



BOARD highlights

Feb. 5, 2018

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

2018 Board Meeting Calendar Revised

The board on Monday night approved two changes to the 2018 board meeting calendar to align with recent changes the 2018-2019 district calendar observed by district students and employees.

The board voted to move its Monday, Nov. 19, 2018, meeting to Monday, Nov. 26. The board also voted to move its Monday, Dec. 3, 2018, meeting to Monday, Dec. 10.

Moving the Nov. 19 board meeting to one week later fixes an issue that arose because of changes in the district calendar. School will not be in session on Monday, Nov. 19 – or the four days that follow it. Board action at the last board meeting changed the district’s Thanksgiving break in 2018 to the entire week of the Thanksgiving holiday – Monday, Nov. 19, through Friday, Nov. 23.

Moving the Dec. 3 meeting to Dec. 10 simply puts more space between the last board meeting in November and the board meeting in December.



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT by Dr. Fred Rhodes

► Congratulations to Maylyn Cifuentes, a 5th-grader at Hilldale Elementary School, who has been selected as the winner of the Colonial Day Literature Contest! Her essay was selected from a group of essays submitted by students from 10 schools that are attending Colonial Day activities at the Capitol on Feb. 9. She will receive a \$100 cash prize and will get to read her essay from the floor of the House of Representatives Friday in front of 350 students and their school sponsors.

► MaKayla Jackson of Putnam City High School was one of five Oklahoma high school softball stars named in late January as winner of the Michele Smith Outstanding Student Athlete Award. The award is presented annually to the state’s top high school softball players based on athletic and scholastic achievement. Ms. Jackson this year was also named to All-State, All-District, All-Region and All-Conference teams and was named most valuable player on Putnam City’s team.

► We want to remind everyone that the Governor’s Arts Award ceremony will be at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at the fourth floor of the rotunda at the Oklahoma State Capitol. We are very proud that Putnam City Schools is a premier district in the state for the numerous arts opportunities given to our students. As the governor honors our district, it is a time to celebrate.

(continued on page 2)



COMMENTS by Public and Board Members

Capps Middle School parent Troy Eichor asked board members to improve communication with parents.

Bill Wetmore said the Kenneth Cooper Middle School drumline did a terrific job.

Cindy Gibbs thanked Cooper’s drumline for performing at the meeting and commended all their hard work. She said she will be anxious to see them at Putnam City High School. She also said her heart goes out to Putnam City High with the passing of Coach Wright. She said he was a nice man with a keen interest in helping his students succeed.

Gail LoPresto agreed with Gibbs about the passing of Coach Wright. She thanked Cooper Middle School’s band director, A.J. Stegall. She thanked the administrators for working with all the students that have had the flu. She also said that she recently went to a basketball tournament in Edmond where Cooper Middle School played and said she was proud to see them play so well.

(continued on page 2)

Meeting Date: Monday, Feb. 5, 5 p.m.
Location: Administration Building
Roll Call: Four members of the board were present: Becky Haliburton, president; Gail LoPresto, vice president; Cindy Gibbs; and Bill Wetmore. Also present were Dr. Fred Rhodes, superintendent; and Samantha Dawes, deputy board clerk.
Next Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 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.

Superintendent's Report (continued from page 1)

▶ We are very proud that our students receive numerous scholarships to further their education open doors to incredible opportunities. With more than \$9 million in scholarships received by district seniors last year, there are too many scholarships to report about in this space. Occasionally one comes across as notable and certainly worthy of sharing. Tiffany Swallow, a fourth-year Air Force Junior ROTC (AFJROTC) cadet at Putnam City High School, has received a scholarship to attend one of six partnering universities participating in a private pilot license training program over the summer of 2018. Swallow is one of just 120 AFJROTC cadets around the world, and two in Oklahoma, to receive the scholarship from Headquarters Air Force JROTC, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala. More than 700 cadets applied for one of the 120 scholarships. The scholarship is valued at approximately \$20,000. The mission of Air Force JROTC is to develop citizens of character dedicated to serving their nation and community, while instilling values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility and sense of accomplishment.

▶ Stay tuned for exciting athletic playoffs, concerts and theatrical productions in the coming weeks as the talents of our students will be showcased. Visit websites of local schools for details.

Board Approves Grading Policy Change

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

The change is addition of language that says beginning with the class of 2020 (current sophomores), concurrent courses will be weighted using a 4.5 scale, and that beginning with the class of 2022 (incoming freshmen), Advanced Placement (AP) and honors classes will be weighted using a 4.5 scale with the notation that passing the corresponding AP exam (a score of 3, 4 or 5) will add an additional .5 weight to the AP course (5.0 scale).

Students in the class of 2020 and 2021 will continue with the current 5.0 weighting scale as they already have courses transcribed under this system. They will be able to take concurrent courses receiving the .5 weight during their 11th- and 12th-grade years.

OCCC Students to Assist with Speech Language Pathology Services

The board on Monday night approved an agreement with Oklahoma City Community College that will allow its Speech Language Pathology Assistant students to gain clinical experience by working in district schools under the guidance of a Putnam City Schools Speech Language Pathologist.

OCCC will designate one or more of its instructors or faculty members to instruct and provide program supervision to their students during their time in district schools. Speech Language Pathology Assistant students are required by the agreement to safeguard the protected health information of district students.

There is no cost to the district as a result of the contract.

Board Comments (continued from page 1)

Becky Haliburton said her heart is heavy regarding the loss felt by district students, families and employees at the passing of two district employees in the past few weeks. Lake Park Elementary 5th-grade teacher Donna McMullen lost her long battle with cancer in mid-January. Haliburton said McMullen was widely known as a wonderful teacher and co-worker. She was a National Board Certified teacher and a former district teacher of the year. Haliburton said that McMullen had a heart for students and worked tirelessly to give them what they needed to be successful. Haliburton also noted that Putnam City High School coach Gary Wright passed away in late January. She said Wright coached basketball, cross country, and track in the district for 16 years. Coach Wright was the head assistant for Hall-of-Fame basketball coach A.D. Burtschi, helping lead the boys basketball team to two state titles. Coach Wright's 2017 Putnam City High 4 x 800 boys relay team also won a state championship, she said. Both McMullen and Wright were great role models and leaders for students, passionate about their jobs, loved their schools and changed many lives, Haliburton said.

In Memory

The staff of Putnam City Schools laments the recent passing of these valued friends and colleagues:

- Donna McMullen, who taught at Lake Park Elementary for 21 years and was named the district's teacher of the year in 2006.
- Gary Wright, who coached basketball, cross country and track and field for more than 16 years at Putnam City High School.

Board Approves Suicide Prevention Training

The board on Monday night approved training in suicide prevention strategies for members of the district's Indian Education Department and members of its parent committee.

The training will offer best practices for suicide prevention with urban American Indian youth. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Native American youth are two times more likely to attempt suicide as a high-schooler than non-Hispanic Caucasian youth.

The training will take place from 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, Feb. 13, at the district's administration building.

Offering the training will be Cortney Yarholar, MSW, a program manager at the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Tribal Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center hosted at the Indian Country Child Trauma Center. Yarholar, an enrolled member of the Sac & Fox Nation of Oklahoma, has worked with several national technical assistance centers offering a variety of culturally driven community-based initiatives for issues such as suicide prevention and children's mental health.

Board OKs Extended School Year

The board on Monday night approved the time, date and locations for extended school year for students whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) requires that service.

Putnam City staff will provide services from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays from June 4 through June 28. Services will be provided at both Putnam City West High School and Lake Park Elementary School.

The cost of the services will be covered by federal funds.

Board Approves Network Agreement

The board on Monday night approved an agreement with Presidio for maintenance of critical networking equipment in the district.

The agreement, to take effect July 1, 2018, covers immediate replacement or repair of switches, routers and other network equipment that is necessary to provide reliable network access.

The \$2,650.90 cost of the agreement will be covered by the district's General Fund.

Board Rehires Superintendent

The board on Monday night approved reemployment of Dr. Fred Rhodes as superintendent of Putnam City Schools for the 2018-2019 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>