

# PATRIOT CONNECTIONS

January 1, 2025

**A PLACE TO CONNECT, LEARN, AND THRIVE**

## Career Fair

Roughly 400 Pequot Lakes High School students in grades 10-12 participated in the Career Fair on Wednesday, December 11. Fifty-four businesses helped PLHS students explore various career opportunities. Some of the business representatives were PLHS graduates!

Thank you to Joanna O'Neil, PLHS Internship Coordinator, for organizing the event.



## Jackhammer Wrestling Tournament

On Friday and Saturday, December 20-21, the Pequot Lakes School District hosted the Jackhammer Wrestling Tournament. 38 high school wrestling teams, including roughly 500 athletes, participated in the event. The tournament director was Charlie Munz and over 60 people worked at the event.





## Pequot Lakes Chamber of Commerce - School Staff of the Year Award

Congratulations to Jordon Goebel for being chosen as the Pequot Lakes Chamber of Commerce School Staff Member of the Year. Jordon will be honored at a banquet on February 6, 2025, along with other Pequot Lakes Chamber of Commerce award winners.



Jordan (front center) is in his second year of teaching music at PLHS. Jordon was nominated by RaeAnn Hecker, a PLHS/PLMS parent, who wrote:

“Mr. Goebel has been an amazing addition to the Music Department at Pequot Lakes Middle and High School. He is a dedicated, passionate teacher who really cares about teaching all of his students the joy and importance of music through many different instruments....Mr. Goebel's encouragement to kids to learn something new and push out of their comfort zones with music has been amazing to watch and is very much appreciated....we are so thankful that Mr. Goebel has brought his passion for music to Pequot Lakes!”

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## School Board Continues Facility Planning

The Pequot Lakes School Board is set to consider authorizing a Special Election on April 8, 2025, at their January 6, 2025, Organizational meeting. The details of the plan are listed below:

1. Question 1: \$55 million for facility improvements in four categories:
  - a. Safety and Security Items (\$9.5M)
  - b. Maintenance Items (\$19M)
  - c. Career, Technology and Trades Spaces (\$16M)
  - d. Addition and Remodel of Student Instructional Spaces (\$10M)
2. Question 2: Capital Project Levy for roughly \$600,000 per year for 10 years. This will pay for curriculum and technology, in order to open up the general fund for other costs that have not kept up with inflation.
3. Question 1 & Question 2 are independent questions.
4. The estimated cost for an average residential property value of \$400,000 is a total of \$16 per month (\$13 for Question 1 and \$3 for Question 2). This is a \$12 per month reduction from the November 2023 election proposal of \$28 per month, resulting from a board prioritization process that included input from teachers, other staff, parents, and community members.

If the school board approves the Special Election at the January 6 meeting, more details and information will be shared with district residents.

Patriot Connections is emailed monthly to families and posted on social media. For a digital copy, email [kstumpf@isd186.org](mailto:kstumpf@isd186.org).