



# Board Highlights

## COVID Communication: A Commitment to our PC Staff

School is out for summer, but Putnam City Administration is committed to communicating with our staff regarding COVID-19 and preparations for next year. As you know the Oklahoma State Department of Education released their “Return to Learn” document this past week. The Administration TEAM is reading and researching as we search to find what is best for our students and staff. Our commitment to communication, this section, will remain in Board Highlights for the unforeseen future. Look for updates here in each issue of Board Highlights.

Tonight’s update is the board vote to alter the school calendar. With so many uncertainties, it is important to give teachers a professional development day earlier in the year. That day will be Thursday, August 20th. Also, the Board passed a motion tonight to add Putnam City’s first ever Virtual Learning Day on October 19th! There will be many more details to come about this in the future; it is an exciting day in PC history! These calendar changes will shift the first day of school by one day making the first day of school, August 21st. It is our hope that you can enjoy your summer, and know that we are working on preparations as we continue to update you.

## Contract Renewals

Many contracts were renewed at tonight’s meeting including child nutrition with Sodexo. To view all of tonight’s contract renewals, read the full board agenda at [www.putnamcityschools.org](http://www.putnamcityschools.org)

June 8, 2020

As racism makes headlines in our country, we find ourselves asking the familiar question, “How can we best serve our students at this time?” Putnam City Schools is proud to announce that a special board meeting has been scheduled solely for our school board to vote on the adoption of the “Resolution Condemning Racism and Affirming the District’s Commitment to an Inclusive School Environment for All.” The resolution says, in part, “We cannot be silent. We must lead. We must do better. Racism and hate have no place in our schools or our society.” These beliefs mirror Putnam City Schools mission statement which says, “We believe in each child’s ability to succeed. We believe in building positive relationships. We believe in a collaborative culture. We believe in educating and supporting the whole child.” The adoption of the resolution is the first step to best serve our students as we navigate this together, and as the resolution says, nurture an anti-racist learning environment. We are listening, and learning, and adapting. We are proclaiming, “Racism and hate have no place in our schools or our society.”

Meeting Date: Thursday, June 8, 2020, 12 p.m.  
Location: Administration Building

Next Meeting: Monday, June 11, 2020 5 p.m.  
*Putnam City Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, or disability.*

*Present: Dr. Fred Rhodes, Sandy Lemaster, Gail LoPresto, Charity Avery, Becky Gooch, Cindy Gibbs, Jay Sherrill*

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

BY DR. FRED RHODES

*Board Highlights* is not a comprehensive review of every item that takes place at board of education meetings. Its purpose is merely to provide information about items that seem of most interest to district employees and patrons. Complete board meeting minutes may be found at <https://www.putnamcityschools.org/about-us/board-of-education/board-meeting-minutes>

### An Open Letter to Dr. Melani Mouse:

On behalf of the entire Putnam City School Community, we want to congratulate you on your 25th year, your Silver Anniversary of service to Putnam City. For the last 25 years of your professional career, you have dedicated yourself to serving the top District in the State of Oklahoma. Your loyalty to the District is unprecedented because today, five to ten years in any role or with any organization is commendable. The fact that you have served 25 years, speaks to your loyalty and dedication to Putnam City.

During your long tenure with the District, change doesn't even begin to describe what you have experienced. Changes in leadership styles, changes in demographics, changes in scheduling, professional development, places of learning; the list is endless. In leadership, you have worked with four different superintendents, numerous school board members and administrators. You have seen scheduling go from a traditional schedule to block schedule, a hybrid and back to traditional. You have lived the volley of educational initiatives from OBE, Back to Basics, NCLB, Common Core to Oklahoma Academic Standards. In technology, you have seen it transform from one desktop computer for teacher-use, to one-to-one technology for students. You have weathered these numerous changes with great dignity, grace and professionalism; always lending your support to do what is best for students, the heart of every decision to be made in public education.

Under your leadership, the district has been known as a leader among leaders. You have led the way for the district to be innovative, progressive, on the cutting-edge of new initiatives. Because of your leadership, the district's reputation is held in the highest regard across the state. Fellow educators often ask, "What is Putnam City doing?" because they have confidence and trust in a well-formulated model plan.

(Continued on next page)

# Board Highlights Page 3

June 8, 2020

(Continued from previous page.)

You have made it a personal mission to help others grow professionally. Teachers who come to be a part of the Putnam City family, often comment on the outstanding professional development opportunities provided by our District. Through programs such as aspiring administrators, you have been a mentor and provided opportunities for educators to develop leadership qualities. By demonstrating a special interest in each, they have become successful leaders across the State.

On a personal note, you have been my right arm, my anchor to provide guidance and wisdom during my tenure as Superintendent. I appreciate your calm demeanor and the confidence demonstrated when tough decisions have to be made. I will always cherish our graduation experiences together as thousands of seniors walk across the stage and are proudly declared graduates of Putnam City Schools, the highlight as each school year comes to a close.

We wish you only the best as you join an outstanding team with OKC Public Schools. Under the leadership of Superintendent Sean McDaniel, the OKC District is making great progress. He leads boldly, confidently and with great humility; a rare find in leadership today. We congratulate you as you take this next step in your career.

*Board Highlights* is not a comprehensive review of every item that takes place at board of education meetings. Its purpose is merely to provide information about items that seem of most interest to district employees and patrons. Complete board meeting minutes may be found at <https://www.putnamcityschools.org/about-us/board-of-education/board-meeting-minutes>



Thank you. Dr. Mouse for your service to PC!

