



# Board Highlights

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

BY DR. FRED RHODES

Seven Oklahoma high schools have been named “Oklahoma’s Promise 2020 State Champions.” Putnam City High School is the 6A Runner-Up with 103 Oklahoma’s Promise graduates! Oklahoma’s Promise is a state program that provides an opportunity for students from families whose annual income is \$55,000 or less to earn a tuition scholarship for college or certain programs at public career technology centers. Chancellor Glen D. Johnson of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education said, “These seven Oklahoma high schools are to be commended for serving as champions for their students.” Congratulations to PCH!

Another PC school receiving public recognition for academic achievement is Arbor Grove Elementary. Arbor Grove is one of only 200 schools across the U.S. and Canada to be named a Model Professional Learning Community at Work by Solution Tree! Arbor Grove is recognized for the following criteria:

1. Focus on learning
2. Build a collaborative culture
3. Create a results orientation

Schools are recognized based on strict criteria, including demonstration of a commitment to these concepts, implementation of these concepts for at least three years, and clear evidence of improved student learning over that period. We applaud Arbor Grove and the leadership of Principal, Brenda Davis!

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May 3, 2021

### Comments by Board Members and Public

Steve Burger commented on how dedicated Cindy Gibbs is to the District. He thanked her for her service. Mr. Burger welcomed the new principals to the District. Mr. Burger thanked the patrons who spoke during public participation, and asked that more people exercise their right to speak during public participation.

Judy Mullen Hopper praised secondary schools for the amazing programs they are providing for students including the aerospace opportunity listed in one of the agenda items tonight. Mrs. Mullen Hopper commended the faculty at Ralph Downs and Will Rogers for accommodating learning by moving classrooms during construction. Mrs. Mullen Hopper said she appreciates their extra work.

Gail LoPresto read a statement for Cindy Gibbs during her recognition. She also thanked Judy Mullen Hopper for representing PC at the Capitol.

Meeting Date: Monday, May 3, 2021, 5 p.m.  
Location: Administration Building

Next Meeting: Monday, May 17, 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, Jay Sherrill, President, Charity Avery, Vice President, Judy Mullen Hopper, Steve Burger.

The Silver Strings Orchestra recently performed at the new Scissortail Park in Downtown OKC. While on stage, the backdrop to the OKC skyline provided the perfect setting for the orchestra on a beautiful sunny Saturday afternoon. Park-goers were entertained by a variety of songs as the Silver Strings strolled throughout the crowd. Conductor, Levi Dobrinski explained that the orchestra plays classical as well as more popular songs. The orchestra received a huge round of applause toward the end of the concert as the strolling orchestra played, Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven"; a classic of its own. We are thankful that many of our student activities are able to resume and this is just one example, as we see progress in declining COVID numbers.

At tonight's meeting, Cindy Gibbs was honored for her decade of service on the Board. She was given gifts of art from PC students, and the Board passed a resolution recognizing her contributions to Putnam City. See the photo below of Mrs. Cindy Gibbs and Board President, Jay Sherrill.



*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

Mrs. LoPresto wished teachers a Happy Teacher Appreciation Week. She also thanked all PC Administrative Assistants.

Charity Avery wished teachers a Happy Teacher Appreciation week. Ms. Avery thanked the speakers during public participation. She also praised the PC Transportation Department for consistently following traffic rules and keeping kids safe. She said she feels safe putting her daughter on the bus.

Jay Sherrill said he echoes all of the sentiments of the other board members, and wished teachers a Happy Teacher Appreciation Week. He also praised the Capps Middle School faculty for doing a great job.

Shabbir Jupiterwala, a patron and a grandparent of a student at Western Oaks, spoke about the present political climate and the classroom. Mr. Jupiterwala asked that curriculum focus on the basics of education.

Jeanelda Jupiterwala, a patron and also a grandparent of a student at Western Oaks, inquired about a position listed on a previous agenda. She also commented on federal programs.



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Follow  
Putnam City  
Schools social  
media all week  
as we praise  
our teachers  
during  
Teacher  
Appreciation  
Week!

## Some Motions Passed by The Board

The Board approved the motion for the Support Rehire List for the 2021-2022 School Year.

The Board approved a motion for the employment of the construction management firm, Globe Construction Company for Putnam City West High School.

The Board approved the motion for the employment of the construction management firm, Lingo Construction Services for the former Capps Middle School.

The Board approved the motion for the employment of the construction management firm, Lingo Construction for the Transportation Building renovation.

The Board approved the motion to revise district policy related to student absences.

The Board approved the motion for the employment of the construction management firm, Pope Contracting Inc. for Apollo Elementary.