



BOARD highlights

A QUICK LOOK AT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS OF PUTNAM CITY SCHOOLS

April 17, 2017

Six Golden Apple Award-winners Named

The Putnam City Public Schools Foundation Monday night presented Golden Apple Awards to six people in recognition of their service and dedication to district students. Awards went to Pam Fielder, the Ralph Downs Elementary financial secretary; Allison Kitchens, a D.D. Kirkland teaching assistant; Lynn Kluever-Johnson, a parent and volunteer at Dennis Elementary School; Dr. Philip Palmer, a Coronado Heights Elementary volunteer; Elizabeth Hannenberg, an Overholser Elementary 2nd-grade teacher; and Rebekah Whittaker, a Wiley Post Elementary 4th-grade teacher.

The honors are given each year to employees and volunteers who promote excellence in education. Each honoree received a check for \$200.

Since 1992, the Foundation has honored more than 230 district employees and volunteers with Golden Apple awards.

Below are excerpts of comments read about each of this year's honorees, including quotes (in italics) from some of the people who nominated them.

Lynne Kluever-Johnson

Lynne Kluever-Johnson is a parent volunteer and PTO member at James L. Dennis Elementary School. She is married to Dr. Bradley Johnson, a Putnam City High School graduate, and their son, Callan, attends 1st-grade at Dennis. Originally from Iowa, Lynne taught special education for 13 years in Oklahoma City Public Schools and has worked as a registered nurse for the last 17 years.

"Lynne is the most giving and selfless person I have encountered. On top of all her other duties, including a grueling job in the health field, raising a 1st-grade son and volunteering within the school PTO, she goes above and beyond her call of duty. She thinks of the unspoken needs that often go unnoticed and fills them without question."

Pam Fielder

Pam Fielder is the financial secretary at Ralph Downs Elementary School. She has served in the Putnam City school district in this capacity for 26 years. Pam, her husband of 42 years, Greg, and their daughters Jessica and Brittany all attended Putnam City schools. She has always been proud to say she works for Putnam City Schools. When she isn't at Ralph Downs, Pam enjoys going to Lake Eufaula and visiting her two grandchildren in Tulsa.

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COMMENTS by Public and Board Members

Board members thanked the Putnam City Schools Foundation for its annual banquet, calling the event "amazing" and "delightful." They also thanked Golden Apple Award winners for the contributions to the district.

Jay Sherrill thanked the Foundation for all they do for district students and parents.

Cindy Gibbs said the district had fewer All-State athletes this year but more teams in the state tournaments, and thanked coaches and players for the work they did in becoming good teams. She also praised the deaf education program at Western Oaks Elementary.

Gail LoPresto the the production of "The Wiz" at Putnam City High School was fantastic. The complimented Hefner Middle School's production of "Little Mermaid," and asked other middle schools to let board members know about plays they are producing. She also asked for information about district grading policies and practices.

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Meeting Date: Monday, April 17, 5 p.m.
Location: Administration Building
Roll Call: All five members of the board were present: Becky Haliburton, president; Gail LoPresto, vice president; Cindy Gibbs; Jay Sherrill; and Bill Wetmore. Also present were Dr. Fred Rhodes, superintendent; and Sandy Lemaster, board clerk.
Next Meeting: Monday, May 1, 5 p.m.

Putnam City Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, or disability.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** by Dr. Fred Rhodes

▶ The Hefner Intermediate Band and Advanced Band performed at OSSAA District Contest on March 9th. Both bands earned superior ratings in concert and sight-reading. Both bands were also awarded the OSSAA Outstanding Achievement Award for their performances. The Hefner Intermediate Orchestra and the Hefner Advanced Orchestra also received superior ratings on stage and sight reading in March, and both groups received the Outstanding Achievement Award as well. And at district contest in early March, the Hefner Treble Choir and Advanced Choir earned superior ratings in concert and sight-reading and won the Outstanding Achievement Award.

▶ The Mayfield Middle School Band also performed at OSSAA District Contest and received a superior rating in sight-reading. In addition, Mayfield students taking part in OSSAA solo and ensemble band contest received seven superior ratings. On the orchestra side, more than 990 Mayfield students participated in the PC solo and ensemble in early April at Putnam City West High School. All four large ensembles received superior ratings while 35 solos/ensembles also received superior ratings.

▶ Capps Middle School students also took part in OSSAA solo and ensemble band contest and received 23 superior ratings.

▶ Western Oaks Middle School sent 10 students to take part in 12 events at OSSAA District Vocal solo and ensemble contest in late February. Combined, they returned with 25 superior medals. The following week, three choirs (7/8 Treble, 7/8 Mixed, 7/8 Tenor-Bass) competed in the OSSAA Choral Contest. All three choirs received the highest possible honor, the Outstanding Achievement Award, meaning each choir earned superior ratings in both prepared performance and sight-reading.)

▶ The Cooper Middle School 7th-grade and 8th-grade choir performed at OSSAA District Contest in late February. They earned superior ratings in both concert and sight-reading and thereby were awarded the OSSAA Outstanding Achievement Award. Cooper band and orchestra students earned a total of 38 superior ratings in their solo and ensemble contests.

▶ Putnam City High School and Putnam City North High School orchestras competed in the World Strides Heritage competition in St. Louis on April 8. The Putnam City High School full orchestra received a gold rating and second place in the full orchestra division. The Putnam City North Symphony Orchestra received a silver rating and second place in the string orchestra division, and the Putnam City High Symphony Orchestra received a gold rating and first place in the string orchestra division. Both schools represented Putnam City and the state of Oklahoma very well!

▶ Seven Putnam City students will be honored at the State Superintendent's Arts Awards of Excellence ceremonies at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 25, at the Scottish Rite Temple in Guthrie. The ceremonies each year showcase high school seniors who have excelled in fine arts disciplines and who have also been academically talented and active in their communities.

▶ The Duke Talent Identification Program 7th-grade Talent Search has identified six Hefner 7th-graders for state recognition and one for grand recognition. Students Carson Brauer, Brooke McIntosh, Jessica McManus, Will Moyano and Ava Smith will receive state recognition at Tulsa University on May 17. Darienne Ogle, who earned a reading score approximately equal to the 90th national percentile rank for college bound seniors taking the tests will receive grand recognition at Duke University in late May.

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Board Comments

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Becky Haliburton thanked Western Oaks Elementary teachers and deaf education students for their performance, saying it "touched her heart."

Superintendent's Report

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▶ The Putnam City North Marching Band recently surprised the Civic Center audience during the Oklahoma City Philharmonic's "Broadway's Best" performance. Just before intermission as the Philharmonic was beginning to play "Before the Parade Passes By" from "Hello Dolly!" the Putnam City North band entered the venue from the back and marched down the aisles to join the Philharmonic on stage. Members of the audience described the surprise performance as spectacular. Fifty-two current students and alumni who gave up three days of their Spring Break to participate in this event.

▶ Governor Mary Fallin has nominated the Putnam City North High School Marching Band to be an official representative of the State of Oklahoma in the 2018 National Independence Day Parade in Washington, D.C. The National Independence Day Parade is the Official Independence Day Parade of the United States, attended by hundreds of thousands of people.

▶ Congratulations to Executive Director of Elementary Education **Drew Eichelberger** for being named as the next Superintendent of Bethany Public Schools; Arbor Grove Elementary Principal **Brenda Davis** for being named a finalist for Oklahoma's National Distinguished Principal award; and Putnam City West's Carla Young for being featured as OKC Thunder's "Teacher of the Game" on April 12th.

Golden Apples Awarded to Six People (continued from page 1)

"Mrs. Fielder is a cheerful, motivational and reliable secretary. Our faculty cannot even imagine a day without seeing Pam's smiling face and warm, caring charm."

"Pam is the heart of our school! She always has a smile on her face and a sweet comment to say to you. Her kindness helps start your day off on such a positive note."

"Pam is extremely dedicated to her job at Ralph Downs and is always pleasant and accommodating to all requests made of her. She is always friendly and welcoming to both staff and students."

Allison Kitchens

Allison Kitchens is a pre-kindergarten teaching assistant at D.D. Kirkland Early Childhood Center. She and her husband Mike have two children, Daniel and Cassidy. In addition to working as a teaching assistant, Allison is also a special education parent advocate. Her professional mantra comes from Proverbs 22:6 – "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

"Allison values our school, our faculty, our students and our support staff. She is an integral part of our team. She is very deserving of this honor and award."

"Allison has been such a wonderful support system to the classroom and especially to my son."

"She is an exceptional lady with a giving heart. I am overwhelmed with her willingness to go the extra mile in an effort to make her classroom, and our school, the best it can be."



Putnam City's newest Golden Apple Award winners are (from left to right) Lynne Kluever-Johnson, Allison Kitchens, Elizabeth Hannenberg, Pam Fielder, and Dr. Phillip Palmer. Not pictured: Rebekah Whittaker

Elizabeth Hannenberg

Elizabeth Hannenberg teaches 2nd-grade at Overholser Elementary School. She earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Oklahoma State University in 2013 and is married to Axel Hannenberg. The couple has two dogs, Atlas and Chewy, and a cat named Sushi. "Mrs. Hannenberg makes learning fun for the students in her class. She is constantly researching new ways to engage students in class content. She also makes teaching fun for all teachers around her."

"The impact Mrs. Hannenberg has on education, especially at our Title I school, is a result of her ability to create an environment children enjoy being in. Regardless of a student's situation, they enter her classroom and are able to participate collectively and independently."

"Elizabeth slides into many roles throughout the course of the school day as she teaches all learning styles through strategies of Whole Brain Teaching. She comes to school with energy and positivity enough to spread around and share. Every school needs an Elizabeth Hannenberg!"

Dr. Philip Palmer

Dr. Philip Palmer volunteers his time at Coronado Heights Elementary School to perform the medical exams necessary for special education students to participate annually in Special Olympics and to participate in therapeutic horseback riding. He has given of his time in this way for the last 15 years. Dr. Palmer and his wife Shannon have been married for 25 years. They have four children – Megan, Rachel, Jonathan and Nicole. He is a faculty member at the Great Plains Family Medicine Residency program. He is on staff at both Integris Baptist Hospital and Alliance Health Deaconess. Dr. Palmer is currently the chief of family medicine at Deaconess.

"Dr. Palmer is compassionate and caring with our students. He takes time to visit with each of them, exhibits genuine interest in their well-being and is always patient with them. He makes our world a better place to live and his charitable efforts continue to make a difference in the lives of our students every year."

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Golden Apples Awarded to Six People

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Rebekah Whittaker

Rebekah Whittaker is a 4th-grade teacher at Wiley Post Elementary School. She began at Putnam City Schools as a long-term substitute.

"Mrs. Whittaker has changed the lives of so many students who, before entering her room, did not understand what love was. She is not only a life-changer, she is a world-changer. Our young ones have greater hope for their future because they have encountered the power of Rebekah Whittaker."

"She displays unconditional love from the moment the school day begins to the very last bell."

"To call Rebekah Whittaker selfless is an understatement. There is nothing that this educator would not do for her students, her teammates or her colleagues."

Assistant Principals Hired

The board on Monday night approved hiring three assistant principals to serve in district high schools during the 2017-2018 school year.

Isaac McCord, an assistant principal for the past two years at Mayfair Middle School, has been appointed as assistant principal at Putnam City West High School. Before becoming an assistant principal at Mayfield, McCord worked as an administrative intern at Western Oaks Elementary for two years, taught at Mayfield for five years and taught at Jefferson Middle School for one year. He holds a master's degree in educational leadership from Southern Nazarene University and a bachelor's degree in forensic science from the University of Central Oklahoma.

Lindsey Tennell, an assistant principal at Carl Albert High School, has also been hired to serve as an assistant principal at Putnam City West. Prior to her time at Carl Albert, Tennell spent three years as an administrative intern at Putnam City High School. She taught English for a year at Putnam City West, two years at Mustang High School and two years at Manfield High School in Mansfield, Texas. She holds a master's degree in educational leadership from Southern Nazarene University and a bachelor's degree in forensic science from the University of Central Oklahoma.

McCord and Tennell will replace Dr. Scott Goosen, who is retiring, and Jeff Brown, who next year will be principal at Kenneth Cooper Middle School.

Lisa Geniesse, an administrative intern at Putnam City High School this year, has been appointed to serve next year as an assistant principal at the school. Before coming to Putnam City High, Geniesse served as an instructional coach at Kenneth Cooper Middle School for two years. She also taught English for a year in Colorado Springs, eight years in Calhan, Colo., and one year in Miami-Yoder school district in Rush, Colo. She holds a master's degree in secondary education from the University of Great Falls in Great Falls, Mont., and a bachelor's degree in radio, television and film from Oklahoma State University.

Geniesse will replace Avery Gilliland, who will be principal at Putnam City West next year.

Digital Marquee Coming to Putnam City North

The board on Monday night approved two items that together will enable installation of a digital marquee at Putnam City North High School.

The digital marquee will be used to promote school events and activities. It will also be used as a communication tool to post updates and announcements for patrons and students.

The board approved hiring Dalmarc Signs to remove the existing changeable letter marquee from the brick structure between the school's Performing Arts Center and Rockwell Ave. The company will then install in the structure a full-color LED message display board.

The \$31,165 cost of the job will be covered by the school's activity funds. The cost of the job includes training staff to use the marquee.

The board also approved a contract with 5G's Construction Inc. for running conduit between the digital marquee and the high school. The conduit will be to bring electricity from the building to the sign.

The \$3,960 cost of the job will be covered by the school's activity funds.

The digital marquee will be installed sometime during the upcoming summer months.

Certified Staff Rehired

The board on Monday night voted unanimously to rehire certified employees for the 2017-2018 school year.

Board Highlights is not a comprehensive review of every item that takes place at board of education meetings. Its purpose is merely to provide information about items that seem of most interest to district employees and patrons. Complete board meeting minutes may be found at <http://www.putnamcityschools.org/BoardofEducation/BoardMeetingMinutes/tabid/565/Default.aspx>