Cochrane-Fountain City School District
Board Meeting in Committee
November 2, 2026

Call to Order
Lisa Wolfe called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the high school board room #335. Present board members were Lisa Wolfe, Larry Cyrus, Nathan Brandt, Arlen Dirks, Sarah Ayala, and Wendy Baures. Kevin Kubis was absent. Also present were Troy White and Jenny Brandt.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Lisa Wolfe read the Mission Statement.

Lisa Wolfe attested to the publication of the meeting pursuant to Wisconsin Statute Section 19.84.

Approval of the Agenda
Wendy Baures made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Nathan Brandt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Connection with the community
- **District celebrations and recognitions**
  Mr. White presented celebrations from the packet including classes using the engagement lab, students visiting Ashley Furniture, the cross-country team, and the football team. New national honor society members were also mentioned.

Reports and Discussion Items
- **Referendum update**
  Mr. White informed the Board that the fitness center and tech ed department are on schedule. High school classrooms are being completed. There is finish work going on around the building.
- **Local debit card proposal**
  The board discussed Waumandee Bank's proposal to have a debit card with the pirate logo on it. The district has interest as long as other financial institutions in the district are given the same opportunity to have such a debit card.
- **Board retreat discussion**
  - **Goals, norms, and collective agreements**
    The Board continued reviewing and refining its goals, norms, and collective agreements.
  - **2026-2031 strategic plan**
    The strategic plan has been agreed upon and will be voted on by the board at the next regular meeting.
- **2027-2028 district calendar**
  Mr. White presented some options for the calendar after feedback from staff including spring break, open house, and parent teacher conferences. After discussion, more staff feedback will be requested.
- **Superintendent evaluation**
  The board members who have not returned their superintendent evaluation are asked to do so as soon as possible to Lisa Wolfe. The plan is to have a closed session superintendent evaluation discussion on December 7th.
- **State education convention attendance – January 20-22, 2027**
  Board members need to notify Mr. White if they plan to attend the convention so registrations and room reservations can be made.
- **November 16th regular board meeting date**
  The board chose not to change the meeting date. Larry Cyrus will be absent due to a WASB event.

Future Agenda Items
- Strategic plan vote
- February 15th meeting moved to February 17th
- Possible closed session on December 7th for superintendent evaluation

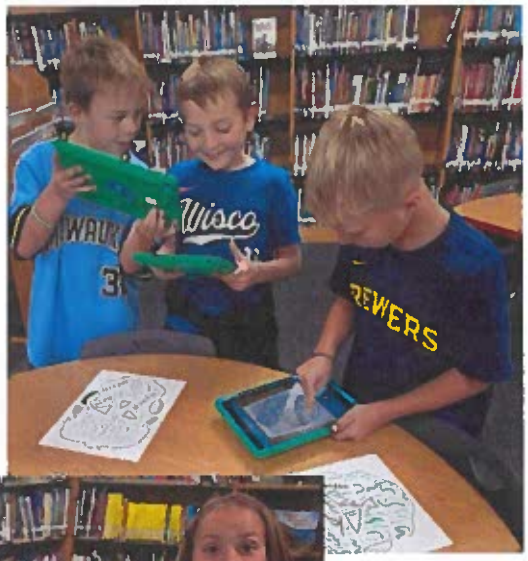
Review Timelines and Items for Future Board Agendas and Meetings.

Monday	**November 16th, 2026**	**Regular Meeting**	**6:00 p.m.**
Monday	**December 7th, 2026**	**Committee Meeting**	**6:00 p.m.**
Monday	**December 21st, 2026**	**Regular Meeting**	**6:00 p.m.**

Sarah Ayala made a motion to adjourn at 7:23 p.m. Arlen Dirks seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Third graders had a blast using ChatterPix to bring their monster creations to life! The library was filled with giggles, excitement, and lots of proud moments as students shared their talking monsters with friends. What a fun way to combine creativity, technology, and storytelling!







4K students were excited to explore the newly renovated Engagement Lab as it reopened for classes! Their first visit was filled with fall fun, hands-on learning, and plenty of discovery. After reading "I Am a Leaf" and learning how leaves help make "tree food," students created their own leaf rubbings using real leaves. They also had a blast touching the walls and pretending to catch the falling leaves all around them! What better way to learn about the season of fall than to experience it ALL around them? Learning comes to life when curiosity, creativity, and exploration come together!





Sixth graders traded the classroom for the factory floor during a special field trip to Ashley Furniture for Manufacturing Month! Students got an inside look at the manufacturing process, watched robotics in action, saw teamwork at its finest, and discovered the many moving parts that bring products to life. From technology to collaboration, there was so much to explore and learn! A HUGE thank-you to Ashley Furniture for welcoming our students and providing such an incredible hands-on learning experience!







C-FC hosts Dairyland Conference XC meet

Lady Pirates claim another girls team title

by Beth Kraft

Cochrane-Fountain City hosted the 2026 Dairyland Conference Cross Country Championships on Thursday, Oct. 15, bringing the league's other schools to compete for team and individual all-conference honors in Fountain City.

Claiming their fifth Dairyland Conference title in a row, the C-FC girls team took first place with 36 points. The Lady Pirates edged second place Augusta by eight points to take the conference crown.

The C-FC girls placed three runners in the top 10, led by junior Paxtyn Duellman in first place with a time of 18:34. Duellman ran away with the race, finishing nearly 30 seconds ahead of second place Taylor Laufenberg of Melrose-Mindoro.

Sophomore Kinley Arneson crossed the finish line next in third place, clocking a time of 19:33.5. Next in for the Pirates was senior Macy Hunger in ninth place with a time of 21:52.8.

Senior Ashlyn Earney was next to cross the finish line for C-FC in 13th place (22:02.6) followed by sophomore Trinity Jilk in 22nd (23:58.7), sophomore Zoe Tepovich in 29th (24:24.7) and junior Sofia Cabezas in 34th (28:13.8).

For their efforts, Duellman and Arneson received First Team all-Dairyland Conference honors while Hunger was a second team all-conference honoree.

Next up for the C-FC girls will be the WIAA Division 3 Sectional Meet at Colby this Saturday, Oct. 24, for the chance to qualify for the WIAA State Cross Country Championships the following weekend.



Members of the C-FC girls cross country team (pictured, left to right) Kinley Arneson, Trinity Jilk, Zoe Tepovich, Sofia Cabezas, Ashlyn Earney, Macy Hunger and Paxtyn Duellman, were ready to run in the 2026 Dairyland Conference Meet on Thursday, Oct. 15.



C-FC's Kinley Arneson runs to a third place finish at last week's Dairyland Conference Meet.



C-FC senior Macy Hunger makes her way through the conference course.

-Sean Scallon photos



Earning all-Dairyland Conference honors for finishing in the top 10 were (left to right) Aubree O'Brien, Augusta, 10th; Macy Hunger, C-FC, 9th; Sophia Kampa, Independence/Gilmanton, 8th; Anna Kent, Independence/Gilmanton, 7th; Laney O'Brien, Augusta, 6th; Allie Sylla, Independence/Gilmanton, 5th; Elsie Christ, Eleva-Strum, 4th; Kinley Arneson, C-FC, 3rd; Taylor Laufenberg, Melrose-Mindoro, 2nd; Paxtyn Duellman, C-FC, 1st.

-Contributed photos

XC highlights, please see page 8.

-Contributed photo



C-FC girls XC wins fifth straight Dairyland title

The Cochrane-Fountain City girls cross country team extended its Dairyland Conference championship win streak to five straight titles on Thursday, Oct. 15, while hosting the meet. The Pirates placed three runners in the top 10—including a first place finish by junior Paxtyn Duellman—to take the conference crown with 36 points, outpacing second place Augusta (44 points). *For more C-FC XC highlights, please see page 9.*

-Contributed photo

Two from C-FC girls XC qualify for State

Duellman, Arneson, finish 1-2 in the team standings

by Beth Kraft

The Cochrane-Fountain City girls cross country team finished fourth as a team at the WIAA Division 3 Colby Sectional, held Saturday, Oct. 24, with a total of 128 points—just four points behind third place Stratford.

The top two teams from the sectional qualified for State in addition to the first five individual finishers in the sectional who were not already a member of a state-qualifying team.

Junior Paxtyn Duellman and sophomore Kinley Arneson were among that top five, placing second and third overall (first and second in the team standings) to punch their tickets to State as individual runners.

Duellman clocked a time of 19:45.1 for the second place finish behind Melrose-Mindoro freshman Taylor Laufenberg's 19:34.9.

Arneson finished close behind Duellman with a time of 19:47.7.

Duellman will make her third appearance at State while it will be Arneson's second State run when the C-FC duo heads to the 52nd annual WIAA Girls Cross Country Championships on Saturday, Oct. 31, at The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.

Duellman finished ninth overall at last year's state cross country meet and placed 13th as a freshman in 2024. Arneson placed 57th overall as part of the state-qualifying C-FC girls' team last year.

Also running for C-FC at Sectionals were senior Macy Hunger, taking 35th place overall with a time of 23:01.6, followed by senior Ashlyn Barney in 39th with a time of 23:16.7. Sophomore Trinity Jilk was the team's fifth and final scoring runner with a time of 25:50.1, good for 74th place.

Auburndale took the girls team sectional title with 99 points, placing three runners in the top 20.

At State, the boys and girls will both run a 5,000-meter course. The D3 girls race is set for a 12 p.m. start this Saturday.



C-FC's Paxtyn Duellman (left) and Kinley Arneson finished a close second and third overal at Saturday's Colby Sectional to qualify as individuals for the upcoming WIAA D3 girls state cross country meet.

-Contributed photo

Pirates move on to second round of the postseason following Level 1 victory

by Coach Jesse Cyrus

The top-ranked, undefeated Cochrane-Fountain City football team (10-0) hosted No. 8 Hillsboro for a WIAA Level 1 playoff match up on Friday night, Oct. 23. The Pirates came away with a victory by a final score of 55-7.

The Pirate defense stood strong, led by leading tacklers Ryker Duellman and Nash Noeldner. Aidan Lisowski had two sacks with a forced fumble, while Gabe Blatz added a sack and Mavrik Ehrat added a sack and fumble recovery for a touchdown. Maverick Arneson also had an interception on the defensive side of the ball.

On the offensive side, the Pirates were led by a solid rushing attack and a timely passing game. Lisowski led the rushing attack with 166 yards and two scores. Parker Kujak and Noeldner each added a rushing touchdown. In the passing game, Kujak threw for three touchdowns with two of them going to Maverick Arneson and one to Lisowski.

The Pirates will host No. 4 Cadott, a 54-16 winner over No. 5 Royall in Level 1, this Friday night, Oct. 30, for a Level 2 match up.



The C-FC offense lined up against Hillsboro to open playoff action on Friday night, Oct. 23, resulting in a big, 55-7 win for the Pirates.

-Contributed photo

C-FC School Board

Purpose

Strive to achieve identified goals while advocating for students and representing the community's diverse beliefs and values.

Board Focus: 2026 – 2027

- Understanding and supporting educational innovations.
- Retainment of staff through helping with stress management, balancing workload, and supporting students.
- Increase connections with the community through transparency and engagement.

Norms

- Respect everyone's opinions and viewpoints
- Maintain open communication.
- Focus on quality education for all children.
- Align our efforts to achieve our purpose.
- Committed to our mission, vision, and goals.

Goals

- Enhance the culture and climate of the C-FC School District by promoting:
  - Engagement, expectations, and student ownership of their learning through
  - The portrait of a pirate attributes of communication, collaboration, academic proficiency, critical thinking, problem solving & resiliency.
  - Positive staff and student mental well-being.
- Endorse and support the "portrait of a pirate" indicators.
- Maintain fiscal responsibility & communicate the district's financial state.
- Communicate and connect with all stakeholders.

Board Roles

- Listen & inquire
- Students focused
- Policy adherence
- Superintendent support, oversight, and evaluation
- Set the District goals and policies

Superintendent Roles

- Manages day-to-day operation
- Engages the community
- Communicates with the Board
- Student-centered
- Provides the "why"

Superintendent focus

- ***Culture and Climate*** – "Foster supportive, positive, and effective district-wide environment."
- ***Systems for student achievement*** – "Focus organizational efforts to fuel student achievement."
- ***Communication*** – "Open, honest dialogue to cultivate trusting, positive, collaborative relationships.

PORTRAIT OF A PIRATE GRADUATE

As a community and school district, we strive for each Cochrane – Fountain City graduate to be a:

COMMUNICATOR

COLLABORATOR

ACADEMIC PROFICIENCY

CONTINUOUS LEARNER

CRITICAL THINKER

RESILIENT INDIVIDUAL



Communicator

- Communicates effectively in multiple ways – verbal, written, electronic and visual.
- Shows purpose and thoughtfulness in communication.
- Takes into consideration multiple points of view.

Collaborator

- Actively listens, empathizes, and contributes thoughtful, meaningful ideas that support common goals.
- Understands the importance of roles and responsibilities within a collaborative process
- Is flexible, open-minded, confident, and adaptable when working with and receiving feedback from others.
- Actively participates in activities outside the classroom.

Critical Thinker

- Reflects on past learning and experiences when faced with new situations and challenges.
- Evaluates information critically.
- Participates in collaborative problem-solving and decision-making processes.

Academic Proficiency

- Understands and applies essential learning outcomes in authentic situations.
- Asks questions effectively to acquire knowledge.
- Students acknowledge their growth and identify possibilities for continued learning.

Continuous Learner

- Takes ownership of learning, continuously pursuing and demonstrating knowledge and skills throughout life.
- Understands how to apply learning to new situations and challenges.
- Explores areas of interest for academic, career, and personal success.

Resilient Individual

- Develop strategies and interpersonal skills to manage stress, promote mental health, and cultivate positive relationships.
- Understands how to manage time and priorities.
- Knows how to make financially responsible decisions.
- Sets short- and long-term goals for success.
- Reflects on decisions.

Cochrane-Fountain City School District

The Pirate Code: Respectful, Responsible, Ready to Learn

Strategic Plan 2026 - 2031

The Board of Education approved the Strategic Plan of the C-FC School District. The plan includes five focus areas.

Student Academic Achievement and Success

- All students will be life-ready, demonstrating the Portrait of a Pirate attributes of communication, collaboration, academic proficiency, critical thinking, problem solving & resiliency.
- Every student will master the essential learning outcomes identified in Math and English Language Arts annually.
- Improve average standardized exam scores in both Math & English Language Arts to above the state average.
- Expand classes and program offerings for students.

School Culture

- Ensure a safe physical environment.
- Create a safe social & emotional environment.
- Teach and support positive behavior.
- Support engaging classrooms using AI as an enhancement not a replacement.

Staff & Personnel

- Maintain a trusting environment that empowers staff.
- Provide continuous staff development for all employee groups.
- Continue to enhance the compensation model to remain competitive with local market.

Fiscal Responsibility

- Effectively communicate the financial state of the district.
- Maintain a budget reflective of the district's strategic plan.
- Forecast future district needs.

Communication and Community Engagement

- Continue to explore mutually beneficial relationships in the community.
- Increase purposeful engagement of stakeholders.
- Clear, honest, and timely communication that informs, celebrates, and tells the District's story.

Vision

C-FC empowers all students to discover their passions, develop their talents, and be responsible, impactful citizens.

Mission

In partnership with families and community, C-FC provides a safe and supportive environment for all students. By providing a high-quality education that promotes academic and emotional growth, we empower students to be life-long learners and productive, responsible community. citizens.