff</li> <li>Dec 26, 2023 • No School - Students and Staff</li> <li>Dec 27, 2023 • No School - Students and Staff</li> <li>Dec 28, 2023 • No School - Students and Staff</li> <li>Dec 29, 2023 • No School - Students and Staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jan 1, 2024 • No School - Students and Staff</li> <li>Jan 12, 2024 • End of Semester</li> <li>Jan 15, 2024 • MLK Day - No School</li> <li>Jan 16, 2024 • PD Day - No School</li> <li>Feb 23, 2024 • PD Day - No School</li> <li>Feb 28, 2024 • No School - Students and Staff</li> <li>Mar 20, 2024 • End of 3rd Quarter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mar 25, 2024 • No School - Students and Staff</li> <li>Mar 28, 2024 • No School - Students and Staff</li> <li>Mar 27, 2024 • No School - Students and Staff</li> <li>Mar 28, 2024 • No School - Students and Staff</li> <li>Mar 29, 2024 • No School - Students and Staff</li> <li>Apr 1, 2024 • PD Day - No School</li> <li>May 27, 2024 • Memorial Day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May 30, 2024 • Last Day of School</li> <li>May 31, 2024 • PD Day</li> </ul>
--	---	---	--	--	--

## UPCOMING KEY DATES FOR THIS SCHOOL YEAR

- Feb. 15:** Board of Education business meeting, 6 p.m.
- Feb. 16:** Professional Development Day, no school
- Feb. 17:** No school, students and staff
- March 8 :** Board of Education workshop meeting, 6 p.m.\*
- March 17:** No school, students and staff
- March 24:** End of third quarter
- March 29:** Board of Education business meeting, 6 p.m.
- April 3-6:** Spring break, No school
- April 7:** Good Friday, no school
- April 10:** Professional Development Day, no school
- April 26:** Board of Education business meeting, 6 p.m.
- May 3:** Board of Education workshop meeting, 6 p.m.\*
- May 24:** Board of Education business meeting, 6 p.m.

- May 29:** Memorial Day, no school
  - May 31:** PHS graduation
  - June 7:** Board of Education workshop meeting, 6 p.m.\*
  - June 7:** Last day of school
  - June 8:** Professional Development Day
  - June 21:** Board of Education business meeting, 6 p.m.
- \*As needed. May 3 is the board reorganization and board volunteer awards meetings.
- Download district calendars at:** [www.pulaski-schools.org/news-events/annual-calendars](http://www.pulaski-schools.org/news-events/annual-calendars).
- Check out district events at:** <https://www.pulaski-schools.org> and select the Events tab at the top of the home page.



**PULASKI COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Pulaski, WI  
Permit No. 30  
ECRWSS

## POSTAL CUSTOMER

### DISTRICT NEWS

## Band, choir bound for 2024 Rose Parade



The PHS marching band and PHS choir will perform in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California, on Jan. 1, 2024. See more on Page 12.

## Employees sought

The Pulaski Community School District has openings in a variety of positions, all of which help, directly or indirectly, students to excel.

Rates start at \$18 per hour as a bus driver if you hold a Commercial Driver's License and \$16 per hour as a van driver without a CDL.

Short-term substitute teachers earn \$150 per day and long-term subs \$190 a day.

Food service/cooks start at \$13 per hour.

Paraprofessionals start at \$14 per hour.

Go to <https://www.pulaskischools.org/hr/employment-opportunities> for more information.

### BOARD OF EDUCATION



**Heidi Melzer**  
President



**Michael Voelker**  
Vice President



**Sara Mangold**  
Clerk



**Barb McKeefry**  
Treasurer



**Megan Mills-Koehler**  
Member



**Heidi Bukowiec**  
Member



**Alisa Anderson**  
Member

The PCSD Board of Education meets at 6 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the District Offices, 143 W. Green Bay St. To find out more about the Board of Education including meetings, agendas, elections and to read an archive of School Bells columns, go to: [www.pulaskischools.org/boe](http://www.pulaskischools.org/boe). If you have questions you would like answered about how the board operates, send them to: [schoolbells@pulaskischools.org](mailto:schoolbells@pulaskischools.org).