



Board Highlights

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

BY DR. FRED RHODES

I hope all of you had a great winter break; a time to celebrate the holidays, enjoy your family and take advantage of the beautiful snow.

Thank you for your support and your patience as we have together navigated through uncharted waters to continue to provide the best educational experiences for our students. While we know there have been many challenges, we know we all grow from these experiences and become better equipped for the challenges ahead.

This week, as announced before the winter break, we return to in-person learning following an overall District Plan, which is the A/B Schedule. However, school site-specific data will determine if a specific school needs to return to Distance Learning. This site plan is the safety net to ensure our students and staff can continue learning and working in a safe environment.

Recently we have learned of a new strain of the Covid-19 virus (VOC-202012/01). This new strain was first discovered in the U.K., but isolated cases have been identified in the U.S. We have learned from research from the U.K. that the same test and the same vaccine are used to identify and treat the virus.

As a district, we are working closely with the health department and making plans for the vaccine to be administered locally, first to our staff.

We look forward to more promising news as we begin this new year.

May 2021 bring the richest blessings to you and your family.

January 4, 2021

Comments by Board Members and Public

Lisa Lofgren, a teacher, spoke asking the Board to wait to return to in-person learning until Spring Break.

Jamie Pritchett, a teacher, addressed the Board asking members to consider Distance Learning for two weeks.

Amber Ball, a teacher, requested the Board to consider a prudent, proactive stance to returning to in-person.

Cristy Gosset, a teacher, requested the Board postpone in-person instruction for two weeks.

Eric Winkle, PC ACT President, praised the Board for Putnam City's decisions concerning mask mandates and continued Distance Learning in the first semester. He also asked board members to postpone instruction for at least two weeks after winter break.

See board members comments on page 2.

Meeting Date: Monday, January 4, 2021, 5 p.m.
Location: Administration Building

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 5 p.m.
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Present: Dr Fred Rhodes, Superintendent, Tina Losawyer, Deputy Board Clerk, Sky Collins, Gail LoPresto, Jay Sherrill, Cindy Gibbs

Motions Passed by The Board

The Board approved the motion for the supplemental agreement with Sparks Reed Architects & Interiors to design for the re-roofing project of the freshman building at Putnam City West High School.

The Board approved the motion for three staff professional development sessions and lesson materials for Pre-K-8th grade students to build a stronger understanding of Native American cultures and imagery.

Good News

Meal service plans for the A/B schedule will resume the same as last semester. If a site transitions to Distance Learning, curbside meals will be available Monday through Thursday from 10am-12pm. Meal packs will be available again this semester; see our web site for more information on these.

Well, they say the show must go on, and it did! Over the break, many of our performing art students performed holiday concerts and shows virtually. Thank you to the teachers involved in editing and broadcasting their students' talent. We applaud the talent, and we applaud all involved in finding safe alternatives for students' talents to be on display. It was a much-needed dose of holiday cheer as student performances are a favorite year-round, but especially at this time of year.

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

Board members comments:

Sky Collins thanked the speakers for coming. She said she appreciates public participation.

Gail LoPresto expressed her appreciation to the teachers.

Jay Sherrill said the speakers were impactful. Mr. Sherrill said he has two kids returning to school also, and understands.

Cindy Gibbs thanked the speakers, and said she works in a school and has seen the COVID-19 protocol work during in-person learning. Mrs. Gibbs mentioned that she re-filed for her board seat (Office #1), and that Sky Collins filed for her board seat also (Office #3).