



Board Highlights

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

BY DR. FRED RHODES

Many public health officials are calling scheduled vaccinations “The beginning of the end of COVID-19.” Today marks that day in

Putnam City history as employees began the first round of COVID-19 vaccination appointments. Over 100 PC employees, age 65 and over, were vaccinated today! Thank you to Putnam City staff who worked with the Oklahoma City-County Health Department and made this earlier-than-anticipated date a reality.

More appointments are coming soon! We look forward to launching more scheduled vaccinations as we partner with Passport Health. Additional information is coming soon to your employee e-mail inbox! All vaccine appointments are subject to vaccine availability. Details will be in your e-mail.

There's more good news for Putnam City! Love's Country Stores donated a generous \$20,000 to the Putnam City Schools

Foundation for teacher grants! This is excellent news for our educators. The donation will bring some teachers' big dreams to life in the classroom. We are excited about what this donation will mean to our students. Thank you to Love's and Putnam City Schools Foundation.

Today also begins several notable events for February. Watch Putnam City Schools' social media for events celebrating Public Schools Month this month. Also, our Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Department will have challenges for Black History Month. We'll also be highlighting some of the programs offered by our Putnam City counselors as it is National Counselors' Week.

(Continued on Page 2)

February 1, 2021

Comments by
Board Members and Public

Sky Collins said she was happy to see the first vaccination of PC employees today on social media. She said she appreciated the Black History Month posts from schools too. Mrs. Collins also said she has received a lot of feedback lately, and appreciates hearing from people.

Gail LoPresto said she too is glad that employees are getting vaccines. She also said she was happy to hear about the \$20,000 donation from Love's.

Jay Sherrill thanked Dr. Rhodes and Shbrone Brookings for following through on projects. He said he has received a lot of good feedback from the community recently.

Cindy Gibbs thanked Capps Middle School for the masks. She also thanked Hefner Middle School for giving her a t-shirt. She said PCN has a fun Black History Month activity with QR codes and encouraged everyone to go to their social media and see it.

Meeting Date: Monday, February 1, 2021, 5 p.m.
Location: Administration Building

Next Meeting: Monday, February 15, 2021, 5 p.m.
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(Continued from Page 1)

COVID has demanded most of the information shared in the Superintendent's Report since last March; it is refreshing to share a Superintendent's Report with all positive notes! We are hopeful it is the beginning of more just like it, and we're happy to begin the vaccination process for our employees who want it. We are continually PC proud during this time and as we move onward!

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>



Pictured left: Putnam City employees received their first vaccinations today through a PC sign-up with OKC-County Health Department. Eligible employees were 65 and older, or any nurse, speech pathologist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, or school police officer. Ashley is a speech pathologist and the first to receive it through PC appointments with OCCHD. More information is coming soon about upcoming PC employee vaccinations! See the video of Ashley receiving her vaccination live on the Putnam City Schools Facebook page.

Motions Passed by The Board

The Board approved the proposed updated salary schedules for the 2020-2021 Negotiated Agreement between the Board of Education and the Putnam City Association of Classroom Teachers.

The Board approved the renewal of student teaching memorandum of understanding with the University of Oklahoma, College of Education.

The Board approved the Troy D. Rhodes & Company to design Classroom/Storm Shelter addition at Apollo Elementary School.

The Board approved District Policy ED- Homeless Students.

The Board approved District Policy ED- Federal Programs

Board Highlights Page 3

February 1, 2021

A Word from the Board President on Behalf of the Board.....

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Starting in the Spring of 2020 and continuing through the school year 2020-2021, Putnam City Schools and every school district across our nation have faced unprecedented times in an effort to educate our students during a pandemic.

Putnam City teachers, staff, administrators, parents and school board members have worked incredibly long and hard hours, facing adversity constantly in an effort to provide a safe learning environment. Many difficult decisions have been made during the process.

All the while slapped with the reality of a decrease in enrollment and a state economy resulting in a significant decrease in state aid funding which ultimately resulted in a serious budget funding shortfall. Facing budget cuts is not a position that any school board wants to be facing, but that is our reality currently.

A recent bright spot has been the announcement that Putnam City will be receiving a stimulus payment that leaves a glimmer of good news in our financial future.

Board discussions have centered around our desires to reward our people during this incredibly difficult financial time. We understand and recognize the additional time and effort put into learning a digital means of delivery to our students. We empathize and recognize the additional stress and concern over safety during the pandemic, and we recognize the additional time spent in educating both in-person students and online students.

We, the Putnam City Board, are proud to provide and approve a step pay raise for our hard working employees and teachers.

By Cindy Gibbs
Board President