



Board Highlights

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

BY DR. FRED RHODES

Putnam City Schools Return to Learn plan has been updated many times this year as we all learned that fluidity is key while living in a pandemic. Much consideration and planning have been put into the final phase of Return to Learn. The opportunity for fully vaccinated faculty and staff, the beginning of installation of new air quality technology, and the advisement of the OKC-County Health Department were taken into consideration as the course was mapped out for the end of the year. For these reasons, Putnam City Schools will continue an A/B schedule until beginning a new plan on April 5th. On that date, all students will return to in-person learning four days a week. Students will attend in-person Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday beginning April 5th. Wednesday will remain a remote learning day for students through the end of the school year. On Wednesdays, teachers will be in the buildings creating online content for quarantined students to use in the week ahead. Wednesdays will also be utilized for state testing days for Putnam City at Home students. When students begin four days a week, the current mask mandate remains in place along with utilizing good hand hygiene practices.

The much-anticipated return of students will be a positive note to end this historic year. Students will be meeting half of their classmates that they have only known through a computer screen until now. In addition to the return to in-person four days a week, we also look forward to launching a robust summer school program at Putnam City. This year's curriculum will focus on being outside the box and hands-on so that students and devices can recharge. In addition to academics, this year's summer school will also feature mental health offerings. District administration understands the toll that this pandemic has taken on student's mental health, and we want to provide resources and tools for students in this area. Details regarding the revamped summer school program are coming soon. Mark your calendars now; the summer fun will begin in June!

We thank our faculty, staff, and parents. This year has been a journey, and we have all been partners in education in new ways. We will be ready to begin the next chapter April 5th.

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March 1, 2021

Comments by
Board Members and Public

Shabbir Jupiter Wala, a Putnam City patron and grandparent to a Putnam City student, asked questions about preventing water damage at schools during the storm and about the plan for returning to school. He also asked about summer school.

Charity Avery thanked the speaker for his questions. She said she enjoyed the fine arts video presentation. Ms. Avery said she appreciated the patience of teachers, administrators, families, and students. She congratulated the top five candidates for Teacher of the Year. Ms. Avery thanked everyone who participated in Public Schools Week. She said she is thankful for all who serve in public education.

Judy Mullen Hopper encouraged people to read about the Oklahoma Scholarship Fund Credit and to contact legislators.

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

Next Meeting: Monday, April 5, 2021 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.)

Thank you to everyone involved in the making of the virtual presentation of the Youth Arts Month celebration. It's a joy to see students enjoying art during this time!

The most recent snow and ice storms may have melted, but the work on water damage continues in some buildings. Crews have been working at multiple schools since the damage occurred. We thank our operations crews for their hard work. They continue to conduct safety inspections at a few buildings. Employees at some elementary schools are moving furniture to create temporary learning spaces for the more extended projects. Detailed plans for each site are forthcoming.

We continue to vaccinate employees who choose to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Opportunities for first and second doses are now available. Employees can go to .pc, and find information under the COVID tab.

Congratulations to our top five Teacher of the Year candidates! Due to COVID-19, there will not be an in-person event to award this year's Teacher of the Year, but everyone is invited to see the virtual reveal of this year's Teacher of the Year on March 11th! Be watching Putnam City's social media to see how you can be part of the fun! Congratulations go to several PC athletes this week! Both Putnam City North girls and boys basketball teams won the title of Regional Champions this weekend! The PCN Swim Team competed at State with both team and individuals placing. Also, in PC sports this week, Vicky Haggard, a Putnam City High wrestler, made history by being the first girl to qualify for Putnam City at the first-ever sanctioned OSSAA Girls State Tournament! Congratulations to all!

We encourage you to check out NOW (North, Original, and West), an online student news publication from all three high schools is posted on PC's social media. It is a digital online source of news through the eyes of students. You will be impressed with these young journalists!

Motions Passed by The Board

The Board approved the motion for LWPB to provide architectural services for the interior renovation at the Putnam City Schools Transportation Building.

The Board approved the motion to proclaim March as Youth Arts Month.

The Board voted to hire Claire Chavez as an Assistant Principal.

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

Ms. Mullen Hopper said she toured three PC elementary schools that have water damage from the storm. She thanked district administrators who responded to these sites immediately.

Jay Sherrill said he is excited about the Return to Learn plan announcement. He said he is also excited about the summer school program. Mr. Sherrill thanked everyone who put in work on these projects.

Cindy Gibbs echoed that she is excited about the Return to Learn announcement and summer school too. She thanked custodians and Shbrone Brookings for their work.

BELOW: Top photo, Judy Mullen Hopper was sworn in last Monday. Bottom photo, at tonight's meeting Sky Collins was honored for her service.

