

Board Highlights

New Board Member Sworn-In

Tonight Sky Collins was sworn into office as a new board member for Putnam City Schools Board of Education. Mrs. Collins is a 1993 Putnam City West graduate with deep roots in the Putnam City community. All three of her children have attended Putnam City Schools, and she currently has a child at Ralph Downs Elementary. Mrs. Collins PC family ties go all the way back to when she met her husband at Mayfield.

Mrs. Collins is an Oklahoma Partners in Policymaking graduate and has volunteered for a number of non-profit groups. She previously served on the Oklahoma PTA State Board. She says she has a passion for working towards and advocating for equity in education and within our community.

Mrs. Collins said, "I am thrilled to be able to serve and give back to a district that has given so much to both my husband and I, as well as our children. Putnam City administrators and teachers changed the trajectory of my life. I believe a successful life is an intentional life, and I attribute much of my success to Joe Shirley who was once my Assistant Principal for, above all, making me feel seen and valued. The theme this year at my daughter's school, Ralph Downs Elementary, is "We See You." The value of being seen is as true today as it was so many years ago in the halls of Mayfield Jr. High, and is a reason that I love this district. I believe Putnam City is and has always been extremely special in so many ways - the lifelong relationships that are built, the commitment to an inclusive school environment for all and, of course, the phenomenal students and staff just to name a few. As a PC family in District 3, my family is so grateful to Becky for her years of service and commitment and it is an absolute honor to step into this role."

See photos on Page 2.

September 8, 2020

Comments by Board Members and Public

Gail LoPresto said thank you to our leaders. She specifically thanked Dr. Rhodes and teachers for all they are doing. Mrs. LoPresto welcomed new board member, Sky Collins.

Sky Collins thanked Becky Gooch for her service. Mrs. Collins said her story is much like many of our students, and she is happy to be here to serve them.

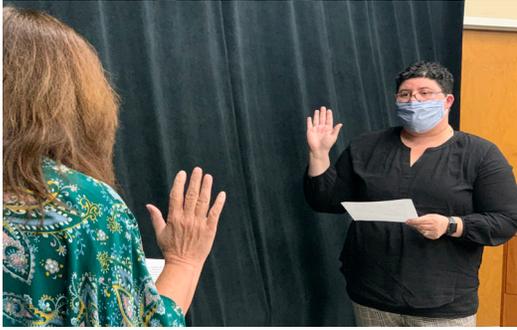
Jay Sherrill thanked Becky Gooch for the impact she has had at PC, and the impact she has had on his family. Mr. Sherrill said he is missing her voice, but he is very excited to work with Sky. He welcomed Sky to the Board. He also thanked the people who applied for the position.

Cindy Gibbs echoed what Mr. Sherrill said. She said there were excellent candidates for the open seat. She said she was personally touched by Sky's story.

Meeting Date: Monday, September 8, 2020, 5 p.m.
Location: Administration Building

Next Meeting: Monday, September 21, 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.

Attended: Dr. Fred Rhodes, Superintendent, Sandy Lemaster, Board Clerk, Cindy Gibbs, President Jay Sherrill, Vice President, Gail LoPresto, Member, Sky Collins, Member.



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>

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

BY DR. FRED RHODES

Tribute to Becky Gooch

Thank you to Becky Gooch for her service. Welcome to Sky Collins, our newest board member. We are happy to have Sky join the Board to serve Putnam City students. Putnam City has been a part of Sky's life for decades; she is PC proud in so many ways. We welcome her and look forward to the experience she brings to Putnam City.

Putnam City Schools began the 2020-2021 school year with Distance Learning and it created a memorable start for many. Teachers and parents shared some of their creative first day experiences with us on social media. It was heartwarming to see so many students joyfully learning with their district-issued device in their hands. Many families created unique workspaces so students will have a dedicated space at home to do their schoolwork. Some new first day of school traditions were shared too, including t-shirts designed with a Distance Learning theme. Parents are to be commended for their efforts in making the first of day, and every day, of Distance Learning so special for kids. We enjoyed seeing the creativity of students and parents.

Teachers are also using creativity to develop new ways to teach. But, Distance Learning has not been without its challenges. A recent social media posting said, "Please be extra kind to your kids' teachers because most of them are building the plane as they fly it." While our teachers are well trained in the delivery of Distance Learning, actually putting it into practice has been a totally different way of teaching. We commend them for their hard work and all their efforts.

We are very impressed at the many ways they are thinking outside the classroom and outside the box to give our students the best possible Distance Learning experience. Before school began, teachers across the District picked up their laptops to begin their Distance Learning planning. Thank you to PC patrons who made this possible with "The 2020 Bond." It has proved to be especially timely with Distance Learning. Funds from "The 2020 Bond" also made Putnam City Schools a one-to-one technology district making the transition to Distance Learning much more accessible for all PC students. We are grateful for these tools, and we are excited to see what teachers and students build with them next.



Becky Gooch was honored tonight for her years of service to Putnam City Schools. Board President, Cindy Gibbs, presented Mrs. Gooch with artwork from a student and other gifts from the Board. Mrs. Gibbs and Mrs. Gooch's daughter spoke - paying tribute to her time on the PC Board of Education.

Motions Passed by The Board

The Board approved the employment of Red Sky Constructors as construction managers for a new tennis center at Putnam City North High School.

The Board approved the employment of Kerr 3 Architects to design a new tennis center at Putnam City North High School.

The Board approved the agreement between school districts for the purposes of transportation of homeless children attending Putnam City Public Schools.

The Board approved the Ratification of the 2020-2021 Negotiated Agreement.

The Board approved the appointment of board member, Charity Avery to the District Gifted Local Advisory Committee for the Putnam City Gifted Program FY21.

The Board approved the amendment to Francis Tuttle Career Technology Transportation Contract 2020-2021.

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The Board approved Erin Mitchell for the position of Assistant Principal. Congratulations!

PCH JROTC received a grant for \$12,000 to help purchase additional flight simulators in their unit. They applied for it last year and also received \$12,000. So the PCH JROTC unit has received \$24,000 in the past two years from the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission! Congratulations! This unit was also recently asked to present the colors at a ceremony for a WWII veteran medal acceptance ceremony last week. Great job PCH JROTC!