



# Board Highlights

August 17, 2020

## Financial Report by Shannon Meeks, CFO

Although Fiscal year 2020 hardly went as expected in terms of revenue and expenditures, Putnam City closes the year with a fund balance of \$11.8 million, 7.77% of current year revenue; only \$300,000 off the \$11.5 million, 7.35% budgeted.

A decrease in expenditures allowed the district to reduce the budgeted \$3.5 million deficit in local expenditures to \$1.4 million. However, lagging federal reimbursements brought the fund balance down \$2.9 million. COVID19 giving cause to both circumstances.

An early look at FY2021 draws attention to the need for continued caution, as the district's \$1.4 million deficit starting position has been magnified by a loss of \$5.2 million in the initial state aid allocation. The majority of the decrease related to the impact of COVID19 on state revenues, a continuing concern.



Several policies were voted on by the Board tonight regarding Distance Learning. See page 3 for more information.

### Comments by Board Members and Public

Gail LoPresto said she watched virtual Convocation and praised the participants. She thanked everyone for all they are doing for Distance Learning.

Charity Avery thanked everyone, and said she appreciates all that is being done for education, and special education in particular.

Jay Sherrill said board members put their trust and faith in the Administration. He said, "We care." Mr. Sherrill talked about patience and grace. He said he appreciates his fellow board members and continues to support the difficult decisions being made.

Cindy Gibbs said she understands and appreciates the hard work teachers are putting into their virtual classrooms. Mrs. Gibbs also said there are seven applicants for the vacant board seat, and interviews will begin soon. Mrs. Gibbs asked for grace, and said things will get better.

Meeting Date: Monday, August 17, 2020, 5 p.m.  
Location: Administration Building

Next Meeting: Monday, August 31, 2020 5 p.m.  
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## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

BY DR. FRED RHODES

Welcome Back!

When Putnam City students start school ten days from today, it will be the first time in our District's 107-year history that students will be "attending" school, virtually. I am certain that those parents and patrons of four dependent, Grade 1-8 schools, who had the unique vision to create the world's single largest consolidated school district, and established the State of Oklahoma's third high school in 1914, never envisioned that students would not physically enter the doors of the school building.

Fast forward to the year 2020, twenty years into the 21st Century, and we will, for the first time in our history, start school with distance learning. While I know that many are disappointed that school will look differently, we all agree that this is the very best plan to keep everyone as safe as possible during these unprecedented times due to COVID-19.

As a District, we are truly blessed to have an incredibly supportive school board who wants what is best for our students. We have a very gifted Administrative and Academic TEAM who have worked tirelessly this summer to help prepare the best Distance Learning Plan possible. This week, our teachers will find themselves in the role of a learner as they learn fresh, new and exciting ways to teach students through distance learning. Patrons, we are so grateful for your support in so many ways, but in particular, we are thankful that you supported the District's 2020 Bond in February. The timing was perfect! The 2020 Bond passed; the funds became available and the Tech Team was able to purchase, process and now deploy approximately 19,000 technology devices to students which now makes us an official One-to-One District, technologically speaking.

The Distance Learning Plan our students will experience will be second to none. While students were engaged in distance learning during Spring COVID beginning in March, the new Distance Learning Plan is much more robust, rigorous and challenging. Features of the new Plan include: Putnam City teacher-led instruction, Putnam City teacher-driven lessons daily, An interactive experience with teachers and students, A focus on the Oklahoma Academic Standards utilizing District Pacing Guides, Graded assignments, Attendance taken daily, Ongoing assessments, and Curbside library services with books available to students.

*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>

### Board Hires Tyrea Craig

Tyrea Craig has been named District Equity Coordinator by a Board vote tonight. (See photo below.)

At the July 20th school board meeting, board members approved the 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.



Speaking of Welcome Back, this morning, there was another first for PC Schools. We had our very first virtual Convocation and the theme was “Welcome Back, Kotter”. Typically, we are all physically assembled in one of our high school auditoriums for a huge celebration that I often describe as a combination of a homecoming and a family reunion. It is typically the first time for our faculty to see each other after the long summer break. This year was going to be especially fun, because most of us have not seen each other since Spring Break. But instead, we virtually assembled to kick off the new year. It was still a lot of fun and filled with a lot of inspiration. Our very own graduate, OKC Mayor David Holt shared words of encouragement as our teachers begin the new year!

Thanks to all! We look forward to a great school year!

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## Board Passes Distance Learning Policies

### Revision of Board Policy EO- Virtual Education Policy

Putnam City Schools may enter into partnership agreements with accredited supplemental virtual online learning providers to deliver instruction to students for extended learning opportunities. Online courses may be taken for substitution and course acceleration. The selected provider will be approved by the State Board of Education and will conform to rules specified by the State Board.

### Board Policy EP- Distance Learning Policy

The District may provide for virtual instruction or distance learning program on dates to be determined by the Superintendent or their designee. This power shall be provided by the Board of Education so that the students of the district may be allowed to continue instruction in the event of a school closure for an emergency. Such dates shall be provided to parents and students on the school website with as much advance notice as possible under the circumstances.

### Board Policy EF- Attendance Policy

The administration recommends approval to the additional language in Board Policy EF as required for distance learning.

Every student shall attend school regularly. Regular attendance at school is necessary for students to fully benefit from the educational experience, teaches students the necessity of regular attendance in preparation for work, and teaches students to be personally responsible. The Administration shall notify a student’s parent or guardian regarding the student’s absences and tardies as set forth in Administrative Regulations.

### Declaration of Hours vs Days as stated in Policy EA – General Student Policies

The administration recommends declaring hours vs days according to Policy EA – General Student Policies.