



BOARD highlights

Aug. 6, 2018

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

Board Hears End-of-year Financial Report

The board on Monday night heard an end-of-year financial report from Putnam City's Chief Financial Officer Shannon Meeks.

Meeks said the district's local, county and state funds were budgeted to decrease by about \$400,000 for the just-completed school year, but at year's end showed a higher-than-budgeted gain of about \$750,000.

While the district suffered \$750,000 last year in state aid cuts, state motor vehicle funds came in \$433,000 higher than budgeted. It was the district's first increase in motor vehicle funds since 2014. In addition, property taxes brought the district \$219,000 more than budgeted, and district expenditures were lower than budgeted for areas such as fuel, virtual school, flexible benefits and substitute teachers.

Meeks told board members that the district's fund balance – the money left over at the end of the fiscal year after all obligations were paid – was about \$10.7 million, \$1.9 million less than the \$12.6 million that was budgeted.

What those numbers don't say is that \$3.1 million in reimbursements from the federal government for district expenditures last fiscal year were not received until after the July 1 beginning of the current fiscal year. While that officially leaves last year's fund balance at \$10.7 million, there's \$3.1 million more to the story, meaning the district is actually stronger financially than a year ago.



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT by Dr. Fred Rhodes

► Just a reminder that the district's 2018 convocation will be Monday, Aug. 13, at Putnam City North High School's Performing Arts Center. Doors will open at 7:30 a.m. and the program will start at 8:30 a.m. Convocation is our once-a-year time to get together to celebrate the beginning of the new school year! The program will have a flavor of inspiration and celebration with a variety of student performances.

Back-to-School Dates

- New Teacher Academy, Aug. 7, 8, 9 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday)
- Teachers report, Monday, Aug. 13
- Convocation, Monday, Aug. 13
- First day of classes, Thursday, Aug. 16



COMMENTS by Public and Board Members

Board members welcomed employees back and said they are looking forward to the school year.

Cindy Gibbs thanked Putnam City West's JROTC for their board meeting presentation and their work over the last several years, saying their presence has been a blessing to the district.

Gail LoPresto thanked employees who have worked to get schools ready to host classes. She said she attended the Putnam City West JROTC banquet last year and was impressed with the impact the program has had on students. She said she wished all three high schools had a JROTC program. She also thanked new employees and said she was glad they had chosen Putnam City as a place to work.

Becky Gooch said that as employees get ready to start a new school year they are in the thoughts and prayers of board members.

(continued on page 2)

Meeting Date: Monday, Aug. 6, 5 p.m.
 Location: Administration Building
 Roll Call: All five members of the board were present: Becky Gooch, 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, Aug. 20, 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.

Night Custodial Program Renewed

The board on Monday night approved renewal of a contract with Oklahoma Building Services to provide night custodial services during the 2018-2019 school year at Hilldale Elementary, Overholser Elementary, Windsor Hills Elementary, Western Oaks Elementary, Will Rogers Elementary, Western Oaks Middle School and Mayfield Middle School.

Night custodians handle tasks such as cleaning and disinfecting classrooms, rest rooms and hallways.

The contract also calls for the company to provide custodial services at Putnam City Stadium by cleaning up after 15 games.

The \$398,206 cost of the contract will be covered by the district's General Fund.

Schedules Approved for Alternative Programs

The board on Monday night approved hours for two alternative education programs for the 2018-2019 school year.

The SOAR program will operate Monday through Friday with a first session that runs from 7:35 to 11:05 a.m. and a second session that runs from 11:05 a.m. to 2:35 p.m. The sessions are available for students to make up absences and work on course requirements. The hours also give students an opportunity to take care of outside obligations and work additional hours. Day care will be provided for parenting teens in both sessions.

The board also approved hours for the evening alternative education program for the 2018-2019 school year. Hours for the program will be Monday through Thursday from 3 to 7:15 p.m. Friday hours, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., are ideal for students catching up on attendance and coursework. Friday afternoons also provide an opportunity for faculty meetings, parent/teacher conferences and collaboration time for the evening staff.

Alternative program hours must each year be submitted to the Oklahoma State Department of Education for approval.

Board Approves Grading Policy Change

The board on Monday night approved three changes to district policy ED, which is the district's policy on grading, promotion, retention and graduation.

The first change to the policy maintain the existing grade scale for student work that has been completed or attempted, but now also notes that a zero can be given for work that is not turned in at all.

The second change to policy language says a zero can be recorded as the final grade for an assignment after notification has been made to the parent or guardian and that points for the assignment and length of time to complete and/or turn in the assignment will be at teacher discretion. The policy formerly required that students have five instructional days after parent notification to complete assignments or tests.

The third language change in the policy encourages parents to keep track of their students' grades by checking the Parent Portal available through the district website.

An amendment to the motion by Bill Wetmore proposed changing the grade scale to make scores of 0 to 59 an F. The amendment was defeated with Jay Sherrill, Gail LoPresto and Becky Gooch voting against it.

Board Comments

(continued from page 1)

She said employees serve not only students, but patrons too. She said the district needs to be customer service oriented because people get to choose which school district they put their children in. She thanked everyone who has a role in putting on the New Teacher Academy, and said board members often hear that the event is well-planned and effective.

Change Order Gets Board OK

Putnam City's board of education on Monday night approved a change order in the Putnam City West High School stadium construction job in order to catch and direct water running off neighborhood property east of the stadium.

A detention pond near the school's baseball field adequately handles all rainwater. However, the large amount of runoff water from the east creates gullies and erodes the soil away from the edge of Davis Street. The change order will furnish additional storm sewer piping and structures to take water coming from the neighborhood to the detention pond.

The cost of the job will be covered by bond funds approved in August 2014.

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>

Administrative Changes Announced for Schools

Superintendent Dr. Fred Rhodes announced administrative changes at district schools for the 2018-2019 school year.

Elementary Level Changes

- **Jennifer Meacham**, an assistant principal who split her time between Apollo Elementary and Lark Park Elementary last year, will be an assistant principal at Wiley Post Elementary this year.
- **Fallan Wolff**, an assistant principal at Central Elementary last year, will serve as an assistant principal at Northridge Elementary this year.
- **Deana Ellis**, an administrative intern splitting time between Ralph Downs Elementary and Coronado Heights Elementary last year, will be at Hilldale Elementary this year.
- **Jana Bower**, an administrative intern splitting time between Overholser Elementary and Will Rogers Elementary last year, will split time between Windsor Hills Elementary and Apollo Elementary this year.
- **Lisa Derryberry**, an administrative intern at Western Oaks Elementary last year, will serve at Overholser Elementary this school year.
- **Whitney Saladin**, an administrative intern at Wiley Post Elementary last year, will be at Western Oaks Elementary this school year.
- **Kristen Parker**, an administrative intern at Northridge Elementary last year, will be at Central Elementary this school year.
- **Jen Evans**, a teacher at Tulakes Elementary last year, will serve as an administrative intern at Arbor Grove Elementary this year.
- **Kaylee Kuykendall**, an instructional coach at James L. Dennis Elementary last year, will serve as an administrative intern at Dennis Elementary this year.
- **Kimberly Fletcher**, a teacher in Yukon Public Schools last year, will serve as an administrative intern at Coronado Heights Elementary and Will Rogers Elementary this year.
- **Amanda Neely**, a teacher in Mustang Public Schools last year, will serve as an administrative intern at Ralph Downs Elementary and Lake Park Elementary this year.

Secondary Level Changes

- **Carole Buhr**, an associate principal at Permian High School in Permian, Texas, last year, is the new principal at Putnam City North High School.
- **Rustin Donaldson**, the junior high and high school principal, athletic director and head high school football coach with Sharon-Mutual Public Schools in Mutual, Okla., last year, will serve this year as an assistant principal at Capps Middle School.
- **Stacy Calton**, an assistant principal who managed the district's SOAR program last year, will be an assistant principal at Hefner Middle School this year.
- **Barbara Rose**, an administrative intern at Putnam City North last year, will be an assistant principal at Putnam City West this year.
- **Jana Johnston**, an administrative intern at Hefner Middle School last year, will be an assistant principal at Hefner this year.
- **Holly Fike**, an administrative intern who split her time between Western Oaks Middle School and Cooper Middle School, will be at Western Oaks Middle School full-time this year.
- **Jeremy Porter**, a teacher at Rollingwood Elementary last year, will be an administrative intern at Putnam City North this year.
- **Abbie Nidiffer**, an instructional coach at Cooper Middle School last year, will be an administrative intern at Putnam City High this year.
- **Shane Austin**, a teacher at Cooper Middle School last year, will be an administrative intern at Putnam City West this year.
- **Edward Smith**, a teacher at Putnam City North last year, will be an administrative intern at Putnam City Academy this year.
- **Mandy Deason**, a teacher at Mayfield Middle School last year, will be an administrative intern at Cooper Middle School this year.