BOARD MEMO – INFORMATION ITEM

PUTNAM COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #535
Providing Foundations Together, Cultivating Individual Growth

To: Board of Education

From: Cody Martzluf, Superintendent

Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2026

RE: Enterprise Zone

Background:

- The current Bureau Putnam Area Enterprise Zone was newly certified by the State of Illinois on December 30, 2016.

- The zone is administered locally by the North Central Illinois Council of Governments (NCICG) on behalf of the participating counties and municipalities. The purpose of the Enterprise Zone is to encourage economic development, business expansion, capital investment, and job creation by making various state and local economic-development incentives available to qualifying projects.

Current Enterprise Zone Term:

- Under the Illinois Enterprise Zone Act, enterprise zones established under the current program are subject to review after the 13th year for a potential additional 10-year designation. During that review, the State considers, among other factors, the economic benefits of the zone and the costs incurred by state and local governments as a result of the incentives provided.

- For the Bureau Putnam Area Enterprise Zone, the 13-year point will occur in late 2029, with the current designation continuing through December 29, 2031. If the 10-year extension is ultimately approved, the zone could continue for approximately another decade beyond the current expiration date.

Request from Marquis Energy:

- Marquis Energy has asked Putnam County CUSD #535 to provide a letter of support for the future 10-year extension of the Bureau Putnam Area Enterprise Zone.

Consideration:

- A letter of support would indicate that the School District recognizes the importance of continued economic development and investment within Putnam County and acknowledges the role the Enterprise Zone has played as an economic-development tool.

- The Board may consider whether it wishes to authorize the District to provide Marquis Energy with a letter supporting the 10-year extension of the Bureau Putnam Area Enterprise Zone. Any such letter could clarify that the District's support is for continuation of the Enterprise Zone and the economic-development opportunities associated with it.

- Maintaining a strong local economic base can have long-term benefits for schools and communities. Continued industrial investment may strengthen the local property-tax base, provide employment opportunities for local families and graduates, and contribute to the overall economic vitality of Putnam County.

- A general letter supporting continuation of the Enterprise Zone would not, by itself, constitute approval of any specific future property-tax abatement or other incentive by the School District. Any future request that could directly affect District property-tax revenues would be considered separately by the Board.