

White & Blue Review



INSIDE:

DISTRICT MISSION: Grounded by our history, as one of the oldest publicly supported schools in Wisconsin, MPSD is the heart of a small community that educates and inspires our students for a bright future in a big world.



OPEN HOUSES

October 10, 2018

October 24, 2018

7:00pm Mineral Point
Elementary School
Gym

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- ✓ Musical Preview
- ✓ Referendum
- ✓ Book Club
- ✓ FFA
- ✓ Costa Rica
- ✓ Business Honor Roll
- ✓ Student Government
- ✓ New Staff

REFERENDUM 2018

? WHAT WILL BE ON THE BALLOT?

Q1: \$11.92 million to renovate and expand the existing elementary.

Q2: \$350 thousand recurring for ongoing operational expenses.



Mentorships Flourish in the District



Jenny Singer, then a student teacher in 2nd grade, shares a laugh while reading with a student.

We are proud of our Pointer football players who, every Friday gameday morning, are greeting elementary students on their way into school. Thanks for being great role models!

Superintendent's Corner

Mitch Wainwright, Mineral Point District Administrator




One hundred and forty years ago, Mineral Point graduated its first class. I am certain there was no dispute when it came to deciding on the top two students of the graduating class because there were only two students. At the time, I would bet that Lizzie Collins and James Goldsworthy never thought they would be the first of many, many graduates to earn diplomas from

Mineral Point Unified School District.

A “unified” school district operates both a primary, or elementary, school and a high school under the same district control. I would add that what makes Mineral Point a unified school district is all the support the community has given the schools for 140 years. Every school district in the state receives funding from its taxpayers in order to operate. But in my experience, Mineral Point is more than just about that. This community, this school district, and every person that is part of the area make Mineral Point a special place to live and raise a family. Each person cares about their neighbor and lends a helping hand when it’s needed. People volunteer to help at school when the need arises. If an unfortunate event occurs, Pointers are there to help in any way possible. Sometimes that’s a shoulder to lean on, other times it’s the shirt off your back to help get the work done, bills paid, pick the kids up, or make a home-cooked meal. It is the way of life in our great community.

Other school districts educate their students, have excellent test scores, and provide opportunities for their children to learn. But I would argue they do not do it with the same level of care and compassion that Mineral Point does. The number of local citizens and alumni that give back to the school and the children is like no other district. Farm visits for our ag students, artist showcases for student work, and guest speakers that provide expert insight into jobs and job skills. One of the most impressive facts about Pointers is the number and financial totals of scholarships our seniors can earn. Alumni that have gone on to be successful and donate back for future generations to continue to grow has no comparison. One of the most recent examples of giving back is the Excellence in

 *White and Blue Review articles and photography credit to Joelle Doye, MPSD Communications Director, unless otherwise noted.*

The Mineral Point Unified School District, in accordance with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and other Federal and State regulations, hereby declares that it is committed to the principle of equal education and employment opportunity and, accordingly, does not discriminate as to sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. Any inquiries or complaints alleging non-compliance with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 or other Federal and State civil rights or nondiscrimination regulations shall be referred to the Title IX Coordinator of the Mineral Point Unified School District.

Education Endowment Foundation. Last spring they awarded money to multiple projects that impact student learning. I know there are many more, but these are just a few of the examples of how Mineral Point cares for its students.

When this senior class graduates, most likely they will not understand the level of support they have received from their community. Hopefully, one day they will look back and realize just how lucky they were to grow up here and join the ranks of Pointer Alumni that have and continue to make the world a better place.

We can all be proud to say, “We are Pointers!” 🗨

Mitch.Wainwright@mp.k12.wi.us | 987.0740

Once Upon A Mattress

The Mineral Point High School Musical Theatre Department is looking forward to presenting “Once Upon a Mattress” November 16-18 at the Opera House. Showtimes are 7 pm Friday and Saturday, and 2 pm Sunday.

Cast list: Megan Berg (Queen Aggravain), Sage Shemak (Princess Winnifred), Owen Stephenson (Prince Dauntless), Jenna Wedig (Jester), Cody Pierce (King Sextimus), Michaela Acherman (Lady Larken), Jazmine Cool (Minstrel), Daniel Nordstrom (Sir Harry), Jake Klein (Wizard), Rita Wilson (Nightingale), Alexis Berget (Lady Rowena), Callie Pierce (Lady Merrill), Desirae Hill (Lady Lucille), Alexis Sommerfeld (Princess No. 12), Sadie Owens (Lady Mabelle), Ladies in Waiting and Castle Servants: Morgan Vondra, Ella Fox, Kelsie Wilson, Rita Wilson, Alexis Berget, Callie Pierce, Desirae Hill, Alexis Sommerfeld, Sadie Owens.

Crew list: Bodhi Logueflower (lights), Brady Palzkill (sound), Caleb Wersal (trainee), Hope Wilson (video), Backstage: Haydn Marr, Bryn Pryce-Ingwell, Keira Schrank, Blair Watters. Costumes/Hair/Makeup: Grace Engels, Makenna Ferrell, Rebecka Orsburn, Chloe Thomas, Hope Wilson. 🗨

From the Principal's Pen

Principal, Mineral Point High School



What an excellent start to a school year. I have been involved in education for over 30 years and have never seen a staff more excited to begin the year and welcome back our students than this year. We opened with an introduction of all high school staff members, covered some of the important handbook language, met as classes to start

planning on class officers and homecoming events, and heard from fellow students on clubs or organizations that students can be part of. We also presented a theme that we would like to work on throughout the school year. That theme is about Purpose. Take a moment and talk with a high school student about what his/her Purpose is for the year. Then, our final message was about helping the students find their Purpose and, that as a staff, our Purpose was them. We tried to get the students excited about starting school again, so we arranged for an elite cheerleading squad to perform the school song. The gym was filled with a great deal of laughter as students witnessed the video of their teachers doing all of the cheer moves. I think it was important to show the students that we as adults can move out of our comfort zones and that it is ok to try something. Maybe even if it makes you look a little silly, it's ok to try something new.

We care a great deal about the success that our students, your children, have. It is important for us to help them grow and mature as they will soon be moving on to the next big challenge in their lives. We have modified our Access period at the end of the day to try and support students that may need a little extra help, or provide enrichment opportunities to challenge them to grow. One change is that we will be testing the freshmen, sophomores, and juniors using a suite of ACT products that will help the staff target learning specific to the needs of our students. We will provide opportunities to help our students be as successful as we can. Although testing does not sound all that exciting, we feel that this can help prepare our students to be successful no matter what path they choose,

college or career, when they leave our school.

I am very lucky to work with an outstanding group of teachers at Mineral Point. It continues to make me proud to be a Pointer! 🗨️

Mitch.Wainwright@mp.k12.wi.us | 987.0730

WSMA Congratulations

A big congrats to everyone involved in making our #PointerNation middle and high schools officially accredited by the Wisconsin School Music Association! 2018 is the inaugural year for this recognition program. 🗨️



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Athletic Director's Announcement

Vickie Dahl, Middle School Principal, Athletic Director



When I accepted the position as Mineral Point Middle School/High School Athletic Director in August 1989, there were three gyms available to use for our athletic practices and games. The facilities were the old high school gym, the elementary gym, and St. Mary's gym. St. Mary's gym was used for 7th grade practices/games and the Elementary was used for 8th grade practices/games, including Middle School wrestling practice.

When we moved in to the new Middle/High School for the 1996-97 school year, gym space was reduced from three gyms to two. Over the years, the number of youth athletic programs has increased. Currently, there are elementary youth programs in basketball and wrestling. There is also a youth volleyball program on Saturday mornings during the fall, and with the addition of an elementary gym, this could be moved to an after school program.

The Elementary multipurpose room (gym) is used for many different activities.

The following is a list of activities which have or will take place in the Elementary multipurpose room outside of school hours:

Wii Dance • Beach Dance • 4th Grade Heritage Night
Reading Night • Movie Night
Youth basketball practice and after school fitness club

During the school day, the gym also serves as the cafeteria for breakfast and lunch. In addition, the following programs during the school day take place in the gym:

Veteran's Day • 5th Grade Martin Luther King, Jr.
1st Grade Earth Day • 3rd Grade Grandparents' Day
5th Grade DARE Graduation

Adult programs include aerobics, zumba, basketball and fitness class. Other programs which may be added are adult volleyball, minute to win it game night, yoga night, and fitness night.

Youth practices often times do not finish up until 8:30 pm or later at night. Gym space is the most used space in our district. I have never heard anyone say we have too much gym space!

With all of the activities that take place in our gyms, the most important is our physical education programs. The gym is the physical education classroom. With a more adequate space, the elementary physical education curriculum can be expanded and the use of class time will also be enhanced. The proposed Mineral Point School District November referendum includes a gym which would be beneficial to our school and community. 🗳️

Vickie.Dahl@mp.k12.wi.us | 987.0720

Principal's Post

Matt Renwick, Mineral Point Elementary Principal



When someone brings up the word "classroom", what comes to mind? Different visuals may come up. It often depends on when we ourselves went to school. For example, when I was a student, collaborative learning was becoming a popular approach to instruction (it still is). I vaguely remember the shift from rows of desks to positioning us facing each other in groups of four. When I became a teacher, I implemented this same arrangement frequently.

Our understanding of anything comes from our current perspectives. Past experiences and new information influence this understanding. I understand that for many people in the community, the experience of school might seem unfamiliar due to not being associated with education for some time. That is why I write this article: to communicate new ways of teaching and learning in today's world and how the upcoming referendum would have an impact on this shift in instruction.

To have a common frame of reference, let's go back to the typical classroom, specifically the furniture. In the past, desks were provided for every student. More contemporary approaches to the classroom are showing that a one-size-fits-all approach to seating and work space does not work for all kids. Today, tables can be adjusted quickly to accommodate various student heights. Chairs are becoming more flexible and mobile to allow for students who need movement to improve their attention.

The referendum would address the demands of a more modern classroom in a couple of ways. First, the square footage of the classrooms would expand to national standards (around 900 feet). The tightness of learning spaces is apparent to most everyone who walks through our school. Second, new furniture would allow for more communication and collaboration. The teacher could embrace their true role as a facilitator and activator of learning, instead of the more traditional lecture mode.

It should also be noted that I see a building improvement as an opportunity to bring in elements of the community into the classroom. How can we create a visible presence of Mineral Point in school? I am thinking about all of the history and culture that makes our city special. Physical artifacts that highlight our past and pieces created by local artists are two examples that come to mind. This referendum can be about more than improving the physical building; student learning and community engagement could also be a priority. 🗳️

Matt.Renwick@mp.k12.wi.us | 987.0710

Options in Education Update

Amanda Heisner, OIE Coordinator/Teacher



Great things are happening at Options in Education. This fall we are beginning with 18 students from five school districts. In addition to Mineral Point, we have students attending the program from Argyle, Dodgeville, Darlington, and Fennimore. Many students attend OIE for the morning or afternoon and take

classes in their local high schools during other times of the day. Additionally, we have two students currently taking online classes through Southwest Tech and another three students that will complete the SWTC Applied Math class later this fall.

We focus on post-secondary education and career plans as part of our curriculum at Options. Ten students have already attended a campus tour at SWTC. Junior and senior students will be participating in program shadows later this fall. Program shadows allow students to participate in the SWTC classes to better understand the certificates and degrees available.

People often ask what makes Options an environment for student success. Check out some of the feedback from last year's students:

"It's been definitely helpful having two teachers. They rotate out certain parts of the day, so we can have a flexible schedule. The whole system here works really good. Any time I need help, it's there for me, sometimes before I even know I need it."

"I love it. For me, I feel more welcome here having two teachers. I recommend Options to anyone that is struggling with school. With two teachers vs. eight, I feel more able to keep up with things. I love it here, and I feel like this is where I belong."

"It's good. It's not easier, but it is more flexible. Our teachers are not hard on us, but they have expectations like all teachers should."

We are proud of the success we have been able to see our students achieve during our first two years and look forward to celebrating the successes of this year's students. We encourage you to check out more information about Options on the Mineral Point Schools' webpage. 🗨️

amanda.heisner@mp.k12.wi.us | 608.520.0835



2018-19 Mineral Point School Board

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Term expires April 2020
Personnel Committee Vice Chair

Vice President Nate Chambers
Term expires April 2021
Operation Committee Chair

Clerk Everett Lindsey
Term expires April 2021
Policy Committee Chair

Treasurer Larry Steffes
Term expires April 2019
Finance Committee Vice Chair

Member Andy Busch
Term expires April 2019
Finance Committee Chair
Policy Committee Vice Chair

Member Aaron Dunn
Term expires April 2021
Operation Committee Vice Chair

Member Kelly Gundlach
Term expires April 2020
Personnel Committee Chair

If incumbents Andy Busch and Larry Steffes desire not to seek another term on the School Board, they must file a declaration of non-candidacy no later than 5 pm December 21, 2018.

For all interested School Board candidates (including incumbents), a Campaign Registration Statement and a Declaration of Candidacy must be filed no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday, January 2, 2019 in the District Office located at 705 Ross Street.

Upcoming School Board meetings: 6:30 pm in District Board Room, 705 Ross Street
(Subject to change)

October 22 (certify levy) • November 12 • December 10
January 14 • February 11 • March 11 • April 8 🗨️

School Psychologist's Role

Katelyn Oellerich, Ed.S. School Psychologist



As the new School Psychologist at the Mineral Point School District, I work with all students 4K through 12th grade at each of our buildings. As a proud Mineral Point High School graduate, I am excited to be returning home. I earned my Bachelor degree, Master of Science in Education, and Educational Specialist in School Psychology degree from the

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

My role in the school is to help students succeed academically, behaviorally, socially, and emotionally by partnering with teachers, parents, students, and community members. I complete assessments, classroom observations, and behavior plans. I also help to facilitate accommodations, social and emotional learning within the classrooms, and interventions.

At a larger community and school level, my role is to identify and implement needed systems of support, as well as help to enhance understanding and responsiveness to diverse backgrounds. I meet with students individually and in small group settings to provide problem solving strategies, social skills lessons, or skill building in a variety of areas. I am also available as an outlet for families experiencing stressors such as divorce, death in the family, and other family concerns.

Students may frequently see me around the school and in their classroom conducting classroom observations, supporting skill training activities, and participating in class meetings.

Students may also get to know me through a general check-in or being invited to join a classmate for a social lunch or recess activity.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I wish you and your family an enjoyable school year. 📩

Director's Discussion

Angela Klein, Director of Special Education and Pupil Services



Hello. My name is Angela Klein and I am very excited to be a member of #PointerNation as the Director of Special Education and Pupil Services.

One thing that has made a strong impression during my time at Mineral Point is the cohesiveness of the staff and the amount of collaboration that occurs. I knew that I was entering a school district that was

responsive to students and their needs, but my short time at Mineral Point has taught me that our staff works very hard to ensure students are meeting learning targets.

In education terms, this is often referred to as differentiated instruction or tailoring instruction to meet individual needs. Differentiation can occur in many formats including with content, process, products, or the learning environment. Our staff is able to provide differentiated instruction because of their use of ongoing formative assessments and flexible groupings.

Differentiation requires space for groups or individuals to work, and for this reason, our upcoming referendum is important as it will tackle a space issue at the elementary school. Redesigning our learning environments not only allows us to provide innovative instruction in a setting that can be adapted to different activities, groups, or events, but it will also provide the best environment for our students to learn.

A 2015 study by the University of Salford revealed that differences in the physical characteristics of classrooms, such as air quality, color and light, can together increase the learning progress of primary school pupils by as much as 16% in a single year.

I ask that you take the opportunity to attend the upcoming presentations and educate yourself about the referendum. In addition, please take the time to walk through the elementary school and consider how renovations would improve the learning environment for all of our students. 📩

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Mentorships Flourish in the District

by Julie Pompos, School Nurse

The birth of a new Strategic Plan is an exciting time for a school district.

The Mineral Point School District has a long supportive history of welcoming student teachers primarily from the UW-Platteville School of Education, and as of recently, nursing students from UW-Madison School of Nursing. Each one of these university students is mentored by seasoned veteran professionals and is exposed to a variety of in and out of classroom experiences.

From a historical perspective... "By 1840 it became evident that the academic preparation of a student for teacher training in a college system was inadequate. So thus began the inception of Pupil-teachers serving as apprentices to learn the teaching profession. Pupil-teachers acted as a teacher of younger children learning the profession from observation and practical application while simultaneously completing their own education" Robinson, Wendy (2006) *Teacher Training in England and Wales, Past, Present and Future Perspectives*.

The benefits of student teaching for both student and mentor are many. For example, student teachers are able to learn the necessary skills for the classroom and mentors reap the benefits of sharing their expertise while also strengthening their knowledge and skill through additional study. This professional relationship is also an excellent opportunity for sharing new ideas. The age difference between student teachers and mentors can range anywhere from 3 to 30 plus years. Given this generational range, there is tremendous opportunity for each to learn from one another. Mentors often state that student teachers provide a valuable "flow of new ideas, fresh perspectives and energy." Additionally, team-teaching benefits both the adults as well as all the classroom students. It has been said that student teachers often energize the atmosphere merely with their presence as a new member of the classroom.

For the past two years, School Nurse Julie Pompos has mentored 4th year nursing students from UW-Madison that are fulfilling their Community Health clinical rotation. One of the first things she has the nursing student do is ride the longest bus route to see first hand the rural nature of this area and the

expansive territory of the school district. "My goal is for the nursing student to gain a greater appreciation for the population that they are here to serve during their clinical rotation," said Pompos. "Most nursing students are never exposed to the complex specialty role of a school nurse. This is a sure win-win professional relationship."

Flourish: verb: grow and develop in a healthy or vigorous way, especially as the result of a particularly favorable environment.

The word flourish was intentionally used in the title of this article to best emphasize the following anecdotal comments from staff members and student teachers about their experience here in Mineral Point as it relates to mentorship.



Top: Student Nurse, Kelly, shows oral hygiene techniques to Pre K. Bottom: UW-Platteville education students assisted with Elementary Math Night last spring.

“The partnership with UW-Platteville is important to the future of education. The teaching profession doesn’t always seem ideal anymore due to politics and changes that have occurred, but I love what I do and want to share that with future educators! Education is all about KIDS and that’s what my hope is to share with UW-Platteville students. The future of education is dependent on our future educators, so opening my classroom to share what I love about teaching is one way I hope to spark a new line of awesome educators!” *MP Middle School Teacher*

“We had a student school psychologist, Sasha, assist last year with my pull-out math class, and she became a part of our family. When one of my students was having a difficult day, she would work one-on-one with them, helping not only with their academics but also personal issues as well. If

Sasha didn’t show up to school, students always asked when she would be joining us next time. Having an extra adult, or mentor/tutor, in our class was definitely a special and positive experience for our students.” *MP Special Education Teacher*

“I have had great experiences with being a cooperating teacher to student teachers! Over the years, I’ve hosted about 25 student teachers and have learned something from each and every one of them! Young people entering the career get opportunities to learn about planning, pace, pedagogy

continued on page 17...

REFERENDUM 2018



BALLOT LANGUAGE

QUESTION 1:



"Shall the Mineral Point Unified School District, Iowa and Lafayette Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to issue pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$11,920,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of an Elementary School building and improvement program consisting of: code, maintenance and ADA improvements; renovations and updates; parking, bus lane, site and stormwater improvements; construction of an addition for a secure lobby, offices and classrooms and an addition for physical education and a gymnasium; and acquisition of related furnishings, fixtures and equipment?"

☐ Yes ☐ No

QUESTION 2:



"Shall the Mineral Point Unified School District, Iowa and Lafayette Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$350,000 recurring for the 2019-2020 school year and thereafter, for recurring purposes consisting of ongoing operational expenses?"

☐ Yes ☐ No

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

SPRING 2018 • 2354 SENT, 365 RESPONSES,
15.5% RESPONSE RATE



87% support

Code, Maintenance, ADA items



69% support

Parking, bus lane,
storm water updates

66% support

Gym & Phy Ed Addition



70% support

Renovate & Update Existing
Elementary (1st & 2nd floor
and finishes)



69% support

Secure lobby, office,
classroom addition



WHAT WILL BE ON THE BALLOT?

Q1: \$11.92 million to renovate and expand the existing elementary.

• Q2: \$350 thousand recurring for ongoing operational expenses.

OPEN HOUSES

October 10, 2018

October 24, 2018

7:00pm • MPES Gym



NEEDS

Q1:

- ★ Facilities that are welcoming and accessible inside and out
- ★ Comfortable, safe, and secure environments for students and staff
- ★ A space that serves large student gatherings and as a community resource
- ★ Learning environments that promote student success—innovative instruction
- ★ Foster student interaction across age groups
- ★ Facilities that offer wellness learning and recreation activity opportunities
- ★ Fiscally responsible investments that deliver operating cost efficiencies
- ★ Learning and staff spaces that are flexible and adaptable for change

Q2:

- ★ Sustain and enhance educational programming and district operations

PROCESS

- ★ School Board convened Elementary School Planning Committee November 2017 to study capacity and accessibility
- ★ Community survey: Spring 2018
- ★ ESPC recommendation to Board: May 2018
- ★ Board passes referenda resolutions: August 2018

SOLUTION

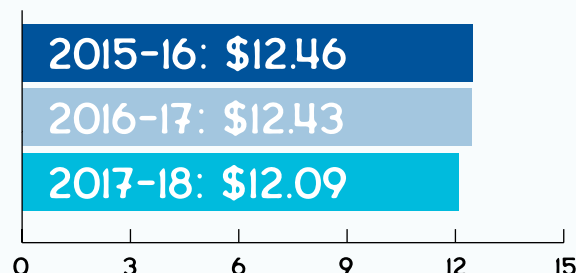
Q1:

- ★ \$11.92 million for facility improvements to the existing elementary including:
 - ★ Code, Maintenance, American with Disabilities Act (ADA): \$2,175,601
 - ★ Renovate & Update 1st Floor (including floor settling): \$2,986,409
 - ★ Renovate & Update 2nd Floor: \$809,381
 - ★ Finishes: \$399,502
 - ★ Parking, Bus Lane, Storm water: \$726,108
 - ★ Secure Lobby, Office, Classroom Addition: \$2,548,448
 - ★ Gym & Phy Ed Addition: \$2,272,446

Q2:

- ★ The District is seeking \$350K annually in additional revenue above its current revenue limit.
- ★ An operational referendum allows the District to maintain educational programming and class sizes, retain staff, backfill budget cuts, address technology needs.

MINERAL POINT MILL RATE HISTORY



ESTIMATED SCHOOL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

Fair Market Property Value	Question 1: Facilities \$11,920,000		Question 2: Operations: \$350,000	
	Annually	Monthly	Annually	Monthly
\$100,000	\$178.00	\$14.83	\$74.00	\$6.17
\$200,000	\$356.00	\$29.67	\$148.00	\$12.33
\$300,000	\$534.00	\$44.50	\$222.00	\$18.50

Tax impacts provided by Robert W. Baird financial consultants. Borrowing assumes two 20-year loans at an estimated interest rate of 4.00 – 4.50%. Property value growth estimated at 5% in year one and 1% thereafter. State Aid applied.

DRAFT OF PROPOSED ELEMENTARY RENOVATIONS BY FEH DESIGN

UPPER LEVEL

Late 1960s Elementary Original
Construction; Early 1990s
Elementary Addition

Elementary Square Footage:

- Current 60,100
- National Standards 84,743
- Proposed 71,851

Proposed major changes include, but are not limited to:

- ★ Pre K: move to existing lower level
- ★ Kindergarten: move to new addition lower level
- ★ Gym: move to new addition
- ★ Office: move to upper level new addition



LOWER LEVEL



HOW TO LEARN MORE

- ★ www.mineralpointschools.org/referendum
- ★ Contact Interim Superintendent Mitch Wainwright at 608.987.0740 or mitch.wainwright@mp.k12.wi.us
- ★ Watch your mailboxes for more information
- ★ **Attend an upcoming open house Wednesday, October 10 & 24, 7 pm, MPES gym**
- ★ Contact us if you'd like to set up a presentation for your group
- ★ Find us on social media



 LIKE the [Mineral Point School District](#) on Facebook.



 Search **#PointerNation** on Twitter



 **Search Mineral Point School District on YouTube**

PROPOSED NOV. 2018 AND SUCCESSFUL REFERENDA HISTORY THE LAST FIVE YEARS FOR IOWA COUNTY AND NEIGHBORING DISTRICTS:

BARNEVELD

- Nov. 2017: \$12,900,000 for demolition of the oldest portion of the existing school building; construction of an addition for a new elementary school, music rooms and art rooms; construction of a new secure entrance, cafeteria, commons and kitchen; upgrades to restrooms, HVAC and plumbing and electrical systems.
- Nov. 2017: \$3,400,000 for renovation and expansion of Multi-Purpose gymnasium, addition of a new industrial arts and STEM area, staff/event parking.

BELMONT

- Nov. 2018: \$9,850,000 for safety and security upgrades; capital maintenance, building infrastructure and site improvements; construction of classroom additions at the Elementary School; remodeling of the technical education, agriculture, special education and other district space; and acquisition of related furnishings, fixtures and equipment.

DARLINGTON

- Aug. 2016: \$8,050,000 over five years for programming and operational purposes.

DODGEVILLE

- Nov. 2018: \$10,000,000 for an auditorium, gymnasium and supporting spaces at Dodgeville High School.
- April 2016: \$19,995,000 for district-wide infrastructure improvements; additions and remodeling at the high school; and acquiring furnishings, fixtures and equipment.

HIGHLAND

- April 2015: \$240,000 recurring for operational costs and the cost of financing deferred maintenance projects.

IOWA-GRANT

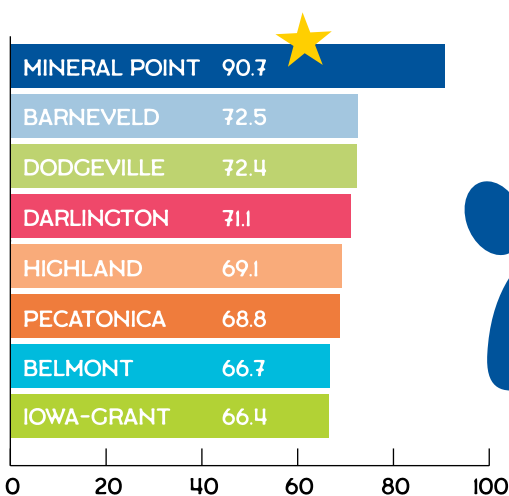
- April 2016: \$1,800,000 recurring for programs and operations including building and maintenance projects.
- April 2013: \$2,850,000 over three years for program and operational needs.

PECATONICA

- April 2017: \$325,000 recurring for operational expenses, deferred maintenance projects, technology and curriculum improvements.

HOW ARE WE PERFORMING?

WI Department of Public Instruction 2016-17 report card score comparison to adjoining and Iowa County Districts. Of CESA 3's 31 districts, only two received a five star ranking (MP 90.7 and Prairie du Chien 83.4).



Of CESA 3's 31 school districts, only six have not placed at least one referendum before voters in the last five years.

- ★ Belmont (will in Nov.) ★ Kickapoo ★ Lancaster
- ★ Mineral Point (will in Nov.) ★ Seneca
- ★ Wauzeka-Steuben (Source: DPI's Finance Portal)

FIND FAQs AND ANSWERS AT
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- ★ Voter registration
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- ★ Early voting
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Seventeen kids showed up to one of the first Middle School Book Clubs of the 2018-19 school year to discuss “City of Ember,” the graphic novel. Said one commenter on Facebook, “It’s nice to see classrooms breaking traditional conventions and stepping into graphic novels. There are some incredibly well written graphic novels out there and they get tossed aside because people seem to think that due to the nature of the content and having illustrations that they are somehow poorly written. Being as graphic novels are what got me into reading initially and that grew into a love for reading, props to you MP Schools for doing something outside the box.”



The Mineral Point FFA attend the River Ridge Livestock Judging Contest on Sept. 21st and came away with second and third placing teams.

Mineral Point Team 2 placed second in the contest as a team—members of the team are Joey Robinson, Kyle Vondra, Emma Steffes, and Ryan Schubert. Joey placed 2nd and Kyle 3rd overall as individuals.

Mineral Point Team 1 placed third in the contest as a team—members of the team are Brady Palzkill, Logan Schmitz, Danny Pittz, and Morgan Vondra. Team 1 was led by Brady’s 8th place finish.

The contest had 400 FFA members competing from across Wisconsin. Congratulations!



The beginning of the school year has kicked off nicely with every middle school student designing their own butterfly to add to Mrs. Lesley Macaulay's collaboration project. With such great enthusiasm, this project has been the perfect way to start the year. "Until you spread your wings, you'll have no idea how far you can fly."

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Staff Salutes

Judy Benish (3rd Grade Teacher), Kimberly Diefenbach (1st Grade Teacher and Elementary Literacy Interventionist) and McKenzie Brown (6th Grade Teacher) have been invited to participate as part of a rural education panel with the Wisconsin Education Research Council. They will join other educators to share their experiences and knowledge with prospective teachers.

The Wisconsin School Public Relations Association has named Joelle Doye, Mineral Point Unified School District Communications Director, as its next Vice President. This is a five year leadership commitment--she will serve two years as Vice President, one year as President Elect, and two years as President. She has been a WSPRA Board member since Spring 2017. 🗨️





#PointerNation volleyball members played for a cause bigger than themselves September 11 when they hosted Spike Out Suicide. Thanks to everyone who came out to support this important cause!



3rd graders wrote letters to veterans who took the September 22 Badger Honor Flight to Washington D.C. to view the war memorials. Mail call is always one of the best parts of the trips on the return flight home!



We'd like to give a big shout out to the crew at Kraemer Brothers for their outstanding work on our new secured entrance at the middle/high school. A friendly and efficient crew that completed the project prior to the start of school. Thanks so much!



Sue Gevelinger, Diane Ruppert, and Linda Murphy stopped by 5th Grade on to speak to students about the Community Chest, an organization that holds a yearly fundraiser in the fall. The group then distributes monies raised to groups right here in Mineral Point to better serve our community. 5th graders designed posters to be displayed in local businesses.



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These kindergarten cuties are 10 days smarter and met a superhero! Zippy Zero the Superhero LOVES the number zero and comes to visit them each day that ends in zero until the 100th day of school. If you think Zippy looks familiar, you'd be right... we hear he's Mr. Wainwright's brother.

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Please consider a donation to the Mineral Point Excellence in Education

- Check to Mineral Point Excellence in Education Fund, with "Class of 'kids class year'" in the memo line, send to your school office, or mail to P.O. Box 5 • Mineral Point, WI 53565
- Online donation on mineralpointfoundation.org (you can select Mineral Point EIE and note 'Class of kids' class year').
- Please note that you can also give to these class level funds in honor of a teacher for general thanks or in lieu of a holiday gift.

The Mineral Point Excellence in Education Endowment Fund, (a component of the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin a 501(c)(3) public charity) is governed by a local, volunteer advisory board, operating independently and organized as an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin, Inc. Your contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 10/23 | 5-12 Fall Choir Concert at Middle/High School Gym 7 pm |
| 11/9 | Middle/High School Veterans' Day Program at Middle/High School Gym 10 am |
| 11/9 | Elementary Veterans' Day Program at Elementary Gym 2 pm |
| 11/16-18 | High School Musical at Opera House (Fri & Sat 7 pm; Sun 2 pm) |
| 12/10 | 6-12 Winter Band & Choir Concert at Middle/High School Gym 7 pm |
| 12/20 | K-5 Winter Concert at Middle/High School Gym 1:30 pm |

Everyone is welcome!



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Costa Rica

By Spanish Teacher Jenny Wahlin

Last June, 18 high school students and three staff members went on an educational trip to Costa Rica. They were able to visit pineapple, coffee and chocolate plantations and see what is involved in cultivating those crops and sending them to market. Another stop on the trip included a boat ride on the Sarapiquí River and ziplining through the canopy of the rainforest, where they stayed for a few days. They saw various wildlife on the trip including crocodiles, monkeys, sloths, lizards, exotic butterflies, birds, frogs, snakes, LOTS of interesting insects, as well as spiders.

Participants swam in natural hot springs, took nature hikes, walked under a waterfall, saw the Arenal Volcano, spent the day on a beach, took dancing and cooking lessons, shopped at various markets, and even visited a home for abused teenage mothers as a service opportunity. They cleaned the school facilities and cared for some of the children.

It was a busy, exhausting, and very hot/steamy (weather) trip with long winding bus rides through the mountains, bumpy airplanes, and power outages. An excellent tour guide named Tony traveled with them who was well versed in the history of Costa Rica and had many stories to share. The group had a great time and made memories and friendships that will last forever!

Thank you so much to Angie Schubert, Matt Nevers and Jenny Wahlin for leading the trip, and many thanks to the parents for their support and allowing us to experience the trip of a lifetime. 📷





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WASB Honor Roll

The Mineral Point School Board began its September meeting by honoring four businesses named to the 2018 Wisconsin Association of School Boards Business Honor Roll.

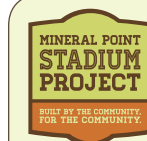
Honored were: Badger Welding, Midwest Roofing, The Orthopedic Institute at Southwest Health, and SSM Health.

Badger Welding: Badger Welding of Mineral Point has been a great partner for the welding classes at Mineral Point. When the school installed a new laser cutter, employees helped set it up and provided training with students. They have been wonderful mentors and a great support system for students interested in welding.

Midwest Roofing: Midwest Roofing of Dodgeville is a Victory Club Donor for the Stadium Project, the second highest donation level available. Their support was key in helping the fundraising project come to fruition, with the first varsity football game being played on the field end of August 2018. Their services were also utilized for a summer roofing project this year at the middle/high school building.

Orthopedic Institute at Southwest Health: Mineral Point School District has a fabulous relationship with the Orthopedic Institute at Southwest Health in Platteville. Coaches and students find Athletic Trainer Brad Vamstad a valuable asset to the district, being knowledgeable, friendly, and diligent with his work. In addition, the Orthopedic Institute at Southwest Health is a Championship Club Donor for the Stadium Project, the highest donation level available. Their support was key in helping the fundraising project come to fruition, with the first varsity football game being played on the field end of August 2018. Southwest Health is also welcoming of our students interested in science and healthcare to tour their facilities to learn more about these career paths. Also new this past spring was a scholarship available for MPHS Seniors from Southwest Health.

SSM Health: SSM Health (formerly Dean) is a Championship Club Donor for the Stadium Project, the highest donation level available. Their support was key in helping the fundraising project come to fruition, with the first varsity football game being played on the field end of August 2018. In addition, the SSM Dean Clinic in Mineral Point is very generous in allowing one of their employees, Dr. Aaron Dunn, to serve as a voluntary sideline physician for football games. 📷



MINERAL POINT STADIUM PROJECT:

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Student Government

Mineral Point High School's student government has undergone a change this school year. Some of the student body representatives spoke to the School Board at a recent meeting and shared the positive impact.



Zoë Hay, Senior Class Student Council Representative: Mr. Wainwright and the staff have worked hard to develop a positive and exciting atmosphere to start the school year. They have selected the motto "Find your Purpose" as a goal for all of us to strive toward this year.



McKenna Reichling, Senior Class President: Pointer Nation began the first day back with an informative but fun assembly. It created a welcoming atmosphere to show the students what is to come this year. Also, for the first week of school, the National Honor Society mem-

bers greeted students in the morning as they came in. Since this received such positive feedback, we will be continuing it with different groups.

Hay: New this year, the student government will be participating more actively in district board meetings and school policy discussion.

Reichling: Also, the last 30 minutes of each day have been devoted to students finding their purposes.



Ella Chambers, Freshman: From a freshman perspective, it was really cool how the NHS had greeters outside the doors to welcome us into our first day as high schoolers. It was also cool how there was fun music playing as we entered the gym - it made coming back to school less of a downer.



Mallory Lindsey, Freshman Class Vice President: All the teachers were introduced like a starting lineup - which was funny and helpful to see who is who. Mr. Wainwright addressed the changes in policy for the year. My older brother, who is a junior, said this was better than previous years because everyone heard the same message at one time.

Chambers: Another cool part of the assembly was the "club spotlight" presented by seniors. Each club gave a 30 second explanation and pitch for their organization. It was great to hear about all of the options.

Lindsey: We then split up by classes to different locations for class meetings. In addition to discussing Homecoming, each class had different points to address like senior yearbook infor-

mation, student government, junior prom, Macbook roll out, NHS requirements - to name a few.

Chambers: We wrapped up the the two hour morning by coming back to the gym to watch a video that staff made - I hope you all saw it - it was hilarious. The overall consent of the student body is that this was an excellent change to the first day practice and was a great way to kick off a positive year.

Cole Wilson, Senior Class Student Council Representative:



There have been many positive changes made to our student government and we are very excited. Our new government body is now made up of our top leadership positions: class officers, student council representatives, the Blue Crew President, and one pep band representative. Previously, each of these worked as their own separate entities. We feel that bringing them together is a more effective way to get a larger overall student perspective.

Ben Basting, Junior Class Secretary/Treasurer: We will be



meeting at least once a month to discuss and organize events. This will also be a time that student concerns may be voiced and addressed. We are hoping the students will become positive and invested in decision making and having their voices heard in a professional manner.

Caden Carey, Senior President of Skills USA: Mr. Wainwright



and the school staff put many hours into making our RTIs more meaningful. (RTI stands for Response to Intervention and is the period at the end of each school day where students can obtain extra help, or enrichment.)

Liam Stumpf, Sophomore: One positive change to RTI is that students no longer go as a large group to the cafeteria - we are now divided into groups of no more than 12 and assigned a teacher that will serve as our "go to adult" in the building. The groups were randomly chosen and are a mix of freshmen through seniors. The smaller groups make interaction more personal, and you get to talk to people you may not normally.

Carey: We met with these groups every day for the first two weeks and watch short videos on current events and topics such as "having grit," "being a leader," "the effects of bully-

continued on page 18...

Welcome New Staff



Heather
Critchlow
5th Grade
Teacher



Dave DeVoe
Middle/
High School
Custodian



Angela Klein
Pupil Services
Director



Katelyn
Oellerich
School
Psychologist



Alison Sauter
Speech &
Language



Jenny Singer
5th Grade
Teacher



Chuck Smet
Middle School
Project Lead
the Way
Teacher



Micki Uppena
Elementary
Library Media
Technology
Specialist



Elizabeth
Walter
Middle
School Special
Education
Teacher

Student Government continued from page 17...

ing," "service," to name a few. Everyone was encouraged to share his or her feelings on the topic. This pushed students communicate and created an inviting environment for everyone to share.

Stumpf: going forward Mondays will remain this advisory group day. Advisors will do grade checks, touch base with their group, and continue positive group interaction. Tuesday through Friday will serve as a combination of necessary interventions, club meetings, and enrichment opportunities.

Hay: Feel free to contact Mrs. Kristin Staver, the student government advisor, if you have questions or need any additional information. 🗨️

kristin.staver@mp.k12.wi.us or 987-0739 ext. 464

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and development. They are able to experience school days with a mentor teacher to help them along. As a cooperating teacher, I get the opportunity to learn new experiences from them and the fortunate students benefit greatly from our collegiality!" *MP Elementary Teacher*

“I have had a number of student and pre-student teachers come through my classroom over the years. Livia Daentl (now Doyle) was one wonderful student teacher who shone so brightly that she is now on staff! We are blessed to have a great relationship with the surrounding universities and institutions. The relationship is positive as both the student and the teacher - each new student who comes through our building is full of new ideas and has the opportunity to learn from our students and teachers in an authentic, student-centered learning environment. I can't count the number of times I have heard that people are so thankful to have received placements in the Mineral Point School District. I know that I was (as a UWP alumna) as I learned under the guidance of Susan Kelm, Marcia Roberts, and Penny Wiegel when they taught first grade together." *MP Elementary Teacher*

“The learning community in my placement at Mineral Point proved to be a wonderful resource in growing as a future educator. Mrs. McGuire welcomed me into her classroom family with enthusiasm for fostering my passion for teaching and learning. On several occasions, I was invited to attend trips and performances outside of the regular classroom. I was ecstatic at the privileges my cooperating teacher included me in. During Halloween, we went to the senior center with the students to trick-or-treat. Jill has exuberance for her passion of extending her caring classroom throughout the community. On so many accounts, she taught me the importance of the relationships with students, staff, and the community. Mrs. McGuire inspired me on a daily basis on what it truly means to be an intentional teacher with the utmost caring heart. I credit the reassurance about my passion for education to the outstanding experiences provided by Mrs. McGuire and our wonderful kindergarten learners at Mineral Point Elementary." *Former student teacher*

“While attending the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, I had the privilege of completing my pre-student teaching at Mineral Point Elementary School in Mrs. Busch's 4K classroom. Being born and raised in Mineral Point, I couldn't wait for the opportunity to teach alongside my very first teacher at MPES. Ironically, my class was Mrs. Busch's first 4K class. Throughout all of my years at Mineral Point, the exceptional staff shaped the person I am today and inspired me to become a teacher. I will forever be grateful for the lasting knowledge, support, and relationships I gained from my time spent at MPES." *Former student teacher*

“As a pre-student teacher and a student teacher, I never felt anything but welcomed in the school. The administration team, teachers, students and even parents saw me as one of their own. This helped me grow as a professional in more ways than I ever imagined. Everyone was always so welcoming and always was there with great insight into the ins and outs of teaching. Mineral Point will always be a part of my educational journey to being a teacher. I will forever be thankful for my time spent there as well as the people who helped shape me to be the educator I am today." *Former student teacher*

Most notably is the fact that student teachers and nursing students have expressed the mentorships provided by staff members of the Mineral Point School District have guided them to develop increased personal and professional autonomy, greater responsibility and accountability, as well as enhanced confidence.

The philosophy of the District is to continue to accept and welcome students for teaching and clinical experiences for years to come. 📌



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