



Board Highlights

Motions Passed Tonight

Many motions were passed by the Board tonight. A full agenda with more details can be found online at www.putnamcityschools.org. Below are a few highlights.

A declaration of vacancy for Board Seat #3 was declared by the Board.

Three new job descriptions were passed. The positions include: School Nurse COVID Risk Assessment Coordinator, Reserve Teacher, and Equity Coordinator. See the Superintendent's Report on page two of this issue of Board Highlights for more information on these COVID-related positions.

Several contracts were renewed tonight including the renewal of agreement with Oklahoma Building Services for Custodial Services. This continued service will be helpful when additional overnight sanitizing is needed in buildings.



Please see the Superintendent's Report on page two for more details on this week's COVID update. New information can be found there. We are PC proud that highlights from our Return to Learn plan were on many tv and print media outlets this week. The most frequently covered aspects of the plan were the mask requirement and the Teacher Safety Kits.

July 20, 2020

Comments by Board Members and Public

Daniel Young, a PCN teacher spoke. He said there was a lot to compliment in the Return to Learn plan. Many aspects made him feel valued and safe. He asked the District to be cautious and proactive and offered two suggestions for the beginning of school.

Gail LoPresto thanked everyone who worked on the Return to Learn plan. She said she prays for the staff and the kids.

Charity Avery thanked the committee that worked on Return to Learn. She said she has heard from parents. She is also a concerned parent, but she knows Putnam City will make the best choice for kids. She also thanked Becky Gooch for her service on the Board.

Jay Sherrill said thank you to everyone who worked on Return to Learn. He said it was comprehensive, answered many questions, and provided options. Mr. Sherrill said he has heard from staff. He also said he supports any needed changes. Mr. Sherrill said he knows PC will be looking for the best practices.

Meeting Date: Monday, July 20, 2020, 5 p.m.
Location: Administration Building

Present: Dr. Fred Rhodes, Superintendent, Sandy Lemaster, Board Clerk, Cindy Gibbs, President, Charity Avery, Jay Sherrill, Gail LoPresto
Next Meeting: Monday, August 3, 2020 5 p.m.
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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

BY DR. FRED RHODES

We are very excited that the District's Return to Learn plan was released this week! We appreciate the efforts of the planning committee that received input from parents and teachers, as well as guidance from the State Department of Education, state, county and local healthcare professionals and agencies. The Return to Learn plan is very comprehensive and provides several options for parents so they can feel comfortable by selecting the best option for their child. The Plan can be found on the District website under the COVID-19 tab.

Putnam City, for good reason, has the reputation of being a leader among leaders. We all recognize the anxiety, uneasiness and uncertainty of returning back to school due to all the issues related to COVID-19. As part of our ongoing effort to provide a safe learning environment for our teachers and students, on the board agenda tonight is the recommendation of two new positions to help us more fully reach that goal. One proposed position is a COVID-19 Risk Assessment Coordinator. The job description states that the Coordinator will conduct contact tracing for positive COVID-19 cases, as well as collaborate with district administration in matters related to district communication, preventative measures to mitigate the spread, decisions regarding quarantine, isolation and closures based on state health department guidelines.

Another position being proposed tonight is "Reserve Teachers." The concept is that reserve teachers will create a pool of full-time substitutes, ready to staff PC sites to alleviate absences of teachers during this unprecedented time. If approved, these two positions will serve both district staff and students in managing COVID responses.

Thanks to all who have been diligently working to provide a safe beginning to this next school year.

Good News from

PUTNAM CITY
SCHOOLS

Ryan Wilkinson will be an Administrative Intern at Putnam City North. The Panthers are happy to welcome him.

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>

Comments by Board Members and Public

Cindy Gibbs submitted written comments to keep the in-person meeting brief. She said, "Thank you to the administrative team and administrators for working diligently to continually tweak the start of school plans. I have no doubt that we as a district will do everything possible to keep our students and staff safe when school starts. I appreciate everyone's flexibility and desire to think out of the box regarding the start of school.

I have seen a couple of school signs that still reflect the start of school date as August 20th, so I am asking that everyone make sure the date is correct at your location so that the public doesn't get confused.

On the consent agenda this evening is a contract regarding the company that cleans the stadiums and some other facilities. I will be voting to approve this contract, however, there were some issues with stadium cleanings last year and I will be closely watching to make sure those issues have been resolved and do not occur this year. We have two almost new stadiums and it is a shame and not right when our patrons are not able to sit in the stands due to spilled hot chocolate and other drinks because they have not been cleaned properly. I am asking that we make sure we have the proper procedures in place and this is monitored to make sure it doesn't happen this year."