



# Board Highlights

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

BY DR. FRED RHODES

Oddly enough, it seems as though the phrase “unprecedented times” is becoming even more commonplace. Weekly, if not daily, we find ourselves making adjustments due to the COVID-19 virus, and then we experience a major power outage due to an unusual October ice storm across our state. While we first thought our students could learn virtually, within a brief time, we learned of more and more power outages in District buildings and the homes of our students and teachers. These power outages affected whether we could deliver virtual learning. However, it also affected our campuses. Downed trees blocked roadways, parking lots, sidewalks, and entrances. Power outages also affected related services such as transportation and food service. The hub of the control center at transportation had no power. Food service employees did their best to quickly transport food from refrigerators and freezers in school buildings to the PC Center where equipment was backed up with a generator. Some food could not be saved, and now employees have been in the process of discarding food and replenishing supplies at sites as power has been restored. Our maintenance department has been busy during the last few days evaluating heating units and electrical sources to ensure our buildings have heat. To all who have been working non-stop during this latest storm, we thank you! Thank you for your dedication to our students, families, and entire school community.

We are pleased to announce that students on the “A” schedule will report in-person tomorrow at all schools, except three. Due to power outages, Central Elementary, Windsor Hills Elementary, and Mayfield Middle School will have a virtual learning day.

(Superintendent’s Report - Continued on Page 1)

November 5, 2020

Comments by  
Board Members and Public

Charity Avery said she appreciates the inclement weather days, and thanks everyone for their hard work during the ice storm and power outages. Mrs. Avery congratulated Mr. Shbrone Brookings on his new position.

Sky Collins said, “It was not the week we planned, but we rose to the challenge.” Mrs. Collins thanked the District for the communication during the week. She said, “Last week was hard, but the challenge was met.”

Jay Sherrill said he appreciates the cleaning effort after the storm. He also said inclement weather days are a difficult choice. Mr. Sherrill said it’s about many things including face time with curriculum for students and teachers. Mr. Sherrill said thank you for the transparency on the budget, and issues caused by a decrease in enrollment because of COVID.

Meeting Date: Monday, November 2, 2020, 5 p.m.  
Location: Administration Building

Next Meeting: Monday, November 16, 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 Board Clerk, Charity Avery, Sky Collins, Jay Sherrill, Cindy Gibbs

## (Superintendent's Report - Continued from Page 1)

At the last school board meeting, Shannon Meeks, Chief Financial Officer, conducted the Budget Hearing and presented the 2021 Budget showing the projected Fund Balance to be \$5,669,716.00, or 3.56% of current year revenue. The budget projects a \$5.2 million decrease in state aid, \$900,000 reduction in motor vehicle collections and \$490,000 less interest earned. The Administration Team has been working on resolutions to these reductions in revenue. Additionally, we find the District no different than other public schools across the state and across the nation with a reduction in the number of students enrolled. The COVID-19 virus has reduced student enrollment in public schools, unlike any other time in our nation's history. Locally, we find ourselves with over 1,800 fewer students than this time last school year. It's important to note, that personnel make up 88% of the entire budget of the PC school district. Delaying reductions in current spending will only become more problematic as we progress through the school year and look ahead to the next school year. To help with reductions in personnel, we are working with legal counsel and exploring options to offer some type of incentive for those eligible for retirement. Please know we will keep employees and patrons informed of the District's financial situation. The Putnam City School District has a strong reputation for being well managed, transparent, financially stable, and efficient. This stewardship is what our patrons have come to expect and rightfully deserve. Working together, we will weather this storm and be stronger in the future.

*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 said Gail LoPresto is still without power. Mrs. Gibbs said there are 2,020 reasons why this year has been discouraging. The devastation to the landscape of schools from the storm adds to that. She is hopeful for a clean-up plan to help our schools' landscapes recover.

## Motions Passed by The Board

The Board approved the District Contractual Agreements with Agile Sports Technologies, Inc. dba Hudl for additional software licenses, services, and hardware to permit the rights for video subscription and equipment for all indoor athletics.

The Board approved the the Hudl Return to Play Agreement.

The Board approved the Architecture firm for Bond Project at Rollingwood Elementary for interior renovations.

The Board approved the employment of Pope Contracting Inc. as construction managers at Rollingwood Elementary.

The Board approved the Architecture firm MA+ for Bond Project at Western Oaks Middle School for interior renovations.

The Board approved the employment of Globe Construction Company as construction managers at Western Oaks Middle School.

The Board approved the employment of Lingo Construction Services as construction managers at Will Rogers Elementary.

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## Safety & Security Report

Chief Mark Stout presented the Safety and Security Report. Here are some projects the PC Police Department has recently completed.

- Replaced security cameras in 15 elementary schools
- Added 400 new cameras
- Added 18 new security intercoms
- Added 15 new access control doors
- Created Capps Middle School security system including security cameras, access control system, and alarm systems.

Also, 45 halo devices have been installed in middle schools and high schools to detect banned activities such as vaping in school buildings.

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