



Board Highlights

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

BY DR. FRED RHODES

We commend the School Board for approving a motion, at last month's school board meeting, to begin contributing the employee portion of Teachers Retirement on behalf of support personnel who are regularly employed for 20 hours or more per week. We owe a deep sense of gratitude to the Board for this vote of support for our support employees who keep the District running. I have the greatest respect for those who love the school environment and love to serve our community by serving in our schools. My mother worked as a teacher assistant and in a school cafeteria. That experience has given me an understanding of how hard our support employees work. This investment in our people is excellent for recruitment and retention of employees, but more importantly, it is a great way to thank our employees. This vote is a win-win for everyone involved.

It was a joy to attend the Kodaly program on the OU campus and witness many of our PC teachers being acknowledged for their efforts. Caitlin Moore (Central), Heather Ely (Lake Park), Nathan Velders (Hilldale), and Priscilla Covarrubias (Windsor) have completed level one of their Kodaly Certification. Katie Wonderly (Tulakes) and Emily Funkhouser (Ralph Downs) have completed all three levels of Kodaly certification and are now nationally recognized Kodaly teachers. This certification is a very high honor! These music educators have sought to better themselves and strengthen the music program at their sites. The Kodaly program is a two-week, daily course. So in the middle of summer, these teachers are going back to school! The Kodaly method is an approach to music education rooted in the idea that music should be a social and cultural experience. According to Kodaly, music should be taught logically and sequentially. Kodaly emphasizes the pleasure in learning music and that the voice is the most accessible, universal instrument. We give a special thanks to the Putnam City Foundation for funding many scholarships for PC teachers to attend. It is making an impact on our elementary music programs!

July 6, 2021

Comments by Board Members and Public

Grace Cavett spoke during Public Participation. Ms. Cavett discussed the state of the Putnam City North Performing Arts facility. Ms. Cavett requested lights for safety backstage, replacing doors and locks for safety, and adding recording equipment for performances.

Judy Mullen Hopper spoke about the decision the Board made to pay OTRS for support staff. She reiterated that it is a great decision. Mrs. Mullen Hopper complimented the track at Hilldale also.

Steve Burger thanked the public speaker, Grace. Mr. Burger commended the Putnam City Foundation for a great banquet. Mr. Burger said District social media and the Foundation social media has been great lately. Mr. Burger said the 4th of July holiday made him reflect on our freedom, and how thankful he is for it.

Meeting Date: Tuesday, July 6, 2021, 5 p.m.
Location: Administration Building

Next Meeting: Monday, July 19, 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, Charity Avery, Steve Burger, Judy Mullen Hopper, and Gail LoPresto.

There is good news from the Oklahoma State Department of Education! Putnam City Schools is one of 181 school districts receiving a grant to hire school-based counselors and mental health professionals. Putnam City Schools applied for the grant and specified the exact needs of the District in the application. Putnam City will be receiving a total of \$666,000 to fund positions during this three year period. The grant Putnam City is accepting, adds six new positions. The plan includes one Licensed Professional Counselor for PC West, PC High, and PC North. There will be three counselors at our sites with the highest student-to-counselor ratio for elementary and middle school. We are grateful to the Oklahoma State Department of Education for their support for mental health in our schools.

Motions Passed by The Board

The Board approved a motion for the contract with Morton Comprehensive Health Services too establish the terms and conditions for Student Counseling Services at Apollo and Will Rogers Elementary Schools.

The Board approved a motion for the Amendment to Francis Tuttle Career Tech. Transportation Contract 2021-2022.

The Board approved a motion for the Personnel Report.

The Board approved a motion for the Approval of Teacher and Leader Effectiveness evaluation model and license agreement with Employee Evaluation Systems, Inc. ("EES").

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

Gail LoPresto said there were many great things about the Foundation banquet. She praised Jennifer Seal for her work on the event.

Charity Avery said she enjoyed the Foundation Wall of Fame also. She commented what a fun night it was.

Jay Sherrill echoed the praise of other board members for the Wall of Fame event. He also said he appreciated the football players who volunteered to help with the evening.

Below: Photos of Putnam City Foundation Wall of Fame

