



Board Highlights

November 16, 2020

Comments by
Board Members and Public

Putnam City Schools Foundation Report

Putnam City Schools Foundation President, Jennifer Seal presented a report to the Board tonight. Ms. Seal highlighted the many projects that PCSF has completed over the past year and those being planned for the coming year.

PCSF recently created Communities and Schools Together (CAST). The purpose of CAST is to bridge the gap between the needs in schools and the community's power to help. This is the beginning of an exciting venture to involve the community even more with PC students.

PCSF is responsible for many projects that give to our students and teachers in Putnam City Schools. Early Birds assists our youngest, most impressionable learners by helping them build a foundation for reading. YES! Grants make teachers dreams for their students come true by supplying needs for projects and other teachers' plans that they wouldn't be able to fund otherwise. PCSF awards PC teachers with scholarships and other forms of recognition throughout the year. In addition to this and many more programs and events, PCSF's annual CareShare program provides holiday gifts for PC students. At present, there are still 400 PC students that need to be "adopted" to be gifted. To learn how you can bring the holidays to a PC student, visit www.pcf4kids.org/programs/careshare/Christmas

Friends of the Foundation is a way employees can help support the mission of PCSF. You can get involved today at <https://www.pcf4kids.org/programs/applications-and-forms>

Cristy Gosset, a teacher at Mayfield Middle School, and parent of two Putnam City students, spoke to the Board tonight. Ms. Gosset requested consideration of Distance Learning until the end of the semester. She said this consistency in planning and teaching is needed.

John Speicher, a teacher at PCH, also addressed the Board. Mr. Speicher urged the Board to consider Distance Learning through the end of the semester. He spoke about the severity of COVID-19 in local hospitals.

Charity Avery said she was thankful for the decision to go to Distance Learning this week. She said her daughter has been enjoying attending class on her A/B schedule prior to this week. She also thanked the Grounds crews and the Foundation for all of their work.

Meeting Date: Monday, November 16, 2020, 5 p.m.
Location: Administration Building

Next Meeting: Monday, December 7, 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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

BY DR. FRED RHODES

At the last school board meeting, November 2, we reported in the Superintendent's Report that we were working with legal counsel and exploring options to offer some type of incentive for those eligible for retirement. We are pleased to report that Item #8 on tonight's agenda is a proposal for the Early Retirement Incentive Program. The last time this type of proposal was presented was 2010. At that time, the program was limited to a specified number of people, only those who were certified and the payout was over a three year period. With tonight's proposal, both certified and support personnel are eligible, plus the payout will be a one-time incentive check which is 10% of the employee's base pay. The employee will receive this check in January 2021. The last day of employment will be December 31. Participation in this Early Retirement Incentive Program is entirely voluntary, but does allow eligible employees the opportunity to benefit from an early retirement. Many have been inquiring about this proposal and once approved tonight, employees can enroll as early as tomorrow, Tuesday, November 17. There is a short period of time to enroll because the deadline is noon on Monday, November 30. I'd like to personally thank Shannon Meeks, CFO and Patty Balenseifen, Chief of Human Capital, for working with legal counsel on this proposal. We are excited to be able to bring it to you for your approval.

On Friday, Oklahoma County was designated as a Red county by the Oklahoma State Department of Education. This determination is based on COVID-19 data released by the Oklahoma City-County Health Department. Putnam City Schools will be in Distance Learning until November 20th. Information regarding curbside pick-up of meals is posted on our web page. Putnam City Schools will continue to monitor the weekly release of COVID-19 data. PCS follows the Oklahoma State Department of Education COVID-19 protocol. PCS also initiates ongoing communication and consultation with OCCHD for the continued safety of our staff and students.

(Continued on next page.)

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

Gail LoPresto thanked the Foundation for being so productive and echoed Charity's comments. She also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Jay Sherrill said he appreciates the speakers. He said he wants the District to be cautious too, and they always place people over numbers. Mr. Sherrill said his son was excited to be able to attend classes also. Mr. Sherrill also spoke about the importance of the Foundation's program, CareShare and encouraged others to participate.

Cindy Gibbs praised Shbrone Brookings and the Grounds crew that cleaned up the extensive storm damage. She also thanked Foundation sponsors. Mrs. Gibbs said her granddaughter was excited to attend in-person classes also prior to this week of Distance Learning.

Board Highlights Page 3

November 16, 2020

(Continued from previous page.)

With the second semester approaching, families will have new learning path options available. The options include traditional in-person and Putnam City School-at-Home for elementary students. For secondary students, the options are traditional in-person, Putnam City School-At-Home, and PC Virtual School. Putnam City School-At-Home is a new option based on feedback from our PC families. In this option, Putnam City teachers facilitate district curriculum. You can read more about these options on our web page. For second semester, students will automatically be enrolled in the traditional in-person learning path unless they opt-out at www.putnamcityschools.org/s2 by Friday November 20th, 2020.

And finally, I would like to commend the Grounds Crew for all their work in removing tree limbs following the recent ice storm. It's a slow process and we thank them for their diligence and hard

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>

The Board approved the Early Retirement Incentive Program. The District will provide an additional retirement allowance to eligible employees who meet the conditions for participation. See the Superintendent's Report in this issue for more information.

For full details on this and all motions passed tonight, see the agenda from tonight's board meeting posted online.

On the right: photos from YES! Grants awarded by the PCS Foundation for PC Teachers this year!

