



Board Highlights

August 3, 2020

Comments by
Board Members and Public

School Calendar Change Passed

Tonight Putnam City Schools Board of Education voted to change the school calendar. The first day of school is moved from August 21, 2020 to August 27, 2020. The purpose of the change is to allow teachers more time to prepare for distance learning due to the current COVID conditions.

Board Vacancy Timeline Established: Now Taking Applications

Vacancies for members of the board of education of every school district or technology school district shall be filled by appointment by the board. Vacancies filled by appointment following the delivery of the resolution calling for regular elections to the secretary of the county election board shall be filled until the regular elections the following year. No person shall be appointed to a board of education who does not meet the eligibility qualifications needed to be a candidate for such position as provided for in Sections 13A-106 of this title and Sections 5-110, 5-110.1 and 5-113 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. If the board of education does not fill the vacancy by appointment within sixty days of the date the board declared the seat vacant, the board of education shall call a special election to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

Timeline:

July 20, 2020 Declaration of vacancy, District 3

August 14, 2020 Completed applications for the seat accepted until 4:30 p.m. this date

TBD Date(s) and time(s) for the board of education to conduct interviews September 17, 2020 Vacancy filled on or before this date

Applications for the District 3 board of education position may be obtained from Sandy Lemaster, Board Clerk, at 495-5200, ext. 1244, or slemaster@putnamcityschools.org

Application forms, qualifications for board applicants, and a map showing the school board election districts can be accessed on the district's website at www.putnamcityschools.org

Gail LoPresto thanked everyone for their hard work on the Return to Learn plan. She said she supports and appreciates everyone who is working on it.

Charity Avery also thanked everyone involved in Return to Learn. She said she knows it's not an easy decision, and she knows parents with children who have IEPs are concerned. She said she talked with several people about children with IEPs. Ms. Avery said, "I know our kids will be taken care of."

Jay Sherrill said he echoes the comments about Return to Learn. He appreciates everyone. Mr. Sherrill said he has two kids at home too, and "We'll get through this."

Meeting Date: Monday, August 3, 2020, 5 p.m.
Location: Administration Building

Next Meeting: Monday, August 17, 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, Superintendent, Tina LoSawyer, Deputy Clerk, Cindy Gibbs Board President, Jay Sherrill, Board Vice President, Gail LoPresto, and Charity Avery.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

BY DR. FRED RHODES

We appreciate the ongoing commitment and action by the Board of Education to an inclusive school environment for all. On June 11th, the PC Board of Education passed the “Resolution Condemning Racism and Affirming the District’s Commitment to an Inclusive School Environment for All.” At the July 20th school board meeting, as a follow-up to that resolution, board members approved a new position for a District Equity Coordinator. The job description for the position of Equity Coordinator states that they will develop, implement, and monitor disclosures, policies, procedures and practices designed to comply with federal and state legislation, regulation, and case law. There is a commitment to reach an equitable resolution to all complaints related to Title IX, Title VI, Title VII, and other federal and state anti-discrimination laws, regulations and requirements. As a school district, over the last several years, we have made great progress in our efforts to become more inclusive and accepting of diversity. The creation of this new position reflects the District’s long time reputation of being a leader among leaders. It shows a positive commitment of being an innovative and progressive district to help us reach the next level in our efforts to provide an inclusive school environment for all.

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, “It was my pleasure to join the Putnam City foundation at their weekend retreat on Saturday and speak with them regarding our district and board. We appreciate the many things they do for our students and district. They are a shining light and a great partner and I appreciate their passion and desire to go above and beyond for our teachers, volunteers and students.

Becky Gooch, will be recognized at the September 8th board meeting. We appreciate her years of passionate service to our district! If you would like to offer your appreciation and thanks to Becky and won’t be in attendance at that board meeting, please reach out to Sandy Lemaster at the administration building for an address to mail or email your thoughts to Becky. She is leaving an open spot on our board that will be hard to replace and we will definitely miss her passion and input.

Many have been working very hard to prepare for our distance learning start to the school year! I am thankful for the dedicated administrative team and teachers that are working diligently to prepare a robust program for our students. While not an ideal situation, safety for everyone involved is a top priority.”