

### 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, Darrin Dillinger, Lynn Doelle, Michael Ayala, and Nathan Brandt. Amanda Lacey was absent. Troy White and Wendy Baures were also present.

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. Nathan Brandt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### Connection with the community

- **District celebrations and recognitions**

The list that was included in the board packet was read. Additional information shared included that the Brats 4 Balances raised \$2,348 to help with current and future lunch balances.

### Reports and discussion items

- **Referendum update**

The board discussed the referendum passing by 62%. The district is currently identifying projects that could be completed this summer. A timeline that would include staff input is part of the current design phase.

- **Insurance update**

Mr. White shared that dental insurance will have a 0% premium increase next year. There are still negotiations regarding medical coverage. The district is considering entering a cooperative that would allow the same coverage for staff but yield district incentives.

- **School Board election update**

The vote was canvassed, and congratulations were sent to Wendy Baures, Nathan Brandt, and Kevin Kubis on being elected. The transition process was discussed and is outlined in the timelines for future meetings.

- **Board policy 631.1**

Policy 631.1 Management of Tax-Exempt and Tax-Advantaged Obligations was discussed. Documentation showed that the district will continue to be good stewards of the district money.

- **Board policy 652**

Policy 652 Revenues from Investments was discussed. This policy's objectives are to assure safe, legal, and a good return on investments.

- **CESA report**

The CESA report was included in the packet. Some of the district's paraprofessionals will attend the summit in August. The gathering at CESA on April 22 is for all Board members not just new members.

- **Staffing**

- **School Registrar – Karla Patzner**

Mr. White shared that Karla Patzner will move from a paraprofessional position this year to the school registrar for the next school year.

### Future Agenda Items

- Fine arts and music presentation April 16<sup>th</sup>      - Skills USA presentation April 16th

### Review Timelines and Items for Future Board Agendas and Meetings.

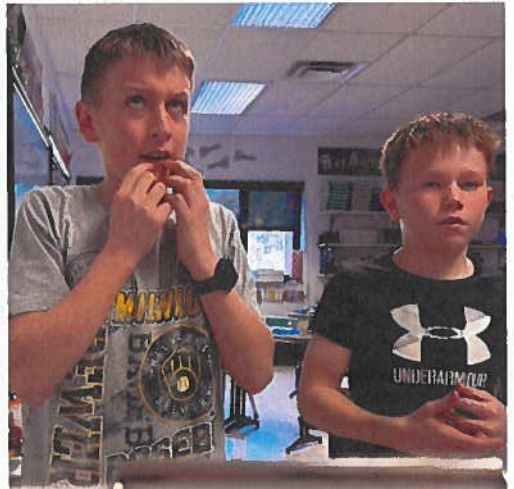
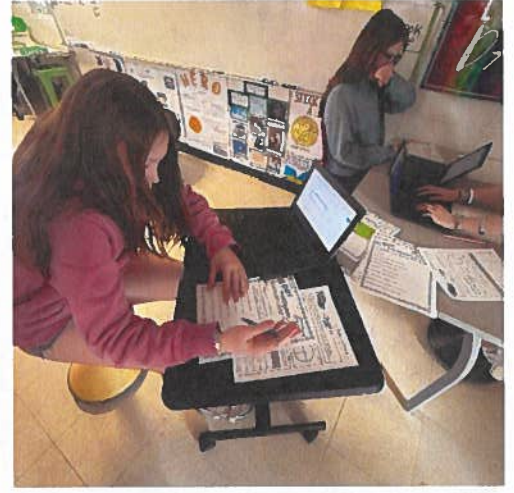
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>April 16, 2025</b>	<b>Regular Meeting (New Board Oaths)</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>April 22, 2025</b>	<b>WASB new board member gathering at CESA #4</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>May 5, 2025</b>	<b>Special Meeting (Board Organization)</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>
		<b>Committee of the Whole</b>	<b>Following the special meeting</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>May 21, 2025</b>	<b>Regular Meeting</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>

### Adjourn

Michael Ayala made a motion to adjourn at 6:36 p.m. Larry Cyrus seconded the motion. Motion carried.

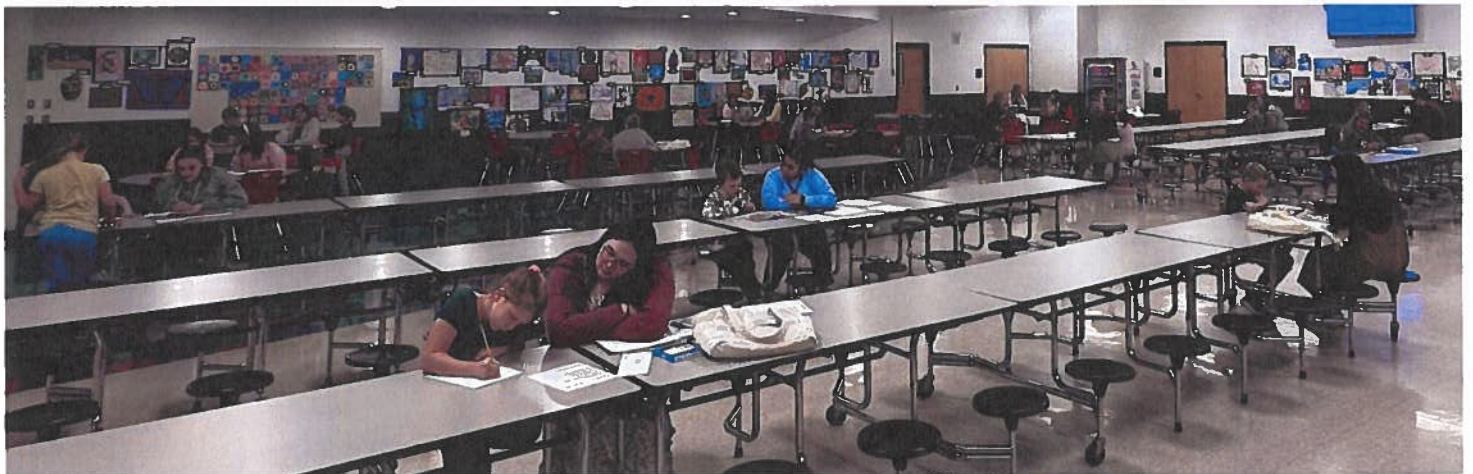
**Sixth graders in Mrs. Todd's class had a blast celebrating Pi Day!**

**Students explored the meaning of pi by measuring diameters and circumferences, got creative with their own pie treats, put their memory skills to the test in a pi recitation contest, and enjoyed tons of math-filled fun**



**Winona State education students had a great experience working on reading skills with elementary students!**

**The feedback from both the instructor and student teachers was outstanding, highlighting how advanced the students are in their reading abilities and how their excellent behavior stood out.**





## Referendum

The Cochrane – Fountain City School District is pleased to announce the success of its \$17.49 million capital referendum, with unofficial results indicating 61% voter approval.



## C-FC students to compete in upcoming SkillsUSA Wisconsin State Leadership and Skills Conference

Nine students from the Cochrane-Fountain City Schools will head to Madison to compete in the 52nd annual SkillsUSA Wisconsin State Leadership and Skills Conference, set for Tuesday and Wednesday, April 1-2, at the Alliant Energy Center and Madison Area Technical College.

The 2025 conference will feature more than 1,750 middle, high school, and college/post-secondary students, over 200 teachers, and more than 300 industry volunteers working in over 75 competitions, such as 3D Printing and Design, Automotive Maintenance & Light Repair, Barbering, Cabinetmaking,

Computer Programming, Cosmetology, Engineering Technology/Design, Extemporaneous Speaking, Photography, Precision Machining Technology (CNC Technician), Video Production, Welding, and many more.

The students attending the SkillsUSA Wisconsin competition from C-FC are: Madison Ward, Medical Math; Avery Bambenek, Team Engineering Challenge; Ashlyn Earney, Team Engineering Challenge; Ava Goetting, Team Engineering Challenge; Luke Hansen, Team Engineering Challenge; Steven Meyer, Team Engineering Challenge; Nathan Stoppelmoor, Team Engineering Challenge; Nicholas Bork, Welding; and Andrea Stolz, Welding.

The Opening Ceremony is scheduled for 1 p.m. on April 1, with competition set up and event briefings held throughout the day. The State Championships will commence April 2 at 7:30 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. All contests are conducted under the direction of industry experts, trade associations, and labor organizations, testing competencies that are set to industry standards.

The Closing Ceremony, including the presentation of awards, will start at 6:30 p.m. The first-place winners will go on to compete in the National SkillsUSA Championships, June 23-27 in Atlanta, Ga.

The public is encouraged to attend the SkillsUSA Wisconsin State Championships; admission is free.

Founded in 1973, SkillsUSA Wisconsin, with more than 2,500 members in over 150 chapters, is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry representatives working together to ensure America has the skilled workforce needed to stay competitive. The diverse talent pipeline covers 120 trade, technical, and skilled service occupations, mostly related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

More than 200 corporations, trade associations, businesses, and labor unions support SkillsUSA Wisconsin. Programs are integrated into career and technical education through a framework of personal, workplace, and technical skills grounded in academics. SkillsUSA also offers technical skill assessments and other workplace credentials.

Helping each student excel and a solution to shrinking the skills gap, SkillsUSA is a national non-profit organization serving high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical, and skilled service occupations.

For more information on the State Leadership and Skills Conference, please visit [www.skillsusa-wi.org](http://www.skillsusa-wi.org).

## WBCA 2025 Division 5 Boys Basketball All-State team

Cameron Lipinski, Senior, C-FC, All State Team

Porter Ehrat, Senior C-FC, Honorable Mention

## 2025 Boys State Tournament Superlatives and All-Tournament Team

### Breakout Performance

Cameron Lipinski. The senior guard from Cochrane-Fountain City showed that he could play at the next level this past weekend in Madison.

### All-Hair Team

Cochrane-Fountain City. When the Pirates were in the gym, it felt like we were all extras in the 2000 music video of "The Real Slim Shady" by Eminem. A majority of the team and some students in the stands were sporting bleach blonde hairdos.

### All-Role Team

Tucker Bambenek

Aidan Lisowski

### All-Tournament Team

Porter Ehrat

Cameron Lipinski

### Division 5 MVP

Cameron Lipinski







# COCHRANE-FOUNTAIN CITY 2025 STATE CHAMPIONS



The Cochrane-Fountain City High School boys basketball team poses with their championship trophy after winning the WIAA Division 5 State Title at the UW-Madison Kohl Center on Saturday, March 22, defeating Sheboygan Lutheran 60-54. The Pirates finish the season 28-2 overall.

## Pirates capture the gold!

### C-FC wins first WIAA State Boys Basketball title in school history

by Beth Kraft

The Pirates had the golden touch. And the golden hair to match.

With multiple members of the team sporting new, gold 'dos for the WIAA Division 5 State Boys Basketball Tournament, the Cochrane-Fountain City boys basketball team made it clear from the get-go what their ultimate goal was in Madison last weekend.

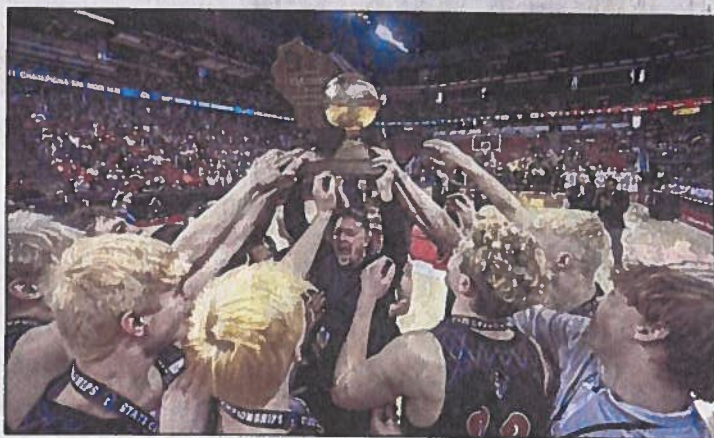


Mission accomplished. With a pair of solid wins punctuated by high-light-reel moments including slam dunks, a halftime buzzer-beater, hard-nosed defense, and even a new D5 state tournament record, the top-ranked C-FC boys captured the D5 state crown with a 60-54 win over No. 2 Sheboygan Lutheran on Saturday, March 22, at the UW-Madison Kohl Center.

"It is a proud moment for the kids, the school, and the community," said C-FC head coach Jesse Cyrus of hoisting the program's first-ever gold ball. "You can see how much it means to everyone when you see all the support throughout this run and the alumni and former staff along with so many others that have reached out along the way."

Legions of loyal C-FC

*Pirates State D5 Champions -page 2*



C-FC head coach Jesse Cyrus hoists the Division 5 state championship trophy high while members of the boys basketball team swarm in to celebrate the first gold ball in program history.

-Photos by Nate Beier and Logan Everson/GX3 Media



# Pirates State D5 Champions

Continued from page 2

ed down the floor and can't shoot the layup but before the buzzer for the 40-34 tie and score that Lark earned CFC's state championship celebration.

East finished with a remarkable 14 points, six in the second half. Lark, who scored 17 points for the Pirates, and CFC's other players combined to break the state record with 20 points combined in the second half.

The Pirates handled defensive pressure well throughout the tournament, having just seen turnovers in Turle Lake and 10 in the first half game.

"We had our moments of discomfort, but we managed it really well," Coach Cym said of the pressure and power has been shown in the Kohl Center's, massive, environment. "Our team leadership really led the way in simplifying the game and skill set to keep the ball in hand as the half went on."

And play that the Pirates did, showing a solid 40 percent from the field in the first half with 10 points in 40%.

Conversely, the C-

players shot 16 percent in the second half. It was a 10-20 point effort put up by the Pirates, who scored 17 points for the Pirates, and CFC's other players combined to break the state record with 20 points combined in the second half.

Many people in the community have said that the Pirates are the best team in the state, and that's why they have won the championship. In fact, the Pirates have been there since a "CFC" basketball game was born.

For them, accomplishing the state's ultimate goal of winning the state title is the most important thing in their lives.

"I thought as a young man, I was told 'It's an incredible experience and an incredible victory' but I don't think we were going to win it. It's a win because the journey has come to an end, but all the hard work and countless hours finally paid off. I'm very proud of what we've achieved."

The CFC boys' basketball team's season goal of winning the state title is the most important thing in their lives. They have been there since a "CFC" basketball game was born.

"We finally did it,"

they said, especially the Pirates. "We have taken the center role of the game and they have learned every step of the way. They learned from the past, the best, and the worst to be a team."

What does this mean? The Pirates have won the state title 24-0 record, putting together a 10 game win streak in the second half.

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Continued from front

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A strong showing by Pirates Nation was evident at the Kohl Center as CFC fans display signs supporting their team.



CFC's Porter Evers, Jesse Cym and Cameron Larkman take questions during the post-game press conference in the Kohl Center media room following the team's D5 state title.



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Checked out in real time, CFC students show the moment after winning their boys' basketball team with the Division 5 state title.



Real Schmidt made the key with the D5 state championship trophy as the team played the CFC final while leaving the court at the Kohl Center. The basketball championship is the 10th all-time state title for CFC High School and the school's first non-cross country championship.



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**CESA Administrator's Report – April 2, 2025**  
**CESA 4 Activities and Regional News**

1. Referendum results: Locally there were 9 districts in CESA 4 who went to referendum on Tuesday. Of those, 8 district referendums were asking their district residents to allow them to exceed their revenue limits while 1 district was seeking approval for Capital improvements. Cochrane Fountain City School District passed their capital improvement referendum. Of the remaining 8 that were asking permission to exceed the revenue limit, 4 of them passed (Bangor, Independence, Viroqua, and Whitehall), while the remaining 4 failed (Arcadia, DeSoto, Holmen, Melrose-Mindoro). Statewide, there were 89 districts that went to referendum. As of this writing we haven't seen the full results, but we should be receiving data from WASB soon in regards to the results.
2. The 97th annual **Paraprofessional Summit** will be held August 12, 2025 at CESA 4. Registration for this event is now open and seats are limited so it is highly recommended to register early! Each participant will be able to attend two keynote speakers and choose from three different breakout sessions. This year's keynote Speaker is Ellie Olson, author of the book "Energy Bus." Ellie brings a wealth of knowledge and educational experience to her presentation, where she empowers attendees to overcome challenges and bring positive energy to their schools. There are not a lot of professional development opportunities for support staff, so this is definitely a workshop they can and should attend.
3. I attended the WASB Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, March 12th. The CESA 4 region had several districts in attendance. The morning session began with a panel discussion that included two representatives from both sides of the aisle. The panel answered questions that related to the upcoming budget, as well as issues school districts currently face. The afternoon allowed us to meet with various legislators that represent the Coulee Region. We were given 30 minutes to share our stories and provide our thoughts on the state budget. I personally met with the offices of Brad Pfaff and Tara Johnson. The messaging from all those I spoke with is that both sides of the aisle are behind the Special Education reimbursement. In our talks they highly recommended that districts focus on telling their story of how the increase in SPED reimbursement would impact your districts. Other than that, there doesn't appear to be much consensus in terms of the budget. All parties admitted at that time that items on the floor were being "slow rolled" so they could buy time to get to the April 1st election. Once the results are in, and depending on who is elected, will impact the work moving forward. They did caution that districts may not see final budgetary numbers until we are well into the summer, and possibly this fall.
4. As of this writing, I have completed all but two of my district visits. The visits have gone very well in terms of connecting and the relationships we continue to build. It is clear that the upcoming state budget, and in some cases local referendums, loom large in terms of financial decisions districts have to make. We have not seen significant changes in terms of contract services, but we anticipate there could be some changes based on the election results and the state budget.

## **State News**

1. The Joint Finance Committee is hosting hearings throughout the state. There are four hearings being held throughout the state, with one of them being the night of our Board of Control meeting. If your administration or school board would like to share their story and reinforce your district's needs, they are highly encouraging districts to do so. The meeting being held on April 2nd is being hosted at Kaukauna High School. The April 4th meeting will be held at the Wisconsin State Fair Park. The April 28th meeting will be held at the Hayward High School gymnasium. The April 29th meeting will be held at the Northcentral Technical College in Wausau. Each of these meetings run from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., but everyone is encouraged to arrive early and get in line well before the 10:00 a.m. start time. Following the statewide public hearings, JFC will begin voting on provisions of the budget during executive sessions throughout the month of May and potentially into June. It is anticipated that the budget will not be approved by July 1, with the possibility of it being late summer or early fall before it is finalized.

**Next Board of Control Meeting – Wednesday, May 7, 2025**



Book	School Board Policies
Section	600 Series: Fiscal Management
Title	Revenues from Investments
Code	652
Status	_____
Adopted	_____

The School Board authorizes a safe and sound investment program for the purpose of securing additional revenues in support of the District's educational program. An investment program is viewed as a critical ingredient of sound fiscal management. District funds in excess of those maintained in demand deposits or savings accounts for near-term operating purposes shall be properly and prudently invested in accordance with provisions of this policy and as authorized by law.

The primary objectives of the District's standard investment activities, in priority order, shall be:

1. Safety – Safety of principal is the foremost objective of the investment program. Investments shall be undertaken in a manner that seeks to preserve the amount of principal within the District's overall investment portfolio.
2. Legal – All District investments are made in compliance with legal requirements.
3. Liquidity – The District's investment portfolio shall remain sufficiently liquid to meet all operating requirements that might be reasonably anticipated.
4. Return on Investments – District funds are invested at the highest rate and under the best conditions as possible in official depositories designated by the Board.

The Board authorizes the District Administrator to direct all activities associated with the investment program in such a manner as to accomplish the objectives of this policy. This responsibility includes an annual review and assessment of the District's investment program and recommendations for changes to this policy. The District Administrator may confer with reputable consultants regarding investment decisions when necessary.

## Legal Reference

### Wisconsin Statutes

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <a href="#">Section 25.50</a>     | [local government pooled investment fund]                               |
| <a href="#">Section 34.05</a>     | [designation of public depositories]                                    |
| <a href="#">Section 34.08</a>     | [payment for losses of public depository]                               |
| <a href="#">Section 66.0603</a>   | [investments]   |
| <a href="#">Section 120.12(7)</a> | [school board duty to designate public depositories for district funds] |



Book	School Board Policies
Section	600 Series: Fiscal Management
Title	Management of Tax-Exempt and Tax-Advantaged Obligations
Code	631.1
Status	_____
Adopted	_____

The District has a strong interest in maintaining its ability to issue tax-exempt and tax-advantaged obligations (“Obligations”) as a means of securing capital through borrowing at favorable rates. The District further wishes to ensure that such obligations, once issued, are managed and monitored in a manner that (1) preserves their tax-exempt or tax-advantaged status; (2) complies with applicable laws and regulations; and (3) demonstrates accountability with respect to the appropriate use of the proceeds of any offering.

The District Administrator shall serve as the District’s Compliance Officer with respect to the post-issuance management of the District’s Obligations. The Board recognizes that the compliance and recordkeeping measures that are associated with the issuance of such Obligations are extremely complex. Accordingly, the Compliance Officer is authorized to work with the District’s professional financial advisors and its designated bond counsel on an ongoing basis to:

1. Establish appropriate systems and procedures respecting post-issuance compliance and recordkeeping practices, covering matters such as (a) proper registration of the obligation; (b) continuing disclosure requirements; (c) calculating and monitoring arbitrage compliance and rebate requirements; (d) tracking the expenditure of proceeds by project/purpose; (e) ensuring proper management of funds to be used for debt service; (f) filing appropriate reports and tax forms; and (g) taking corrective actions if needed. To the extent recommended by the District’s professional advisors, such procedures may be adopted as a formal administrative or Board rule under this policy.
2. Occasionally review and recommend any appropriate changes to the systems and procedures respecting post-issuance compliance and recordkeeping that are implemented pursuant to this policy; and
3. Ensure that the Compliance Officer adequately understands and implements the systems and procedures that are established and implemented pursuant to this policy.

The Board understands that the professional service expenses associated with obtaining such advice and counsel are necessary costs associated with the decision to issue tax-exempt and tax-advantaged obligations. The Compliance Officer shall ensure that the District’s annual budget includes estimated costs for these services. The Compliance Officer shall inform the Board if issues arise that are likely to cause the District’s actual expenditures for such services to substantially exceed the amounts allocated in the applicable budget period.

## **Legal Reference**

### **Wisconsin Statutes**

<a href="#">Chapter 67</a>	[municipal borrowing and municipal bonds]
<a href="#">Section 67.04</a>	[purposes of issuing municipal bonds and notes]
<a href="#">Section 67.05</a>	[bonds issues; procedures, including referendum]
<a href="#">Section 67.12</a>	[temporary borrowing and borrowing on promissory notes]
<a href="#">Section 120.115</a>	[DPI reporting requirements and report on debt service]

### **Federal Guidance**

[IRS Publication 4079](#), Tax-Exempt Governmental Bonds