

Ponca City Public Schools



July 16, 2018

PCPS Staff:

The 2018-2019 School Year is about to get under way, and I could not be more excited! There are many great things to celebrate, and a major game changer for everyone is the historic teacher and support raise and education budget increases approved for the upcoming school year!

This celebration is a direct result of the accomplishments of our advocacy for public education. We will continue to stay engaged to keep gaining momentum toward making Oklahoma education top priority in order to overcome the teacher shortage crisis, large class sizes, and to restore programs. Without doubt, the uncertainty of revenue with the threat of a challenge to the measures approved by the Oklahoma Legislature has made for a summer of discontent for educators in Oklahoma. But, it was a relief to finally be able to budget for the upcoming school year once the special interest group conceded. This concession was due to time restraint complications after the Oklahoma Supreme Court deemed their initial filing as deficient.

Something else to celebrate is the fact we are going to be even more united as a district with everyone becoming a Wildcat this year. For the first time ever, all of our students and staff will know WE are the Ponca City Wildcats!

To kick-off our school unity efforts, the district will host two motivational assemblies during the pre-school meeting dates. The all-certified assembly will be Monday, August 13 from 8:00 to 9:00 AM in Robson Fieldhouse, and the all-support assembly will be Wednesday, August 15 from 12:30-1:30 PM. We are celebrating and recognizing several achievements, but this assembly will not focus on any business, so prepare for fun! On the PCPS Website, you will find the Ponca City Schools 2018-2019 School Year Calendar and the 2018-2019 Schedule of Pre-school Meetings listing events taking place before school starts. As usual, the month of August is full of meetings to provide information to help make the transition to the new school year flow smoothly.

As expected, this summer has been quite busy with hiring new employees. As of today's date, the District has hired 50 new, certified staff members and numerous support staff personnel. These new employees are dedicated individuals who will fit in nicely with our returning TEAM PCPS Members. I know our new employees will soon realize they are working with great colleagues and for a wonderful organization. Thank you in advance for supporting our new hires and making them feel welcome.

Exciting project work has continued over the summer, and our students and staff will be utilizing some wonderful new facilities during the 2018-2019 School Year. The beautiful Ponca City Public Schools Concert Hall is a complex project that is coming along nicely. It has a completion date of around the 1st of October. The new Football Dressing Room, just east of Sullins Stadium, and the old Football Dressing Room Remodel will be ready for the new season, and the West Middle School Remodel will be completed before school starts. Our new Weight Training Facility was completed just prior to school dismissing in May, and students have been participating in excellent strength and conditioning all summer. We are also combining Teen

Pep and Wildcat Academy in the two outer buildings just north of Roosevelt and these two buildings have been remodeled. Some other projects you may not have known about are: ADA remodels at Washington PreK Center (which includes an elevator and ramps), new flooring for the upstairs and downstairs hallways at East Middle School, new flooring in the Assembly Center at PO-HI, and the new Roosevelt Parking Lot is currently being paved. We are so blessed our community wants the best for our school system and students, and it is evident by the passage of bond issues to make these improvements possible. This support is just another reason why Ponca City is a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

We do have a minimal number of administrative changes for the 2018-2019 School Year. Sean Tagliatela will serve as Dean of Students at PO-HI, and Scott Harmon, Director of Football Operations, will be supporting administration at the Senior High through the lunch periods as well as directing our football programs and recruiting from all sites within the district. We still need to hire an Athletic Director, and interviews are scheduled this week.

I am certainly looking forward to your return and to a great 2018-2019 School Year! Thank you for your service, perseverance, and dedication to the students of PCPS and to Oklahoma Public Education.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shelley Arrott".

Shelley Arrott
Superintendent of Schools