

Minutes Governing Board of Putnam Academy of Arts and Science August 21, 2025

Present: Curtis Ellis, Sharon Hughes, Shirley Davis, Yvette Jones, Jarvis Wright, Jay Browning, Lindsey Motl, Julia Warwick

Absent: Debra Shepard, Amy Ricks

Guests: Elisabeth Virnstein

Public Comment:

None

Consent Agenda:

A motion to accept the consent agenda (minutes and financials) with correction to the previous minutes regarding attendance was made by Julia Warwick and seconded by Jay Browning. Motion was passed unanimously.

Principal's Report:

Mr. Ellis reported that enrollment is currently 192. While this is not full, it does not present a problem as budget is based on a projection of 190.

The teacher bonus that was projected to be reduced was restored by the legislature during a special session.

Mr. Ellis reviewed the financial report as included in his packet and noted that Q.I. Roberts and PAAS were the only two district schools to receive an increase in Title I funding this year. All other federal dollars are frozen at this point. Additionally, transportation costs have increased substantially due to an increase in students riding the bus.

The board received a copy of the September calendar noting that progress monitoring begins next week.

Mr. Ellis then reviewed the results of FAST testing noting that PAAS is now a B school. Additionally, he presented a plan to improve the school grade by 5 points in order to become an A school this year. The focus will be on math, science and civics.

Mr. Ellis reported that a number of applicants for this school year decided to attend another school due to the uniform policy at PAAS. He suggested that the board may want to review this policy in the future. Discussion ensued; no action taken at this time.

Mr. Ellis reported that the new law banning cell phones during the school day has taken effect and has presented minimal problems.

Yvette Jones commented on the success of the FAST awards and graduation ceremony.

Mr. Ellis concluded his report stated that the model school presentation that occurred this summer was well received and positively reviewed.

Action Items:

The school reading plan was approved by electronic vote on July 8, 2025. No further action was necessary.

Executive Session- N.A.**Board Comment:**

Jarvis Wright reviewed the mission and vision statements as they currently stand. Mr. Ellis asked that the board review and update these statements. Mr. Wright also reviewed the purpose of a board and its responsibilities.

Yvette Jones mentioned the possibility of establishing a “teen court” next year. Mr. Ellis requested additional information.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jay Browning and seconded by Lindsey Motl. Vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 5:26.