



PUTNAM COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #535

Information for the Board of Education

Meeting: May 20th, 2025

Item: Superintendent's Reports

Teacher Evaluation Plan

Teachers' evaluations are conducted annually in accordance with a plan developed by a Joint Committee composed of District administrators and PCEA representatives. The plan was first developed in 2015 and has been annually updated in alignment with the Illinois Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA). The Joint Committee holds final approval authority for the plan; Board of Education approval is not required.

The only significant change to the 2025-2026 Teacher Evaluation Plan is a conditional provision related to the Student Growth Rating Score. PERA has historically required that student growth be a component of a teacher's overall evaluation. However, current legislation in Illinois proposes to make this requirement optional. If the legislation passes and takes effect for the 2025–2026 school year, student growth ratings will be removed from the evaluation plan.

ESP Evaluation Plan and Job Descriptions

A committee of Education Support Personnel (ESPs) and administrators will be meeting this month to review the ESP Evaluation Plan. This document outlines the evaluation process for all ESPs, including Paraprofessionals, Secretaries, Media Aides, Tech Aides, Media/Tech Aides, Cooks, Custodians, and Nurses.

As part of this process, the committee is also reviewing job descriptions for these positions, which have not been reviewed and updated since the late 1990s. These job descriptions will be presented to the Board of Education for review and approval in June or July.

PaCE Frameworks

By July 1st, 2025, all school districts are required to adopt and implement a [PaCE Framework](#) (Post-Secondary and Career Expectations) for grades 6 through 12. These frameworks are designed to guide students as they prepare for college and careers after high school. Each grade level includes specific benchmarks that build upon one another, helping students develop essential skills and knowledge over time. Examples of these tasks include completing a career interest survey, writing a resume, learning about financial responsibilities such as bills and loans, and participating in career exploration activities.

PCJH and PCHS have been developing and refining these frameworks over the last year. The final versions will be presented to the Board of Education for formal approval in June, but I am sharing them this month for an early review. I consider these frameworks to be in the early stages, as they will continue to evolve and improve with ongoing input from teachers and staff as they integrate the benchmarks into their curricula.

Welder Purchase Rotation

Mr. McManus, PCHS Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor, has put together a purchasing schedule to update the welders for his classes (see below). The Agriculture program has dedicated accounts within the District budget. When developing the annual budget in future years, the plan is to add the approximate cost of the welders for the indicated year to the supply account.

Replacement Year	Model	Year	Replace With	Cost (Approx)
1 (25-26)	Miller Thunderbolt 150	1996	ESAB Rouge 200i Pro	\$1,500
1 (25-26)	Miller Thunderbolt 150	1996	ESAB Rouge 200i Pro	\$1,500
1 (25-26)	Miller Thunderbolt 150	1997	ESAB Rouge 200i Pro	\$1,500
2 (26-27)	Thunderbolt 210	2017	Lincoln Square wave	\$2,500
3 (27-28)	Thunderbolt 210	2017	TBD	TBD
4 (28-29)	Thunderbolt 210	2017	TBD	TBD

Property/Casualty and Workers Compensation Insurance

We received the renewal costs for the District's Property/Casualty and Workers Compensation insurance plans for 2025-2026. The Property/Casualty is \$133,639.80 and the Workers Compensation is \$30,888.59 for a total of \$164,528.39. This sum is a 16% increase from last year.

The District put these plans out for proposal in Spring 2022. The Board of Education approved plans with PSIC, which is a cooperative of school districts. The change saved the District around \$8,000 in the first year. In addition, by remaining members of PSIC, the District will be eligible for a return of surplus funding in future years.