



Board Highlights

Pandemic Stipend Approved

The Board approved a motion for a pandemic stipend for Putnam City employees tonight. In recognition of the hard work and challenging times experienced due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Putnam City Schools is providing a stipend to all employees as set forth below. The District is using one-time federal funding to provide these funds to all employees.

The District will pay to all employees, including temporary teachers and the Superintendent, a stipend. Substitutes and persons who took a leave of absence during the 2020-2021 school year do not qualify for the stipend.

The District will pay the stipend in May of 2021 subject to all required taxes, withholdings, and contributions.

\$2000 for any certified teacher, certified administrators, and support staff who meets the following qualifications:

1. Employed full time (1.0) on or before September 1, 2020;
2. Actually performed services for the District during the 2020-2021 school year;
3. Remained continuously employed until May 14, 2021; and
4. Completed COVID-19 Workplace Guidelines GCN Training by May 3, 2021.

\$1000 for any certified teacher, certified administration, and support staff who meets the following qualifications:

1. Employed full time (1.0) on or before January 4, 2021 or employed part time (.5 to .9) on or before September 1, 2020;
2. Actually performed services for the District during the 2020-2021 school year;
3. Remained continuously employed until May 14, 2021; and
4. Completed COVID-19 Workplace Guidelines GCN Training by May 3, 2021.

\$500 for any certified teacher, certified administration, and support staff who meets the following qualifications:

1. Employed part time (.5 to .9) on or before January 4, 2021;
2. Actually performed services for District during the 2020-2021 school year;
3. Remained continuously employed until May 14, 2021; and
4. Completed COVID-19 Workplace Guidelines GCN Training by May 3, 2021.

April 19, 2021

Comments by Board Members and Public

Judy Mullen Hopper commented that Terry Kimberling, a Golden Apple recipient, demonstrates the "Oklahoma Standard." Ms. Mullen Hopper said he even scrapes ice off of employees' car windows. She said she is proud of him for all he has accomplished.

Steve Burger said we use the "Oklahoma Standard" moving forward to help our community. Mr. Burger thanked the Foundation for all of their work. He also said that Golden Apple winners are the backbone of our community.

Gail LoPresto welcomed Steve and Judy to the Board. She praised them for their efforts to get elected. She also thanked Cindy Gibbs for her ten years on the Board. She said she remembers the PC Orchestra playing on the day of the bombing, and she loves that PC shows that they care about people.

Meeting Date: Monday, April 19, 2021, 5 p.m.
Location: Administration Building

Next Meeting: Monday, May 3, 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, Sandy Lesmaster, Board Clerk, Judy Mullen Hopper, Gail LoPresto, Jay Sherrill, Steve Burger.

Board Names Two Principals



The Board voted tonight to name Nancy Ingle Principal at Rollingwood Elementary. Ms. Ingle is currently serving as Assistant Principal at Hilldale Elementary and Arbor Grove Elementary. Ms. Ingle served as Principal at Winds West Elementary in Western Heights. There she was also a reading interventionist and third grade teacher. Ms. Ingle holds a Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education from the University of Oklahoma, and a Masters in Educational Leadership from Oklahoma State University. We welcome her to Rollingwood!



The Board also named Fallan Wolff as the Principal at Will Rogers Elementary. Ms. Wolff has served as an Assistant Principal at Central Elementary and Northridge Elementary. Ms. Wolff has been with Putnam City Schools for almost six years. She graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma with a Bachelors degree in Elementary Education. She also received her Masters in Educational Leadership from UCO. Welcome to Will Rogers, Ms. Wolff!

New Board Member

Steve Burger was sworn in tonight as the newest board member for Putnam City Schools. Welcome, Mr. Burger!



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Comments by Board Members and Public

Jay Sherrill welcomed Steve Burger. Mr. Sherrill reflected on his memories of the OKC bombing. He was a student at PC High at the time. Mr. Sherrill said that reflecting on that made him think of his son and how PC staff will be there for him.

Teacher of the Year, Lauren Querbach, was recognized at tonight's meeting. Ms. Querbach teaches at Wiley Post. Thank you to PCACT and the PCS Foundation for donating gifts and helping celebrate all of our site Teachers of the Year. Congratulations!



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

BY DR. FRED RHODES

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It was 26 years ago today that our City, our State, our Nation experienced one of the worst tragedies in the history of our Country, the bombing of the OKC Alfred P Murrah Federal Building. One hundred and sixty-eight people lost their lives and numerous people were physically harmed and even more were emotionally scarred for life. We all have a story to tell of where we were and what we were doing, when we first heard the news of disbelief. I was the principal of Will Rogers Elementary and we were on a bus with fourth and fifth grade students for the annual trip Downtown to the Civic Center to hear the OKC Symphony perform. This was a district-wide event with all fourth and fifth grade students from across the Metro attending. Elementary music specialists had spent time, weeks in advance to prepare students, teaching them about the different instruments, the dedication needed to master the ability to play professionally, the concept of working on a piece of music individually, but then coming together as a full orchestra to perform. The concert was the culmination of the elementary music unit to allow students to experience the incredible performance of highly specialized, professional musicians; an event that many students had never had the opportunity to experience, especially those living in poverty.

Our school bus, en route to Downtown OKC, was at a high point on Memorial Road when the bus pulled over and stopped. The Putnam City Transportation Department had ordered all buses to pull over because of an explosion downtown. As I stood up on the bus, I gazed downtown and could see smoke billowing up to the sky. My first thought was that it was a freak gas explosion. A few years earlier, a hot water heater at Star Spencer School had exploded near the cafeteria during lunch time, killing five students and a teacher. My thought was that this was something similar, some type of gas explosion; an accident. I fully expected us to soon be back on our journey Downtown, but after patiently waiting for nearly 30 minutes, eventually, the Transportation Department ordered that all buses return to their respected school sites. With my first, primitive cell phone in hand, I repeatedly attempted to call the school, but each time receiving a busy signal. Later, I learned that so many cell phone calls were attempting to be made because of the news of the accident, the cell phone service, in its infancy, caused access to be jammed. As the events unfolded, I began to realize that what had happened Downtown was much greater than what I had first thought.

As I entered the office area at school, I witnessed normally calm and laid back adults, in chaos. Most had already received the news that there was an explosion at the Federal building. As a leader in any capacity, you learn that one of the most important traits you can possess, is the ability to remain calm in the midst of a storm. Holding back emotion, I immediately, frantically, wanted to go through the records of every student to see if any child had a parent who worked in the Federal building or any facility nearby because I wanted to be prepared to console a child if I knew that they had lost a parent in the explosion. Fortunately, that was not the case, but there was a younger sibling of a student who was in the childcare located in the Federal building. Collectively, as a faculty and staff, we decided to keep the news of the explosion confidential from students and go about the rest of our day as normal as possible. Something told us that a child should be in the safety of their home, in the care of their parents, to hear news of devastation. Most likely, that would not have been possible today, with the easy accessibility to communication.

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Reflecting back on April 19, 1995, I know that there were many good things that transpired from the healing of this tragedy in our community, in spite of the loss of lives, the heartache, the devastation. For one, the world, for the first time, came to know the heart of the people of Oklahoma. Prior to 1995, the world had a glimpse of Oklahoma because of the wit and character of Will Rogers, Oklahoma's Favorite Son. But the OKC Bombing portrayed the true spirit, the grit, the heart and the goodness of people who call Oklahoma home. Around the world, it has become known as the Oklahoma Standard. The Oklahoma Standard is people helping people; taking care of one another; people who put others before themselves. The official definition of the Oklahoma Standard is "preserving and promoting a culture of caring citizens, by encouraging acts of service, honor and kindness." The Oklahoma Standard is demonstrated by a people with strong morals and ethics; who believe they have a higher calling; hard-working, All American, loving, kind and good-hearted people. Oklahoma became known as the "Heartland of America" as a result of how we courageously and beautifully handled one of the worst tragedies in our lifetime.

Fast forward to today, April 19, 2021. While the pandemic, in many ways does not compare to the OKC Bombing, it is definitely a life changing experience. People have experienced fear. Lives have been lost. Major events in people's lives have been non-existent. In our educational world, students have been homebound for months; involved in distance learning. Out of necessity, teachers have transitioned to a very different way of delivering instruction. Parents have had numerous challenges, doing their best to facilitate learning at home. Students have missed major athletic events, fine arts activities, proms and graduations. While "zoom" has become a household word, many are frankly, just zoomed-out.

So, where do we go from here? As we are finally seeing light at the end of the tunnel, my hope, my prayer is that we can begin to start asking, and answering the question: "What good can come out of this life-changing experience?" I have started my list. I hope you will also start your list.

To our teachers, to our staff, to our parents, to our school board and to our community, we say, "Thank You". Thank you for being there for us. Thank you for being patient with us. Thank you for believing in us. Now is a time for us to heal. If there was ever a time for us to come together as one, it is now. May we do our best to focus on what we can learn from this experience that will help us in the future.

April 19, 2021



PC North High School FCCLA was represented at the 75th annual FCCLA State Convention. Conner Attebery, a senior at PCN, is OK FCCLA's State Vice President of Membership and has been working hard all year serving FCCLAs across the state. PC North also received Gold Chapter!

First Place - Event Management: Sydney McLeary & Lindsey Guthrie

First Place - Creed Speaking: Nikki Ashrafi

Third Place - Sports Nutrition: Nellie & Chadwell Sterling
Sydney & Lindsey will compete in Nationals this summer!

PCN students got to ride in style to the convenience in PC's new smaller, activity bus. Thank you to the Transportation Department!

Motions Passed by The Board

The Board approved a motion for a pandemic stipend for Putnam City employees. (See details on Page 1.)

The Board approved a motion for a pandemic stipend for Putnam City substitute teachers.

The Board voted to name the following positions: Jay Sherrill, President, Charity Avery, Vice President, Sandy Lemaster Board Clerk, Tina Losawyer Deputy Board Clerk, Fonda Watkins Encumbrance Clerk.

Full details of tonight's meeting, including all items on the agenda, can be found at www.putnamcityschools.org

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PCS Foundation recognized all Golden Apple recipients tonight. Congratulations!

Terry Kimberling
Harvest Hills Elementary

Courtney Krodel
Information Technology

Alex Martinez
Central Elementary

Marie Page
Putnam City North High School

Stephanie Russell
Coronado Heights Elementary

Evangeline Smith
Western Oaks Elementary