

Call to Order

Darrin Dillinger called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the high school board room #335. Board members present were Larry Cyrus, Lisa Wolfe, Nathan Brandt, Amanda Lacey, Darrin Dillinger, and Lynn Doelle. Michael Ayala was absent. Also present were Troy White, Steve Stoppelmoor, and Amy Schaefer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the Mission statement was read by Darrin Dillinger.

Darrin Dillinger attested to the publication of the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

Lynn Doelle made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Lisa Wolfe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Connection with the community

- **District celebrations and recognitions**

The list that was included in the board packet was read along with a thank you to Liz Hoffmaster for all her work including the parent notification email and Afton Fischer for organizing Homecoming week.

Discussion Items

- **Vouchers and Bank Reconciliations** – Mr. White shared with the board a sheet from the packet that explained the voucher and bank reconciliation process.
- **Legislative Engagement** – The Board packet included a list of the area representatives and contact information. This information will be updated on the web site after the election.
- **Staff badges** – Mr. White explained how CENTEGIX staff badges work. They are expensive but can be directly linked to outside emergency services.

Information Items

- **JH/HS Advisory time** – Mr. Stoppelmoor explained high school advisory days. They include working with ACP, Xello, Everyday speech, and IXL. He is trying to get the kids excited about math and language arts.
- **Elementary Portrait of a Pirate** – Ms. Schaefer informed the board that this is the second year of the elementary Portrait of a Pirate. She also gave the board members a handout explaining the PoP with the 10-character traits. She has also implemented students of the month club and is planning an elementary student council for grades 4-6.
- **Investment update** – Mr. White told the board about the current value of the fund balance that is invested until it is needed for expenditures. The investments have maturity dates of November and December.
- **Budget update** – Mr. White explained some information that will be shared at the budget and annual meeting including the district profile and the budget process. Final budget numbers are not released by the DPI until October 15, 2024.
- **2023-2024 Seclusion and Restraint** – Mr. White gave the board information on the seclusions and restraints from the 2023-24 school year. He also reviewed the definitions of seclusion and restraint.

Future Agenda Items

- **Review mental health resources**

Review Timelines and Items for Future Board Agendas and Meetings.

Wednesday	October 16, 2024	Regular Meeting	6:00 p.m.
Monday	October 21, 2024	Community Taskforce Meeting	6:00 p.m.
Monday	October 28, 2024	Budget & Annual Meeting	6:00 p.m.
		Special Meeting	Following Annual Meeting

Adjourn

Lynn Doelle made a motion to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. Nathan Brandt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Celebrated National Coaches Day!

We honor the mentors, motivators, and game-changers who guide us to success on and off the field. Whether it's sports, life, or career, coaches play a vital role in helping us reach our full potential.

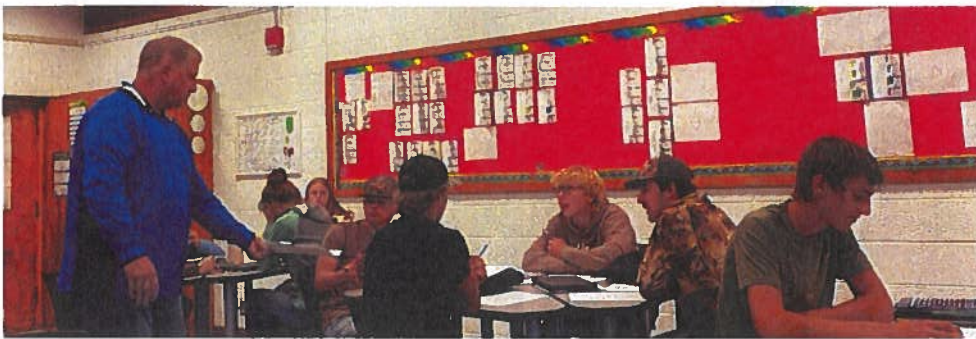
Celebrated National Custodial Workers Recognition Day!

we celebrate the unsung heroes who keep our schools, workplaces, and public spaces clean and safe. These dedicated individuals go above and beyond to maintain a clean and healthy environment for us all.

Celebrated National School Principal Month!

Shout out to the amazing C-FC principals who lead with dedication and passion!

Applied Math class had the pleasure of hosting guest speaker Jeff Mann, a local entrepreneur and owner of a successful insurance company! Jeff shared invaluable insights on auto and renters insurance, highlighting the crucial need for the right coverage. Juniors and seniors are now more prepared to navigate their future insurance needs.



Fourth graders have been busy bees the past few weeks! From cozy fall story time with their awesome high school helper, Ana, to making delicious apple pies in a cup, it's been non-stop fun and learning! The creativity is off the charts too! Students have been crafting word art, character trait posters, pop art onomatopoeia, original simile posters.



Second graders are hard at work reinforcing their addition and subtraction skills through fun math games with a partner! It's teamwork in action as they learn, play, and grow together.



C-FC FFA attends FLW, accepts donation

FFA attends the Fall Leadership Skills in Melrose-Mindoro. They won the Section 3 spirit award! They also received a donation from Old Time Farm Fest Lions Club.

On Thursday, Sept. 19, the Cochrane-Fountain City FFA chapter traveled to the Melrose-Mindoro High School for the Fall Leadership Workshop (FLW). The attendees learned many different leadership skills, including communication and teamwork. They met the 2024-25 State FFA Officers and members from around the area. The attendees also won the Section 3 Spirit Award! This award is given to the event's most energetic and involved members.

The C-FC FFA chapter also received a donation from Old Time Farm Fest Lions Club to help fund future events. With this donation, we can encourage our members to explore their leadership skills and learn about agriculture. Thank you for your donation!



-Corbyn Weber, Cochrane-Fountain City FFA Reporter

Agriculture Education Teacher and FFA Advisor Chris Ritzler (left) and C-FC FFA President Joetta Wolfe accepted the Old Time Farm Fest Lions Club donation.

Fountain City Lions assist with high-tech vision screening

Fountain City Lions Club members, along with Elizabeth Hoffmaster, C-FC School Nurse, and Megan Bagniewski, secretary, conducted vision screening, September 25, 2024, of pre-K

through first grade students at the Cochrane-Fountain City School using a high-tech camera.

The process is non-invasive and the student feels nothing. The camera can de-

tect several vision issues that are common in children. It is very fast, easy to use and saves students time. District 27-E2 has purchased four of these cameras through club and individual donations.

C-FC is among more than a dozen schools that have utilized this valuable tool through their local Lions clubs.

Other Lions Club vision efforts include eyeglass collection stations. Anyone wishing to donate used prescription eyeglasses may drop them off at Waumandee State Bank or the Post Office in Fountain City. The eyeglasses are then sorted and cataloged in Rosholt, Wisconsin, and from there they are sent out for re-use all over the world.



Left to right: Lion John Michalsen, Student Aid Caille Speltz, C-FC school nurse Elizabeth Hoffmaster, Lion Russ Andress, Lion Deb Kunkel, Clerical Support Megan Bagniewski, Lion Chuck Mikelson.

-Contributed photos



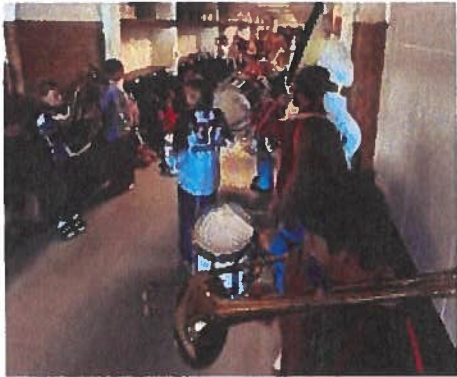
Student Wren Grimes has vision screened by Lions John Michalsen and Russ Andress.



Wenger surpasses 1,000 career digs

C-FC junior libero Mackenzie Wenger (center) recently eclipsed the 1,000 career dig milestone, celebrating with her teammates prior to their home match vs. Blair-Taylor on Thursday, Sept. 18. Wenger reached 1,000 career digs while playing in the UW-Stout SPRAWL tournament in August. She holds the school record for most digs in one season (479 in 2023) and also became the Pirates' career digs leader last year. For more recent C-FC volleyball highlights, please see page 8.

Homecoming!



Vouchers

List contains all checks issued from the previous board meeting to the current board meeting.

The majority of the checks are printed the week before the Board meeting.

- The checks are held until approved at the meeting.
- Each invoice is matched to a purchase order and then entered for payment.
- The list for approval in the consent agenda includes who the check is made out to, the amount paid, the date of the check, invoice number, description on the check, the general ledger number and account name charged, and check number.

Checks printed weekly are for officials and athletic fees.

- The officials are handed a check when they referee or officiate.
- They get a “1099” from the school if they make more than \$600.

Checks printed at the end of the month are for insurance.

- Most of those invoices do not arrive before the Board meeting checks and are printed the last week of the month.

Checks labeled as “Computer” are printed and mailed or distributed.

Checks labeled as “Electronic” are withdrawals from our bank account. These are for taxes and payroll-related fees.

BMO Harris is our credit card payment.

- Credit cards are used when purchasing items from retail stores or hotel charges.
- The employee checks out a card in the district office and returns the card with a receipt for the purchase.
- Credit cards are only used for purchases when the vendor does not accept a purchase order or check.

Bank recs

Each month, the Board is given a list of our current reconciled bank account balances.

- This is for information only.
- It also includes a list of issued checks and a total of deposits that balance the account reconciliations.

2024 State Senate	Incumbent Rob Stafsholt (Jeff Smith – 2022)	Election Candidates Rob Stafsholt & Paul Hambleton
State Assembly	Clint P. Moses (Treig Pronschinske-2022)	Treig Pronschinske & Terry Schoonover
Congressional	Derrick Van Orden	Derrick Van Orden & Rebecca Cooke

Senator Rob Stafsholt
(R - New Richmond)
(608) 266-7745

Paul Hambleton

Sen.Stafsholt@legis.wisconsin.gov

Representative Treig E. Pronschinske
(R - Mondovi)
(608) 237-9192
(888) 534-0092
Rep.Pronschinske@legis.wisconsin.gov

Terry Schoonover

Derrick Van Orden

(608) 782-2558 – La Crosse
(715) 831-9214 – Eau Claire

Rebecca Cooke

info@cookeforwisconsin.com

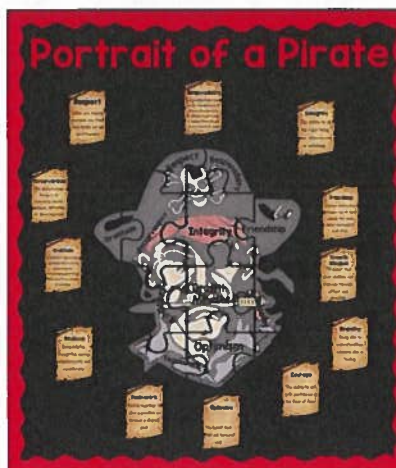
Staff Badges – CENTEGIX

- Use LoRaWAN Bluetooth – don't need WIFI or cell service
- Every staff who is in contact with students gets a badge
- Uses
 - 98% single push for medical needs, student issues, etc.
 - Administration & nurse notified
 - 2% lockdown
 - Administration notified
 - Buffalo County Sheriff notified
 - All devices show lockdown
 - Strobes & intercom initiated
- Cost
 - 5 years = \$93,600, includes set up and monitoring
 - \$18,720 per year

Portrait of a Pirate at C-FC Elementary

1st Semester Focus:

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Integrity
- Friendship
- Perseverance
- Gratitude
- Empathy
- Kindness
- Growth Mindset
- Optimism



Staff have found it beneficial to have universal language for PoPs. With everyone focusing on the same traits and skills, all teachers and support staff are able to give shoutouts and praise students for working on these skills. New for the 24-25 year, we added Everyday Speech lessons (K-12 resource). This is another social emotional learning tool that ties into many of the character traits we are already talking about. In the upper grades this has been a nice supplement to PoPs, specifically for the Wednesday activities. The Everyday Speech program has quick videos to inform and model skills and strategies we want students utilizing, good discussion topics, and then additional games/activities to further their practice with these social/emotional topics.

Additional Highlights for 2024-25:

- School Wide Goal: We are working collectively to earn 100 Pirate Pride cards and then celebrate with a reward. Students earn these cards for showing us these character traits in action.
- Student of the Month: Teachers will nominate a student each month that they feel has exemplified our Portrait of a Pirate Expectations. Nominated students receive a certificate, Pirate Water bottle, and the principal makes a positive phone call home to share the good news.

Next Steps:

- We are working to establish an Elementary Student Council to foster leadership and student-driven decision making within our 4th-6th Grade students.
- Staff will create Essential Learning Outcomes in regards to our Character Trait expectations and determine how we can measure student growth and learning in this area. This will help us make data informed decisions for our students when it comes to behavior.

Actual (November '23 through July '24)

Fund	Initial Investment Date	Initial Investment Amount	Current Market Value	Average Interest Rate	Interest Earned to Date	Maturity Date
Fund 10	Nov '23	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,096,506	5.61%	\$ 96,506	Nov & Dec '24

Fund 46	Nov '23	\$ 504,526	\$ 970,638	4.85%	\$ 16,112	July '25
	May '24	\$ 450,000				

Total Investment **\$ 3,954,526**

'23-24 Total Interest **\$ 112,618**

District Profile

The Cochrane–Fountain City School District is a 4K – 12th grade rural school district located on Hwy 35, the Great River Road National Scenic Byway. The district serves the Buffalo City, Cochrane, Fountain City, and Waumandee areas in Buffalo County. As part of the driftless region, our district is a roller coaster of ridges, valleys, and prairies. With tree-lined bluffs on one side and the mighty Mississippi River on the other, the area provides easy access to hunting, fishing, boating, kayaking, trapping, bird watching, snowmobiling, and more!

Parents and community members identify small class sizes, great facilities, diverse extracurricular activities, and staff relationships with students and families as strengths of the C-FC School District. The state Department of Public Instruction rated our school district as “Meets Expectations”. The class of 2021 was proud to have a national presidential scholar among its ranks.

C-FC offers a wide range of education options including but not limited to traditional classes, online classes, opportunities for early college credit, AP classes, work/study, and youth apprenticeships. C-FC hosts an active and award-winning FFA, FBLA, Skills USA, Math Club, Yearbook, Drama, Band, Choir, Forensics, Robotics Club, and Trap Club. WIAA athletics including football, volleyball, cross country, golf, basketball, hockey, gymnastics, wrestling, softball, baseball, and track offer a variety of activities for students to explore and excel.

Demographics

Enrollment:	521
Student-to-Teacher Ratio:	13 : 1
Student-to-Staff Ratio:	11 : 1
Students with Disabilities: (67)	12.9 %
Economically Disadvantaged (158)	30.4 %
Percent Minority Enrollment: (41)	7.9 %
Limited English Proficient: (2)	0.4 %

Achievement 2023 – 2024

Graduation Rate:.....	100.0 %
District English Achievement:	61.9/100
District Math Achievement:.....	53.2/100
District ELA Growth:.....	71.7/100
District Mathematics Growth:	48.9/100
On-Track to Graduation:	85.7
Graduates ACT Average:	18.3



Portrait of a Pirate – 2024 Graduates

90% Attendance	96 %
2.8 G.P.A.	65 %
Co-Curricular Activities (2 or more)	86 %
Earning ‘C’ or better in Algebra II	67 %
Taking AP Courses	35 %
Dual College Math or English Credit	15 %
ACT Benchmark Score	
• Eng=47%, Read=35%, Sci=21% & Math=12%	
Dual Credit Career Pathway Course	28 %
Industry Credential	0 %



**COCHRANE – FOUNTAIN CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Budget and Annual Meeting Agenda

Cochrane – Fountain City School District Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting
Monday, October 28, 2024 – 6:00 p.m. in the High School Library

BUDGET HEARING

- I. Call meeting to order (Board President)
- II. Budget Overview / Presentation (Superintendent)
- III. Budget Questions and Discussion
- IV. Adjourn Budget Meeting (Board President)

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

- I. Call meeting to Order (Board President)
- II. Verification of Public Notice (Board President)
- III. Election of Chairperson for Annual Meeting
- IV. Approval of Treasurer's Report for 2023 – 2024 (motion)
- V. RESOLUTIONS as necessary for the Operation of the School District (motions for each)
 - A. Discussion and recommendation to the Board of Education to adopt the Total School Tax Levy of **\$3,830,967**, **\$955,350** for non-referendum debt services, and **\$234,057** for community services for a total levy rate of **6.20** in accordance with state statute (120.10(8)).
 - B. Discussion and authorize the Board of Education to direct and provide for the prosecution or defense of legal action and privileges in which the district has an interest.
 - C. Discussion and authorize the Board of Education to borrow short-term to meet the cash flow needs of the district until the next annual meeting.
 - D. Discussion and approval of annual compensation of the Board of Education at the current rate of pay.
* President & Clerk \$ 2,000 * Vice President & Treasurer \$ 1,800 * Director \$ 1,700
 - E. Discussion and approval that the actual and necessary expenses of a school board member, when traveling in the performance of duties, be authorized for reimbursement.
 - F. Discussion and authorize the Board of Education to sell excess materials and equipment.
 - G. Discussion and authorize the Board of Education to provide textbooks, if appropriate.
 - H. Discussion and authorize the Board of Education to furnish a school lunch program.
 - I. Authorization for the School Board to Set the Time and Date for the 2025 Annual Meeting.
 - J. This statement serves as public notice that the School District of Cochrane-Fountain City is utilizing internet filtering through a mix of on-prem and cloud-based Cisco equipment on all computers capable of accessing the Internet in order to comply with the Federal Children's Internet Protection Act.
- VI. Adjourn

** Legal Memo Regarding Budget Hearing – Section 65.90(4) In common and union high school districts the budget hearing must be held at the time and place of the annual meeting (s.65.90[4]).

Section 65.90(4) requires that "any resident or taxpayer of the government unit shall have an opportunity to be heard" at the budget hearing. The intent of the statute is to provide for an expression of public opinion but to leave the governing body free to act as it determines to be in the public interest. Accordingly, the electors at the budget hearing do not have the power to amend the budget as proposed nor to approve or disapprove such a budget.

After the budget hearing and annual meeting, and on or before November 1 (s.120.12 (3)) the school board may make alterations to the proposed budget and adopt a resolution approving a final budget. During the period between July 1 and the school board's adoption of a final budget, the school board may spend money from available funds as needed to meet the immediate expenses of operating and maintaining the public instruction of the school district. Temporary borrowing for this purpose is specifically authorized by statutes (s.67.12 (8) (a) 2).

The annual meeting has the power to consider and vote on a tax for the purpose set forth in s.120.10. The Attorney General has held that the school board has the ultimate authority to determine the property tax levy for the operation and maintenance of the school. If the annual meeting does not vote a tax sufficient to operate and maintain the schools for the ensuing year, the school board has a statutory duty to determine and levy the amount of tax necessary for such purposes on or before November 1. The school board may lower the tax if it determines that the annual meeting has voted a tax greater than that needed to operate the schools (s. 120.12 [3]).



**COCHRANE – FOUNTAIN CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

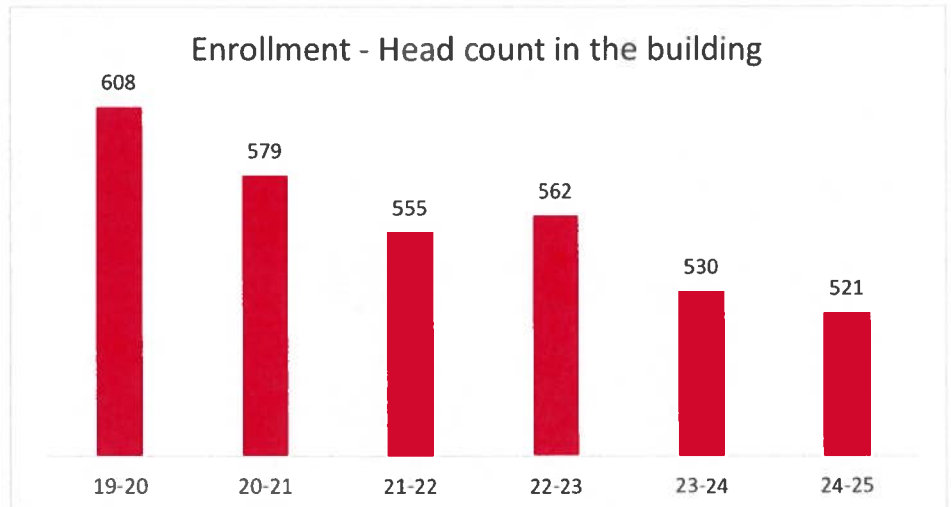
Budget Development Process

Budget Timeline

Enrollment projections, which are the basis for school finance, are developed in the fall. Staffing needs, organizational structure, facility improvements, and program changes are examined in January to lead to budget development in February. A preliminary budget is developed and approved by the school board in March in preparation for hiring and ordering in the spring. The budget is modified throughout the summer and fall as enrollment and staffing changes take place. The budget is approved at the Annual Meeting in October and the levy is certified when the DPI determines the aid certification to the school district.

Enrollment

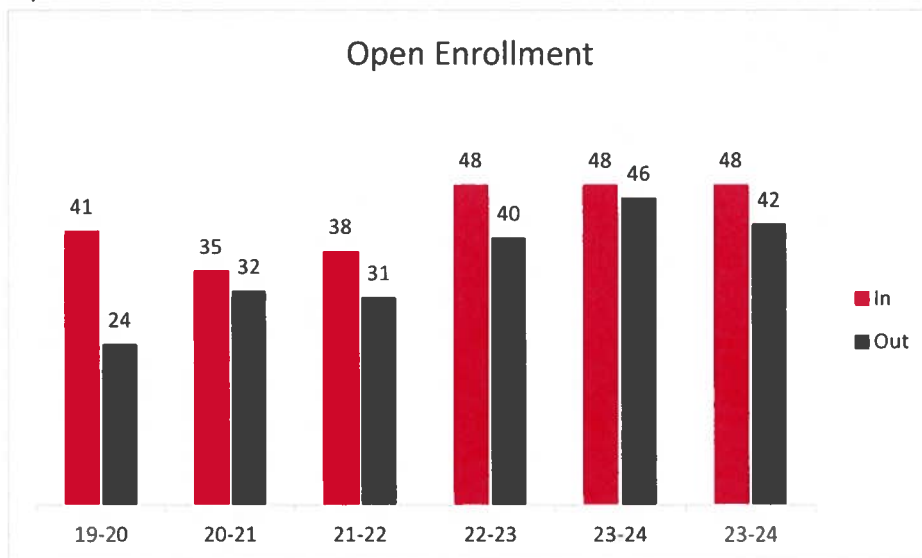
Enrollment is the foundation of school finance. Schools are funded on a per-pupil basis. Enrollment in the Cochrane–Fountain City School District has declined over the last six years. The last three years have seen a leveling of that decline.



Open Enrollment

The inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend public school in a school district other than the one in which they reside. Families who open enroll their students out are due to:

- Childcare
- Commuting to work
- Enrollment in the previous district



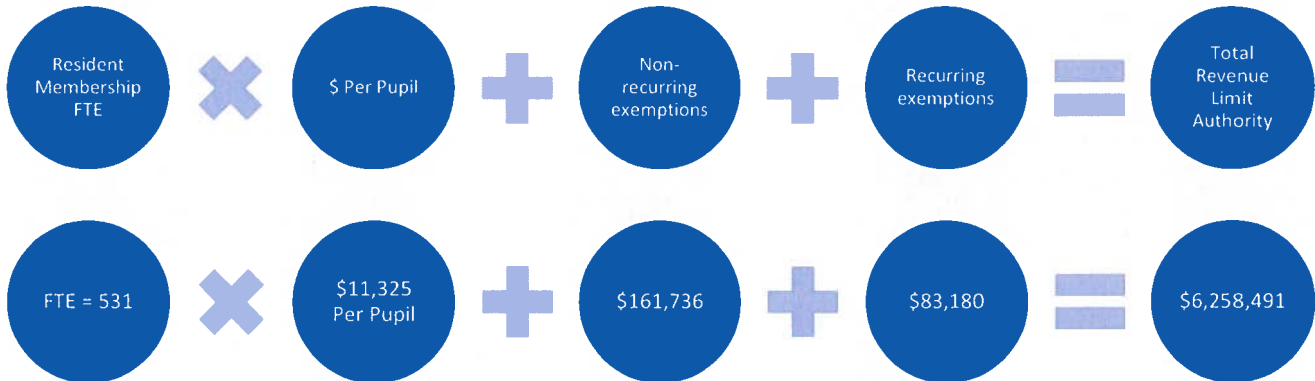
**COCHRANE – FOUNTAIN CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Revenue Limit & Tax Levy

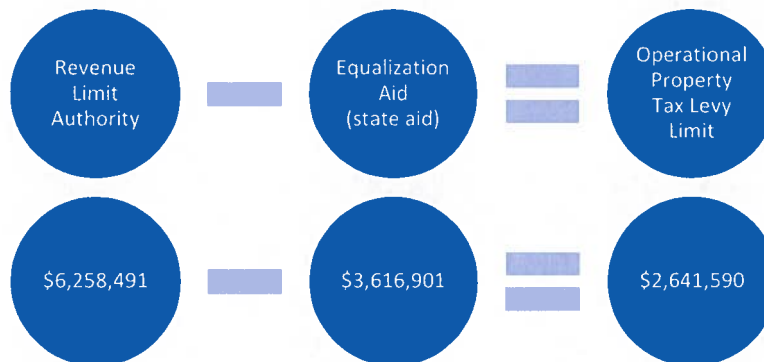
Revenue Limit and Property Tax Levy

The revenue limit is the maximum amount the school district may take in as revenue through state aid and the property tax levy. The revenue limit is set by state law on a biennial basis and is calculated on a per-pupil basis.

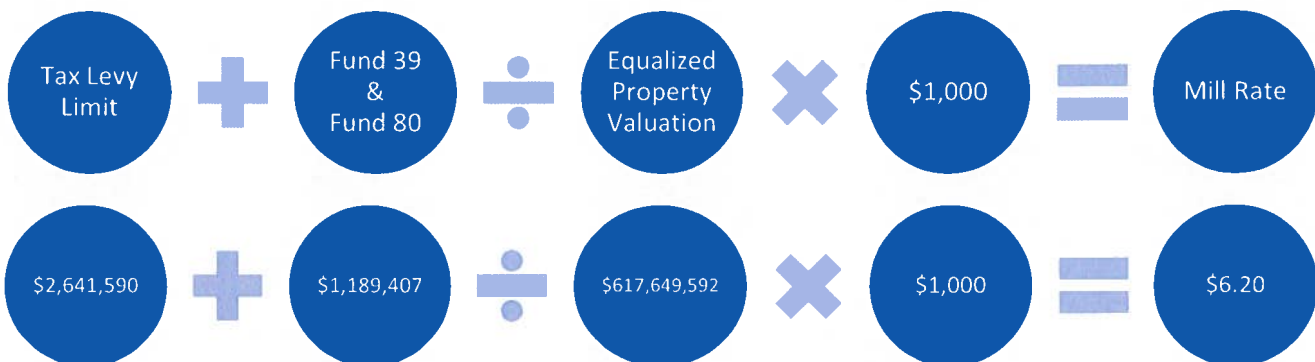
Total Revenue Limit Authority



Revenue Limit Tax Levy



Mill Rate Calculation



**COCHRANE – FOUNTAIN CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Revenue Limit & Tax Levy

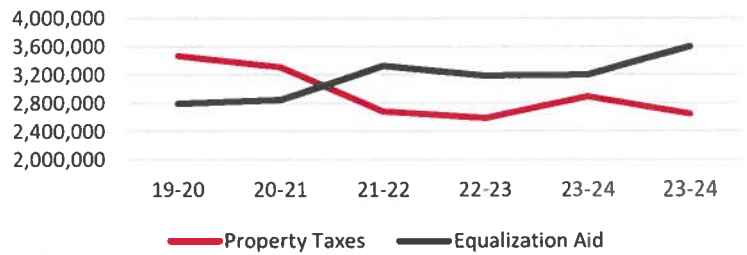
Equalization Aid

Wisconsin State Equalization Aid is general financial assistance to public school districts for use in funding a broad range of school district operational expenditures.

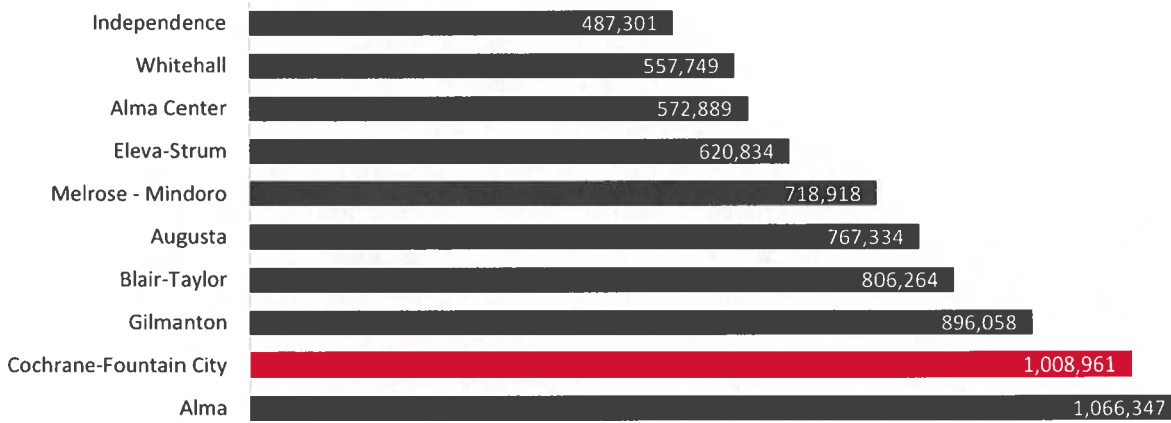
Equalization Aid Formula

The fundamental purpose of the Equalization Aid formula is to "level the playing field" by providing State general aid to make up for what districts cannot get from their property tax base.

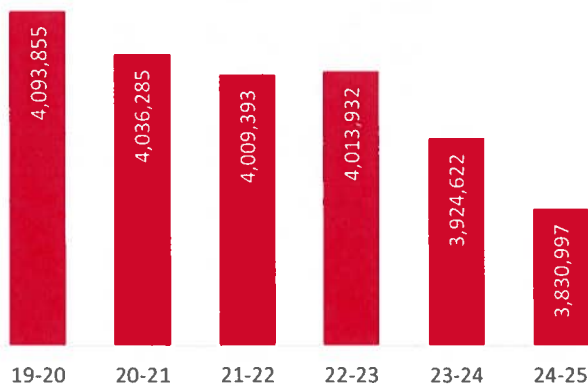
Equalization Aid vs. Property Taxes



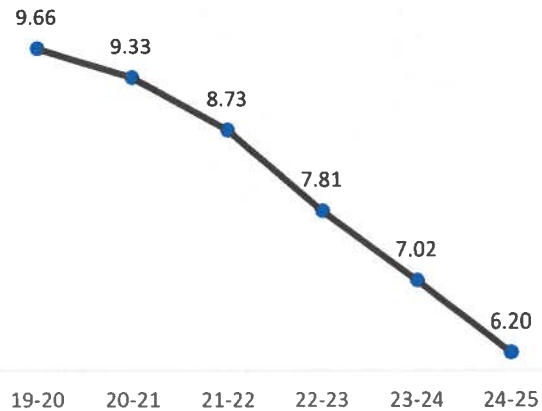
Conference Comparison Property Wealth Per Student



Property Tax Levy



Tax Rate per \$1,000 of equalized assessed valuation



**COCHRANE – FOUNTAIN CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Program and Services Fund

The district WILL have a Community Program and Services Fund (Fund 80) for the 2023-2025 fiscal years. The district does not intend to exceed the limit on the Fund 80 levy authority imposed by 2013 Wisconsin Act 20 for the 2023-2025 fiscal years.

The purpose and dollar amount for all planned expenditures from the district's fund 80 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year

1. Salaries-----	\$ 108,755
2. Employee Benefits-----	\$ 101,302
3. Classroom Supplies-----	\$ 16,000
4. Classroom Equipment Replacement -----	\$ 2,000
5. Hall of Fame Supplies-----	\$ 5,000
6. Community Newsletter-----	\$ 1,000

Please explain how the district's planned expenditures in Fund 80, described above, meet the Department of Public Instruction's Criteria for the use of Community Services Funds.

The district's expenditures in Fund 80 are directly related to the direction and operation of community education activities in the district. These activities include preschool programming, hall of fame recognition, and community newsletter. These programs were established to support, celebrate, and inform our community youth and adults. The expenses incurred by these programs are funded through fees and the local tax levy. The Board of Education approves a local property tax levy which entirely funds all the listed community service programs except for the preschool program which is additionally funded through user fees and/or donations.

The revenue and dollar amount for the district's Fund 80 total planned revenue.

Levy (Property Tax)-----	\$ 234,057
User Fees-----	\$ 14,200

Fund 80 Revenue-----	\$ 248,257
Expenses for Fund 80-----	\$ 248,257
Fund 80 Levy-----	\$ 234,057
The most recent Fund 80 levy-----	\$ 147,150

The district does not intend to hold a referendum to meet the requirements to exceed the limit on Fund 80 levy authority included in the 2013 Wisconsin Act 20.



**COCHRANE – FOUNTAIN CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Cochrane – Fountain City School District Annual Report
Use of Seclusion and Restraint
2023-2024 School Year**

This report contains the information required in section 118.305(4)(c) of the WI State Statutes, as revised by 2019 Wisconsin Act 118. This report includes aggregate totals from all Cochrane-Fountain City School District schools.

1. The number of incidents of seclusion in the school during the school year for which this report is written.	4
2. The total number of students who were involved in the incidents of seclusion reported in item (1) above	1
3. The number of children with disabilities who were involved in incidents of seclusion reported in item (1) above	1
4. The number of incidents of physical restraint in the school during the school year for which this report is written	0
5. The total number of students who were involved in the incidents of physical restraint reported in item (4) above is written	0