



# BOARD highlights

Aug. 7, 2017

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

## Board Approves Changes in Policies

The board on Monday night approved a new policy and changes in three other policies. The new and revised policies:

- Policy BU on Information Security, a new policy that identifies protected data such as biometric, banking, medical and W2 information and how the district will make sure it is secure.
- Board Policy EG on Student Discipline, Suspension and Due Process, a revised policy that clarifies educational plans for students who are suspended for more than five days.
- Policy BE on Security, a revised policy that clarifies that surveillance videos used for disciplinary action for a student are educational records and therefore protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) a federal law that safeguards the privacy of student education records.
- Policy EH on Student Conduct, a revised policy that adds stun guns and pepper spray to the list of weapons or dangerous instruments students may not possess at school or school events.

Consideration of a change to Policy EI on the Student Dress Code was tabled.



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

This year, Putnam City Schools begins its 103rd year. The first day of class, when we launch this new school year, is Thursday, Aug. 17 – only 10 days away. We celebrate a rich heritage and our future looks even brighter. With each school year, the beginning always brings great excitement and a fresh start for student and teacher alike.

For students, the beginning of each new school year is accompanied the feeling of growing up, of having marked a new rite of passage.

For teachers, it is a new start as classrooms are full of eager students. Teachers have an incredible influence on students that can have a lifelong impact on their futures, something that cannot be measured by a test.

This school year we will see the implementation of digital content in some subjects at our five middle schools as we move forward with our plan to become a one-to-one, all-digital school district with a customized curriculum aligned to new state standards.

Also in this new school year we will celebrate our district teacher of the year, Neeli Boyd, being honored as one of 12 finalists for Oklahoma teacher of the year

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### COMMENTS by Public and Board Members

Patron Jamie Pritchett expressed concerns about the elimination of a bus stop in her neighborhood.

Board members thanked the members of the Air Force JROTC at Putnam City High School for describing how they benefit from the program. They said the students represent the district well and are a source of pride for the district. Board members also greeted new administrators and welcomed principals back.

Jay Sherrill said he looks forward to the new school year.

Cindy Gibbs congratulated Putnam City West offensive lineman Cooper Smith for ranking No. 25 on the *Oklahoman's* Super 30 list of recruits for the 2018 class.

Gail LoPresto attended a recent Putnam City West band event and said she was impressed to see 140 band members. She also asked that a future meeting include a report on grading practices. *(continued on page 2)*

Meeting Date:	Monday, Aug. 7, 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 Samantha Dawes, board clerk.
Next Meeting:	Monday, Aug. 21, 5 p.m.

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## Superintendent's Report (continued from page 1)

We will see a new state-of-the-art scoreboard installed at Putnam City Stadium. We will witness the construction of additional stadiums at Putnam City West and Putnam City North and see the renovation of the original gymnasium at Putnam City High School.

Patrons this year will be presented with a bond election on Tuesday, Oct. 10. Up for consideration will be the 2017 Momentum Bond Proposal, a \$22 million bond that **will not raise taxes** but will keep the momentum going on district initiatives by providing:

- Technology for Learning
- Technology for Health and Safety
- Completion of Capps Middle School
- New School Buses

And finally, the public is invited to the 2017 convocation in the Putnam City North High School Performing Arts Center on Monday, Aug. 14th. Doors will open at 7:30 a.m. with the formal program starting at 8:30 a.m. This year's convocation theme is "Giving Honor to Whom Honor is Due: Our Teachers."

Former teachers of some of our current educators will be present to demonstrate the impact that teachers have on their students. Convocation will also feature an address from our 2017 district teacher of the year, Neeli Boyd, and our Milken Educator Award-winning teacher, Amanda Raupe. Student performing arts groups will also be showcased throughout the morning's program. Please join us on Aug. 14th as we kick off the new year!

## PLC Coaching Approved at Three Schools

The board on Monday night approved a contract for the 2017-2018 school year for educators at Apollo Elementary, Arbor Grove Elementary and Windsor Hills Elementary to receive specialized coaching.

The five days of training will provide teachers with specific coaching in data analysis and professional learning community strategies designed to identify best practices for instruction and improve instructional decisions, interventions and overall student achievement.

The three schools taking part in coaching sessions participated in similar training last year. Early test results show an increase of approximately 10 percent of students passing the 3rd-grade reading test for each school. This year's training builds upon the foundational strategies learned during last year's coaching sessions. Participants will collaborate with peers to examine general results, specific patterns and anomalies in current assessment data; identify specific strengths and weaknesses in instructional strategies based on assessment results; collaborate with grade level peers to share best practice interventions for specific student groups who have not been successful; continue unpacking individual standards within the Oklahoma Academic Standards to ensure specific skills are addressed during instruction

The contract is with Solution Tree, an Indiana-based company that provides educational strategies and tools to improve student and staff performance. The \$32,500 cost of the contract will be covered by federal funds.

Board members discussed the value of the training and the best and most cost-effective way for training to be delivered to district teachers.

## Board Comments

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Becky Haliburton thanked administrators for their hard work and dedication.

## Social Studies Training Gets OK

The board on Monday night approved an agreement for document-based question (DBQ) training for middle school and high school social studies teachers.

The DBQ Project provides authentic learning tasks in which students use the process of close analysis, interrogation of documents and argument writing. In each project, students analyze three to 12 historic documents in order to formulate an evidence-based response to an essential question.

Beginning next year, each unit for middle school and high school grade geography and history classes will include at least one document-based writing task. The training will provide teachers with the strategies and structure necessary for successful implementation of the DBQ method.

The \$11,466 contract for three days of training will be covered by federal funds.

*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>