

**Minutes      Governing Board of Putnam Academy of Arts and Science      October 16, 2025**

Present: Curtis Ellis, Sharon Hughes, Shirley Davis, Jarvis Wright, Amy Ricks, Debra Shepard, Yvette Jones (via phone), Tara Simon (parent liaison)

Absent: Jay Browning, Lindsey Motl, Julia Warwick

Guests: Sharon Merwin

**Public Comment:**

None

**Consent Agenda:**

A motion to accept the consent agenda (minutes and financials) was made by Sharon Hughes and seconded by Amy Ricks. Motion passed unanimously.

**Principal's Report:**

Mr. Ellis reported that enrollment is currently 185 with an additional student scheduled to enroll on Monday. This is 4 below the projection used to build the budget and has a potential financial impact of approximately \$30,000.

Mr. Ellis reported on discipline noting that the report included in the board packet reflected disciplinary events since the beginning of school. At this point, three (3) students have been disenrolled due to fighting and the resulting actions of the tribunal.

Mr. Ellis noted that school-wide attendance as well as grade-level attendance has improved substantially with school-wide attendance at 94.6%. This is due to the rewards system that has been implemented this year. The eighth grade won the grade-level competition and the cookout for the first nine weeks.

Mr. Ellis provided discipline comparison data. As in the past, the 6<sup>th</sup> grade has the highest incidents of disciplinary issues. This is primarily due to the transition from elementary to middle school. Moving forward, PAAS will begin using a new code, "Physical Aggression", to be consistent with the district coding. This code reflects an incident that is less severe than "Fighting".

Mr. Ellis presented the current 2025-2026 Budget noting that there have been no major changes. He pointed out that water and electric bills have declined and are currently less than budgeted. He also noted that funds from the district are due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month but generally do not arrive until the end of the month. At this point, PAAS has finally received TECO funds for July and August but has not yet received payment for September.

Due to the finding in the audit for last year, Mr. Ellis has sent a letter to the PCSD Board. The expenditures were due to five (5) items:

Repayment of overpayment by the school district;

Purchase of student laptops;

- Purchase of new science curriculum;
- Removal of dead trees on campus;
- Resurfacing of school parking lot.

Mr. Ellis reported that PAAS has been asked to deliver a presentation at the Florida Charter Institute Webinar. No date has been set for this event. On December 3 & 4, Mr. Ellis and Ms. Merwin will make a presentation at the Cognia Conference. Finally, Mr. Ellis did receive a call from a superintendent in Philadelphia inquiring about specific aspects of PAAS success.

Ms. Simon asked about the enforcement of no cell phones. Mr. Ellis reported that it has gone smoothly and has resulted in much less drama on campus. Beginning next year, PAAS will require clear backpacks to make enforcement easier. In response to a question from Ms. Simon regarding the wearing of crocks, Mr. Ellis reported that they are allowed except at P.E.

**Action Items:**

Mr. Wright requested a motion to approve the final budget for the 2024-2025 school year. Motion to approve the budget was made by Sharon Hughes and seconded by Debra Shepard. Motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Session- N.A.**

**Board Comment:**

Jarvis Wright raised a question about the necessity of a board meeting in December. Previously, this has been a busy time and so difficult to attain a quorum. Mr. Ellis noted that only two (2) meetings/year are required and that electronic meetings are permissible if something urgent should arise. A motion to suspend the December meeting unless there is a special need was made by Debra Shepard and seconded by Shirley Davis. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn was made by Shirley Davis and seconded by Amy Ricks. Vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 5:12.