

Paxton-Buckley-Loda Education Foundation

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

“Schools can’t become the best places for students to learn and grow unless we make them the best places for teachers to work and grow.” Julie Hasson

This quote resonated with me when I came across it the day after a board meeting. At that meeting, we voted to allocate \$21,000 for staff grants that will be made available to PBL’s K-12 teachers.

How many times have you had a great idea you hoped you could put into action? Your only hurdle to implementation was funding. PBL educators have great ideas, and thanks to supporters like you, we can help them put these ideas into action!

Staff grants are just one of several academic initiatives your continued support of The PBL Education Foundation will be funding this year. We will also provide K-8 students with a coupon to purchase a book at each of 2 bookfairs held at their school.

“Instilling a love of reading early gives a child a head start on expanding their vocabulary and building independence and self confidence. It helps children learn to make sense not only of the world around them, but also people, building social-emotional skills and, of course, imagination.”

Other academic programs you help us to support include the PBL Hall of Fame, the CEO Program (*Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities*), the Annual Senior Awards Ceremony and Banquet, and Project Lead the Way. Additionally, during the school year, we receive a variety of outside-the-box funding requests from district administrators. Because of your support we can say “yes.”

Beyond the value of a strong school district, you are helping to keep our communities strong and poised for growth! Educating our children and supporting our educators is a vital component of maintaining strong communities. A strong school system is needed to attract and retain a solid employment base, to aid in successful economic development, and to prepare our students to become future community leaders. ***Our schools are a place where families and children can interact and learn from each other. When you help make our schools strong you help make our communities strong.***

With your help, we will continue to meet the academic challenges of the 2024-25 school year.

Sincerely,
Robin Niewold, Chairman



Pictured (top) are PBL Librarians Lizz Pippin, Hannah Bruens and Dawn Houser with some of the LOC books. Pictured (left) are Robin and Ainsley Niewold with the Head of the Surplus Books Program in Washington, D.C., Joseph Mahar.



The PBL Unit 10 School District was chosen to participate in the Library of Congress Surplus Book Program in

Washington D.C. last year.

PBL Education Foundation Chairman, Robin Niewold, and her granddaughter Ainsley, along with her daughter Jessie Niewold Nguyen, selected more than 200 books for grades K-12, from the numerous shelves at the LOC.

The LOC’s program has available at all times, for donation to eligible organizations and institutions, surplus books which are not needed for the library’s own uses. The LOC’s guiding principle behind the program is to build library collections.

**“If you want a child’s mind to grow...
you must first plant a seed.”**

- Maria Montessori





*Travis Duley
PBL Superintendent*

And just like that, year one of my superintendency is done! As I reflect on the past year, the thoughts that come to mind are change and return to normalcy. It seems strange to combine those two concepts, but sometimes strange combinations just work.

Significant change occurred this year as our high school principal, Hannah Eshleman, and I both took on new leadership roles within the district. Throughout the year we continued to “just get back to school,” which three short years ago seemed like would never get to that point. Following two consecutive years of “normalcy” I feel we can safely say we are there.

Throughout the 2023-2024 school year many positives occurred that helped to move our district forward. Our first group of teachers “graduated” from the PBL Navigators teacher mentoring & induction program. Since its inception two years ago, this program has been instrumental in helping new staff members become a part of our school community and grow as professionals. Additionally, early in the year it became clear that new ELA curriculum materials were needed to ensure cohesive and aligned English Language Arts instruction. Led by Assistant Superintendent Tara Chandler, our teachers worked together to review, research, and select new ELA curriculum materials that will be implemented throughout the district starting with the 2024-2025 school year. The work and teamwork I observed from our staff as they quickly worked through this difficult process was inspiring. Lastly, I want to highlight that based on U.S. News & World Report scoring, **PBL High School was listed as a top 10 high school in central Illinois**. Congratulations to the high school students and staff on this achievement!

In closing, I want to say how proud I am to be a PBL Panther! As I begin my 23rd year in the district and 2nd year as superintendent, I have grown to understand and appreciate just how much our community supports me, the school district, our staff, and our students. Certainly a part of this support comes from the PBL Education Foundation, whose continuous support allows us to provide unique resources and educational opportunities for our students. As we enter the 2024-2025 school year, I look forward to continuing this partnership.

Now Accepting Venmo!

The PBL Education Foundation has implemented another cost-saving measure and made donating even easier. Donate via Venmo! It’s easy and saves us the bigger credit card fees.

@pblfoundation



Scan this QR code to donate today!

**PBL EDUCATION FOUNDATION FINANCIAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2023- JUNE 30, 2024**

Income

Annual Fundraising Campaign	\$21,567.50
Book Fair Sponsorships	\$6,500.00
Endowment Fund Market Gain.....	\$54,872.57
Facebook Giving Tuesday Donations	\$8,565.41
Interest Received.....	\$366.94
Memorials & Honorariums	\$2,795.00
Planned Giving*.....	\$280,716.05
TOTAL INCOME	\$375,383.47

Expenses

Administrative Expenses.....	\$30,072.91
Program Funding:	
Book-A-Month (Facebook Giving Tuesday)	\$8,940.78
Book Fairs	\$4,991.35
CEO Program.....	\$1,000.00
Grants.....	\$19,586.81
Senior Awards Night	\$1,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$65,591.85

Income.....	\$309,791.62
Funds transferred to the Endowment Fund	\$280,716.05
NET INCOME.....	\$29,075.57

**Funds received for Planned Giving are automatically put in the Endowment Fund and not used as part of the General Fund.*



Watch your Inbox

Due to higher postage rates, the PBL Education Foundation board has decided to increase our reliance on email and social media. This decision is in line with our goal **to use your gifts wisely!** Be looking for our updates in your email!

We do not plan to flood your inboxes with updates. At most, you may expect up to one email per month - especially during the school year.

Prairieland CEO



Charley Ulrich, senior, (below) is shown at the Prairieland CEO Tradeshow event showcasing her

business! CEO stands for Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities. This program is one of many options offered to students who want to jumpstart their path in college and career readiness. The PBL Education Foundation provides support for this program.



Project Lead the Way

During the 4th quarter, eighth grade students took a Project Lead The Way course called Medical Detectives with Mr. Daron Johnson. In the 9-week course, students played the role of real-life medical detectives as they collected and analyzed medical data to diagnose disease. They also solved medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measured and interpreted vital signs, examined nervous system structure and function, and investigated disease outbreaks.



Planting Seeds!

Staff Grants Funded by Your Gifts

During the 2023-2024 school year, \$15,000 in staff grants was awarded to the Clara Petersen Elementary School, grades K-5. Your gifts help staff plant seeds in our students' minds.



Colonial Games Grant - Fourth grade students played seven different colonial games to enhance their study on the early settlements up to the Revolutionary War. Angela Dirks, 4th grade ELA teacher stated, "They LOVED IT! We had the Olympics music playing in the background as they rotated through the different games (stations)."

PBL



The PBL Education Foundation wishes to thank all the donors who support our annual fundraising campaign, allowing us to support programs and equipment that have a profound impact on PBL students' lives.

Transformation Grant - "Students with special needs require alternative ways of learning. When provided with engaging lessons, students' interest increases. When a student is actively engaged, they comprehend material at a much higher rate," Special Education teacher Andi Staton commented. The transformations the teachers provided were: operating room, pizza shop, glow party, detectives, racing, construction, and carnival themes.



DONATE TODAY!

@pblfoundation



Kindergarten Classroom Improvements - Five classroom carpets and one Big Book Display were purchased to enhance the educational setting within each classroom. With the addition of the carpets the kindergarten students are able to dance, do yoga, learn letters through movement, count to 100 with motions, and do countless other activities on the flooring areas. "Our new carpet provides a soft, comfortable space for our students to read alone or with a buddy reader. We are so lucky that the PBL Education Foundation offered a grant to help fund our new learning space!" Anna Talbert, kindergarten teacher.

Planting Seeds!

Staff Grants Funded by Your Gifts



Library Grant - Librarian, Elizabeth Pippin requested a CoverOne machine that fixes book bindings which extends the life of the books. Also purchased were Magbrowze display bins that make the picture book section more browsable for younger readers.



Orff Instrument Grant - “The addition of new Orff instruments to the music classroom has completely transformed the way our students participate in music. I have seen an increased understanding of pitch, rhythm, and solfege syllables when using the instruments as a tool for learning.”
- Allyson Miller, Clara Peterson Music Teacher

Pictured are students from Beth Bennett’s third grade class performing, “Captain, Don’t Sidetrack Your Train,” with three different instrument parts - glockenspiels, metallophones, and xylophones.

Climbing Wall Grant - “Indoor wall climbing is one of the fastest-growing curricular and extra-curricular innovations today. It promotes team building, positive risk taking, creative problem solving, and empathy development,” said PE Teacher Amy Swan. “Self-confidence, personal trust, and will power are some of the vital skills students will gain from a climbing wall. Our goal for a climbing wall is to reach students who are not engaged by the traditional menu of physical education via sports,” added PE Teacher Jake LeClair.



“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds that you plant.”

- Robert Louis Stevenson



Best-selling author visits PBL Junior High



On March 6, 2024, New York Times best-selling author Margaret Peterson Haddix came to PBL Junior High School to present to each grade level. During her presentations she talked about the writing process, her inspiration for her books, and what it takes to become an author. She has written over 40 books. The students were able to ask thoughtful questions and learn more about her books.



2024 Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees



Carl Hudson, Jr.
*Paxton High School
Class of 1960*

Carl Hudson, Jr.

Paxton High School, Class of 1960

Carl Hudson Jr. is a member of the Paxton Community High School graduating class of 1960. After graduating high school, Carl went on to complete his Bachelors of Science in Pharmacy from Purdue University in 1965. Carl has since made significant contributions in his career and in the Paxton community. These accomplishments include owning Hudson Drug Shop from 1975 - 2007, which became one of the first pharmacies to become computerized in the 1980's. Carl spent several years teaching American Red Cross courses in several Ford County communities and has served on the Board of Directors for the Paxton Community Hospital, before it's closing, and the Gibson Area Hospital Board of Directors, totalling 49 years of service. In addition, Carl has been an elected trustee of the Paxton Area Fire Protection District and has served in this role for thirty-six years. Furthermore, he has made contributions to various community organizations and boards including the Ford County Mental Health Board, Paxton Chamber of Commerce, Founding Member of the PBL School Education Foundation, Cunningham Children's Home Foundation Board, in addition to several others. He was a finalist for the national Next Generation Pharmacist Civic Leader of the Year in 2010 and a recipient of the Bowl of Hygeia Community Service Award through the Illinois Pharmacists Association

in 2010. He also founded and coached the Paxton Swedes, an E.I. League baseball team. Carl Hudson Jr. has significantly impacted the Paxton and surrounding communities through his extensive involvement, investment, leadership, and innovative ideas.



Paul Meuser
*Paxton-Buckley-Loda
Class of 1972*

Paul Meuser

Paxton High School, Class of 1972

Paul Meuser is a graduate of the Paxton High School Class of 1972. Paul has held the title of Head Boys Basketball Coach at various high schools in Oklahoma.

Under his leadership, Paul has coached 13 state teams, produced 12 all-state players, and 2 Oklahoma Players of the Year. In addition to these honors, Paul has over 40 years in education, 37 of which as a Head Basketball Coach, and 3 years as an Athletic Director. He has made a positive impact on thousands of students and hundreds of athletes and has come full circle back to his roots at PBL. Paul now lives in Paxton and is married to his childhood sweetheart, the former Cindy Custer.

During his career, Paul Meuser has achieved the following awards and honors:

- Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame Inductee: 2012
- Oklahoma Coaches Association Hall of Fame Inductee: 2015
- Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Association Coach of the Year: 1986, 1989
- Tulsa World Coach of the Year: 1989
- Daily Oklahoma Coach of the Year: 1986
- Oklahoma All State Coach: 1986
- 4-Time State Champion Coach: 1982, 1986, 1989, 1991
- 3-Time Academic State Champions in Boy's Basketball: 2012, 2015, 2016
- Over 600 career wins

PBL Hall of Fame

2014

Frank Drendel, Paxton, 1963
Scott Garrelts, Buckley, 1979
Sam Schweighart, Paxton, 1995

2015

B. Lynn Allen-Hoffman, Roberts-Thawville, 1970
Tom Johnson, Paxton, 1977
Angie Lee, Paxton, 1980

2016

Janet Guthrie, Paxton, 1967
Randy Rieches, Buckley, 1969

2017

Dr. Sally Peterson-Falzone, Paxton, 1960
Pete Larson, Paxton, 1962
Dr. Walter Elrod, Paxton, 1980

2018

Carmen Gronewold, Buckley, 1976
Tom Meents, Paxton, 1985

2019

Kendra Workman Smiley, Paxton, 1970

2020 / 2021

Harold Eugene "HEK" Kenney, Loda, 1922
Robert Frump, Paxton, 1965

2022

Gary E. Swanson, Paxton, 1970
Mike Biehl, PBL, 1991

2023

Beverly J. Brown, Paxton, 1951
Cliff Hastings, PBL, 1993
Mark Frichtl, PBL, 2006

2023-2024 Donors

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Adam Gooden Concrete
Alan and Margie Schroeder
Allen Johnson
Angie Lee
Ann Barbieur
Anonymous Donations
Barbara Vendt
Barbara Zimmerman
Brendan Foley
Bruce and Lori Kietzman
Buckley State Bank
C. W. Hicks Foundation
Carl and Janet Hudson
Carol A. Saucedo
Carol Livingston
Charles Morin
Class of 1973
Cliff Hastings
Country Financial - Mary Nimon
Craig and Alaina Kief
Daniel and Margaret Gronewold
Daniel Eppelheimer
Darrell and Barbara Busboom
David and Laurie Eckerty
Dennis and Patricia Luhrsen
Diane Thorstenson
Don and Patti Frichtl
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Ellen Hilgendorf
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Phil Parks
Richard and Carol Long
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Rob Reber
Robert and Judy Laberdia
Robert and Sue Martensen
Robert and Suzanne Frump
Robert and Tonya Newsom
Robert Larson
Rod and Mary Cardinal
Rodney Plackett
Ron and Tamera Ross
Sandy Hellman
Sherman R. Bauer
Signs & Designs
Susan Lamb
Terry and Beth Boman
Terry Gharst
The Frederick Community Bank
Theodore and Charlene Reynolds
Tim and Sheila Schofield
Tina Wagner
Vickie Wesslund
Wallace and Carol Gantter
William Wylie
Yvonne Meessmann

FACEBOOK GIVING TUESDAY

Aaron Bertan
Alaina Kief
Amanda Vance Gooden
Anna Albrecht Talbert
Annemarie Kallenbach
Austin Curtis
Bill Lee
Carol Camp
Cindy Haile
Cordelia Geiken
Diane Buss

Donna McGuire Pepper
Erin Graham
Glenda Lustfeldt Crego
Grace Funk
Harry Groom
Jackie Weber
Jeffrey Grove
Jennifer Badgley
Jill Seibring Herges
John Grove
Josh and Allison Didier
Joshua Houtzel
Julie Burgess
Julie Edwards
Justin Swan
Karen Abbe
Kathy Rodeen
Kris Schuler
Laurie Kingston Eckerty
Linda Herriott
Lori Gehrt Knuth
Lori Kietzman
Lynn Marshall Rubarts
Noel and Connie Ross
Peggy Seibring
Rob Pacey
Shaun Adkins

HARVEST FOR TOMORROW

Jeff and Gigi Jarboe
Keith and LeaAnn Carson

IN KIND

Power Planter

***MEMORIALS**

Brendan J. Healey
Brian and Grace Funk
Buckley State Bank
Cleo Bayles
Cliff McClure
David and Kathleen Dowling
Dean Swan
Dr. Robin Coady and Mr. Shawn Coady
Erma Hewerdine
Heyman & Heyman Optometrists
Jane and Thomas McCabe
Jeff and Lynn Rubarts
Jo Ellen Campbell
John and Ann Healey
Judy Jepsen-Popel
Katherine Rodeen
Keith Hartke
Margaret Fiorillo
Paul Orchard
Paxton Hardware and Rental
PHS Class of 1959
Robert and Sue Martensen

Ron Grove
Tim and Sheila Schofield
Tony and Ellen Lee
Wayne and Susan Brown

PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS

PBL Staff

***PLANNED GIFTS**

Bank of Pontiac
Beth Lepper
Carl and Janet Hudson
Carol Livingston
Christian Clinton
Cynthia Swanson
David A. F. Sweet
Dolores Kenney
Douglas Houston
Frank Drendel
Gibson Area Hospital and Health Services
Hudson Drug Shop
James and Robin Niewold
James Graham
John and Ann Healey
Katherine Rodeen
Mrs. Brenda Pacey and The Honorable Steve Pacey
P.W. Kirkland Sweet
Philip W.K. Sweet Jr.
PHS Class of 1965
Robert and Sue Martensen
Susan Lamb
The Frederick Community Bank
Victor Johnson
Wayne and Janet Niewold

SCHOLARSHIPS

Dr. Rodney Kingston and Jane Quinlan

SPONSORSHIPS

Bank of Pontiac
Buckley State Bank
Cynthia Swanson
Foster's Mechanics, LLC
Gibson Area Hospital & Health Services
Hudson Drug Shop
Just Hamburgers
Paxton IGA Foods
Pizza Man, Inc.
Shaffer Tax and Accounting Ltd.
Shields Auto Mart
The Frederick Community Bank
Tim Marriott Insurance Agency, Inc.

**gifts are invested in
The PBL Endowment Fund*



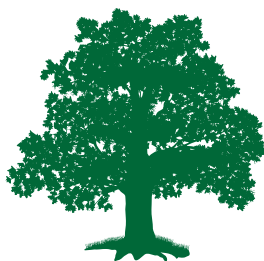
PBL Endowment Fund

"It takes a noble person to plant a seed for a tree that will one day provide shade to those he may never meet." -Unknown Author

In 2019 When the PBL Endowment Fund was created, the intent of the Education Foundation Board of Directors was to find a funding mechanism to provide us with a long-term, reliable source of funding for academics in our district. IT IS WORKING!

At the end of 2023, The Foundation received another* \$250,000 anonymous gift pushing the principal fund balance over \$1,000,000! Yes! The plan IS WORKING!

And yet we urge our supporters to help us continue growing the "base" or principal. Why? Because we do not take money out of the principal to use for academics in our school district. We take the income earned from the principal.** When the principal grows, so does the amount of money we can use for district academics. Growing the PBL Endowment Fund ensures our school district will have a long-term, reliable source of funding.



Throughout the year when you talk with your financial advisor about a tax situation, estate planning, or how you can leave a legacy in your community, ask the advisor how The PBL Endowment Fund might help you accomplish your goals.

- **IRA Rollover • Grain • Stocks • Insurance**
- **Cash • Memorials • Real Estate**
- **Charitable Trust • Life Insurance**
- **Include a gift in your will or living trust**

* We received our first \$250,000 anonymous gift in 2019 when we started the Pillar Campaign which was created to jumpstart the endowment fund.

** The PBL Endowment Fund's spending policy states that the amount of funds we can use for academic programs in our district is "up to 5% of a 5-year rolling average of the principal." We DO NOT spend the principal.

• *The Paxton-Buckley-Loda Education Foundation is a tax-exempt organization, a status accorded under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code - EIN 36-4182206.*

PBL Education Foundation 2024-25 Officers

Robin Niewold, Chairman
Scott Allen, Vice-Chairman
Justin Swan, Secretary/Treasurer

Gifts from the Heart

Honor your family, friends, and loved ones by making a heartfelt tribute gift to The PBL Education Foundation.

There are many special occasions where this type of gift is a perfect fit for the person and the occasion.

Memorials and Bequests

Birthdays and Holidays

Celebrations

Milestones and Achievements

Anytime, in honor of someone special

When you make a heartfelt tribute gift, the foundation will send a card either by email or postal mail (your choice) letting them know about the gift you made in their name. In addition, with your permission, your gift will be shared on our website, in our annual report, and on the foundation's social media pages.

Your tribute gift will positively impact our schools and communities for years and years because it will become part of the The PBL Endowment Fund.

Making your tribute gift is easy!

Venmo @ [pbleducationfoundation](#)

OR

credit card @ www.pblfoundation.org/tribute

OR

fill out the online form and mail your check to

PBL Education Foundation

P.O. Box 192

Paxton, IL 60957

Direct all questions to 217.379.4715 or
secretary@pblfoundation.org



2023-2024 PBL National Honor Society Seniors

"Education is like a seed, that when watered with knowledge and experience, grows into true wisdom." - Richard S. Hartmetz