Special Virtual Board Meeting

Tonight's meeting was held to conduct necessary business. Tonight's meeting was virtual to adhere to CDC and government guidelines. There were no comments by Board Members or the public tonight. The board voted on employment of new personnel and employment of certified administrators listed in the meeting agenda attachments. Both votes passed.

Superintendent’s Report

A Letter from Dr. Fred Rhodes

As a young person in college, training to become a teacher, I was taught that it was certainly important to teach students a body of knowledge, but that it would become increasingly more important to teach students problem solving skills, so they would be better prepared to adapt to a changing world.

That was good advice and has certainly become even more evident with the coming of COVID-19. As you well know, as soon as we think we know that something is certain, it seems to change. It shifts. Changes are not coming each hour; they seem to change within minutes. The wearing of masks, or not, is just one example. Advice continues to be very fluid because our health care professionals and governmental leaders are learning, as more information related to the virus becomes available.

A little over three weeks ago, for many of us, COVID-19 was just a concept. For many of us in Oklahoma, it did not begin to become more of a reality, until the March 11th Thunder game was canceled, minutes before it was to begin. Today, COVID-19 is definitely, a reality. We have all been affected by it in one way or another. It is real. It is very real.

People in the District have literally been working around the clock to listen, research, communicate, manage and make major decisions that affect everyone who is a part of the Putnam City Family. I have never been more PROUD! We belong to a family that truly cares about one another. For that, I am very grateful.

I want to begin by saying thank you to our students and families, thank you for your patience and understanding during this unprecedented time. The District has continued to provide meals and services, obviously on a more limited basis, but there has been a strong effort to continue with as much as is feasibly possible.

(Letter continued on Page 2)
The Continuous Learning Plan started today, and we will continue to make improvements to the plan as it becomes more fully implemented. I was pleased, that in our discussions with faculty and staff, it quickly became apparent that staying connected with students and parents was a priority.

While we as a District realize that our primary responsibility is providing an education for students, we also realize that building and maintaining relationships with students and their families is equally, if not more important. For many of our students, school is their lifeline to the world, and we will continue to strive to stay connected.

To our administrators, teachers and staff who have worked hard and many long hours, I say thank you. With just a very brief turnaround time, you have worked tirelessly, making plans to provide continuous learning opportunities for our students.

I also want to say thank you to our secretarial, custodial, maintenance and food service staffs whose services have been critical; absolutely necessary, for us to accomplish our mission.

To our school board, we thank you not only for your encouragement and support, but you have also passed resolutions and policies that show you genuinely care. You are incredibly dedicated volunteers. We appreciate your leadership and for providing the stability that we have needed during this unprecedented time.

As I mentioned earlier, things are continuing to change. Because of that, in addition to keeping informed about COVID-19 through local, state and national media, for information related to Putnam City Schools, I encourage you to frequently visit our website (www.putnamcityschools.org).

On the first page of our website, you will find the latest COVID-19 updates by selecting the COVID-19 tab, which is located in the upper right hand corner. This special section will be frequently updated to give you the latest information as it relates to Putnam City.

Again, thank you for making us proud to be a part of the Putnam City Family.

Dr. Fred Rhodes
Superintendent
Across the Putnam City School District, school happened today in a way like it never has before in history. Putnam City staff had only days to prepare for and transition to Continuous Learning. Calling students, collecting and organizing curriculum, making all resources available online, feeding a record number of curbside student meals, handling a record number of users on our web site at the same time, continued cleaning of buildings, handing out learning lessons in masks and gloves, the list of preparation and execution tasks is inconceivably lengthy. This is an undertaking like PC has never experienced. It was a tremendously successful day one, and we will only continue to improve the experience for our students and parents.

Thank you to parents that spent time obtaining your children’s learning lessons online or in-person. We appreciate your commitment to their learning. We are committed to seeing them through this school year, as unconventional as it is. Thank you to the droves of Putnam City employees who invested in our students in countless ways over the past few weeks to make today possible. We know your commitment remains as we progress through this unique time. We are so proud of how well you serve our students, Putnam City.