

Minutes Governing Board of Putnam Academy of Arts and Science April 16, 2026

Present: Curtis Ellis, Sharon Hughes, Shirley Davis, Jarvis Wright, Amy Ricks, Yvette Jones, Jay Browning

Absent: Lindsey Motl, Julia Warwick, Debra Shepard

Note: Agenda was adopted with flexibility so that Action Items could be addressed prior to Principal's Report.

Public Comment:

None

Consent Agenda:

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Sharon Hughes and seconded by Shirley Davis. Motion passed unanimously. Financial statement was delayed due to the retirement of CPA.

Action Items:

Revised classified and maintenance salary schedules were presented by Mr. Ellis. Both schedules mirror the increases on the district schedules with \$.10/year increase at each experience step. A motion to accept the revised schedules was made by Yvette Jones and seconded by Jay Browning. Motion passed unanimously.

Principal's Report:

Mr. Ellis reported that attendance has dropped slightly from the previous 92% to 89%. The goal is to maintain 90% attendance rate. The attendance reward system continues to have a positive impact. Mr. Ellis presented the data on discipline for August- March. The implementation of PBIS has had a positive impact on discipline with no students removed and only one student on probation.

In his financial report, Mr. Ellis noted that by law the district is now mandated to share the capital outlay funds with charter schools. Due to a debt incurred by the district, Putnam does not have to share these funds this year. Disbursement of these funds will resume next year.

In personnel matters, two employees have been notified of nonrenewal. Two additional employees, Sindy and Jerry Hunt, have purchased a house in Kansas. Jerry has departed; a new maintenance employee will begin May 1. Sindy will leave at the end of the year; a current Parapro is training to take over Sindy's position.

Mr. Ellis reported on student achievement in sports and other areas of competition. Agriculture students did well at the Putnam County Fair and the Livestock Judging Team placed first at the Clay County Fair. He also reported that the teacher of the year at PAAS is Joani Jones; the SREY is Melissa Pahota.

Enrollment is currently 185. The placement of the signs around the county resulted in 50 applicants for next year. All enrollment slots are now filled, and the school has a hefty waiting list. Mr. Ellis plans to continue the use of the signs in the future. He also noted that the school will return to block scheduling next year and that three board members are due for renewal of their certification.

Mr. Ellis provided an update on the lawsuit. The school attorneys have filed a motion to dismiss. At this point, there has been no response from opposing counsel. The time frame for a response has expired.

Executive Session- N.A.

Board Comment:

Jarvis Wright provided each board member with a copy of the administrative evaluation. He noted that these could be completed online or dropped off at the office in hard copy. He asked that they be returned by May 15. Jarvis noted that Teacher Appreciation Week will occur in the first week of May. By custom, each board member provides a \$30.00 gift card to be distributed during the week. He asked that each board member provide a card no later than the end of April.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jay Browning and seconded by Amy Ricks. Vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 5:08.