



# BOARD highlights

Jan. 8, 2018

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

## Board Approves Feeder School Pattern Changes

Putnam City's board of education on Monday night voted to change the attendance patterns for students in two areas of the district.

### Middle School for Harvest Hills Elementary Students

The board voted unanimously to change the middle school designation for Harvest Hills Elementary students, but to phase in that change over a two-year period.

Currently, students living in the Harvest Hills attendance area have a choice to attend middle school at either Hefner Middle School or Cooper Middle School. The district provides student transportation to both schools by running four school buses into the same neighborhoods, two to take students to Hefner and two to take students to Cooper. Regardless of which of the two middle schools Harvest Hills students attend, Putnam City North is their designated high school.

The phase-in period allows Harvest Hills area students now at Cooper to receive district transportation while they complete their middle school education at Cooper. Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, all Harvest Hills Elementary School students will attend Hefner Middle School unless they transfer to Cooper or another middle school. At that point district transportation for Harvest Hill area students to middle school will be provided only to Hefner.

By designating Hefner as the middle school for Harvest Hills students, the district is creating a straightforward path on which Harvest Hill students will go together from elementary school to middle school to high school.

In addition, the change allows for more efficient use of school buses. The district can transport all Harvest Hills students to Hefner in three buses rather than the four it takes to transport students to both Hefner and Cooper, thereby freeing a bus and driver for use elsewhere in the district.

### High School for Kirkland-area Students

The board also voted to change the designated high school for Kirkland-area students.

Currently, students living in the Kirkland area go to either Coronado Heights or Rollingwood Elementary for grades 3-5, followed by attendance at Capps Middle School and Putnam City North High School. Students who live in the Kirkland attendance area receive bus transportation to Putnam City North. All of their Coronado Heights Elementary and Rollingwood Elementary classmates attend Capps Middle School and go on to Putnam City High School.

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## COMMENTS by Public and Board Members

Gail LoPresto said students and drama teacher Austin Windover did a great job in the Capps Middle School production of *Hairspray Jr.* before Christmas. She said the band and choir performance at Mayfield Middle School was excellent, and noted the high number of students in the band. She said the Arbor Grove Elementary orchestra concert was very impressive. She mentioned that work on hallways at Tulakes Elementary has positively changed the feel of the building. She thanked employees who maintained district buildings through the cold holiday season, and she also thanked the people and companies who recently sponsored discount cards to three community businesses that were given to all employees in Putnam City and many other school districts in central Oklahoma.

Becky Haliburton said Katie Kinder, a teacher at Cooper Middle School, represented the district well in a video for

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Meeting Date: Monday, Jan. 8, 5 p.m.  
Location: Administration Building  
Roll Call: Four members of the board were present: Becky Haliburton, president; Gail LoPresto, vice president; Jay Sherrill and Bill Wetmore. Also present were Dr. Fred Rhodes, superintendent; and Samantha Dawes, deputy board clerk.  
Next Meeting: Monday, Jan. 22, 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

▶ Congratulations are in order to nine Putnam City students who auditioned and made the OkMEA All-State Orchestra. More than 600 music students from across Oklahoma auditioned for a spot in the prestigious group that will perform in concert Jan. 20 at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center. A special congratulations to Tanner Thomas for being chosen as one of the principal players in the bass section, which means he received the first overall ranking in the state of Oklahoma.

▶ Andrea Selfridge, a 5th-grade teacher at Hilldale Elementary, has been named the Oklahoma City Council and Downtown Rotary Teacher of the Month. Andrea will be recognized Tuesday, Jan. 16, at the City of Oklahoma City Council Meeting and at the Downtown Rotary luncheon. We are very proud of Andrea for being recognized as an outstanding professional educator by serving the students at Hilldale.

▶ The Oklahoma State Department of Education has awarded Putnam City Schools Transportation employee Gloria Rangel with the 2017-2018 Oklahoma Special Needs Attendant of the Year. Gloria is a special needs bus monitor and is currently in her 14th year as a member of the district's transportation department. She was selected for her exceptional ability to provide care to students, train newly hired staff, serve the department with excellence and bring a smile to everyone she meets. Gloria is also a 2008 recipient of the Putnam City Golden Apple Award.

▶ Congratulations to Putnam City West student Caleb Frazier, who has been chosen to represent Putnam City West and Putnam City Schools by serving as a member of State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister's Student Advisory Group. The group will meet twice this semester and be hosted at the Blue Room of the State Capital and at the Oklahoma History Center. Caleb will meet state legislators and also be able to provide invaluable student insight on issues related to public education.

▶ The Reno Campus of Francis Tuttle Career Tech adopted Apollo Elementary for a holiday community service project in December. They secured a \$25,000 grant from Lowe's which provided holiday gifts to students. Each of the school's 484 students received a toy as well as winter coat and other clothing items. Students were able to have a class photo taken with Santa who also gave each student a candy cane. Students were understandably very excited and grateful that Santa came early at school!

▶ Katie Kinder and Rhiannon Murray of Cooper Middle School have each been awarded a \$1,000 grant from Walmart. The funds will be used for needed classroom supplies, technology and equipment. We congratulate Katie and Rhiannon for seeking community resources to better serve their students. We also appreciate the efforts of Walmart and their commitment to our community. About the grants, a representative from Walmart stated, "We strongly believe in giving back and are proud to support organizations that improve communities where our customers and associates live and work."

▶ Putnam City West history teacher and football and track coach Ronnie Osborne is featured in an online publication, *Room2Learn*. Out of more than 1,200 submissions, his is one of only five in the nation to be selected. The article, entitled "Coach Osborne's Dual Subject Classroom," can be found at <https://medium.com/room2learn/3-lessons-to-hackyourclassroom-6fe96d022223>

▶ Congratulations to Putnam City Board of Education president Becky Haliburton on winning another 5-year term on the board. She ran for the board seat unopposed.

**Board Comments**  
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lockncharge, a company that makes storage and charging cabinets for mobile devices such as iPads. She also welcomed to the meeting Jessica Sherrill, an attorney for the Oklahoma State School Board Association and the wife of school board member Jay Sherrill.

**Wireless Access Points to be Replaced**

The board on Monday night approved the lowest, bid from RFIP Inc. to replace wireless access points in every district classroom and instructional area to the latest wireless technology. The agreement also includes necessary management software and configuration.

The work, if approved by the e-rate program within the anticipated timeline, is expected to be completed in the latter part of May. It will ensure the best wireless connection possible for the all devices on the district's wireless network. It's also an important step in preparing for increased availability and use of mobile devices in district elementary schools next year.

The project is contingent on receiving e-rate approval and funding. The full cost of the project is more than \$800,000. With e-rate funding, the district anticipates the cost will not exceed \$180,000, including access points for non-instructional areas of the district. The cost will be covered through the district's General Fund dedicated to network improvements.

*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>

## Feeder School Pattern Changes (continued from page 1)

The board vote means that beginning next year, Putnam City High will be the high school Kirkland-area students attend. School bus service will be available from the Kirkland area to Putnam City High. Kirkland area parents who want their children to attend Putnam City North will have transfers to the high school granted, but there will not be school bus service.

By designating Putnam City High as the high school for Kirkland-area students, the district enables Kirkland area students to remain with the same peer group throughout their years in Putnam City schools.

And as is the case with the decision about Harvest Hills students, the change allows for more efficient use of the district's school bus fleet. Putnam City North is far enough away from the Kirkland area (4 to 9 miles, depending on the exact location) that the three buses that transport students to Putnam City North cannot now get back in time to serve elementary students. Putnam City High is only 2.5 to 4 miles from the Kirkland area.

Superintendent Dr. Fred Rhodes said that the district cannot afford to phase in the change because it would require additional buses and drivers at a cost of about \$308,000 over three years.

Board Member Jay Sherrill suggested that district administrators and board members needed to talk about a long-term plan for Kirkland.

## Board OKs Grant Preparation, Submission

The board on Monday night approved a contract with Barlow Education Management Services to assist in the preparation and submission of a "Striving Readers" grant to the Oklahoma State Department of Education on behalf of the district.

The purpose of the Oklahoma Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy grant is to support districts in creating and implementing comprehensive literacy programs to advance literacy skills of Oklahoma students from birth through grade 12. The grant requires the literacy initiative to focus on a feeder pattern that includes elementary schools, a single middle school and a single high school. In the case of the district, those schools are Windsor Hills Elementary, Apollo Elementary, Hilldale Elementary, Mayfield Middle School and Putnam City West High School.

The grant, if awarded, could bring Putnam City Schools \$425,000 per year for three years.

The agreement calls for an initial payment of \$4,000 to Barlow from federal funds for their assistance in writing the grant. If the grant is awarded to the district, an additional \$19,000 will be paid through grant funds.

## Board Approves Policy Changes

The board on Monday night approved changes to two district policies.

By a 3-1 vote, Bill Wetmore dissenting, Policy ED was changed to include a great deal of language from district regulation ED-R1. The policy includes language regarding grading symbols, criteria for averaging grades, course weighting, test exemptions, frequency of marking, changing a final grade and more. Moving the language out of regulation and into policy means that board members in the future will, if they wish, be able to propose and vote on changes to the grading system.

The change to Policy BF on district transportation services clarifies criteria used to determine if students are eligible for district transportation privileges.

## Board Contracts for Speech Services

The board on Monday night approved a contract with Shana Covalt to provide speech language pathology services for eligible students during the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year.

The contract will help meet the requirements for evaluating and serving students who qualify for speech language pathology services.

The cost of the services, not to exceed \$15,000, will be covered through federal funds.

## Board Approves Communications Technology for 2018-2019

The board on Monday night approved submission of paperwork that will allow the district to apply for e-rate reimbursement and enter in contracts for communications technology for the 2018-2019 school year.

E-rate is the discount that schools may receive for the acquisition of telecommunication services as a result of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The level of discount, between 20 and 90 percent, is based upon the district's level of eligibility in the federal free and reduced-price lunch program.

The district will apply for e-rate reimbursement for:

- Wide Area Network connectivity through Cox Communications at a cost of \$276,276.
- Internet services through OneNet at a cost of 7710/month for a 4GB connection.
- Local and long distance calling through Cox Communications. Pricing is on a cost-per-minute basis.

## Board OKs Revised Contract for Job Postings, Applications

The board on Monday night approved a renegotiated agreement with Netchemia for district to use of Netchemia's TalentEd Recruit and Hire software for online job posting and applications.

The software enables direct job applications online through an automated workflow that encompasses recruiting, screening, interviewing and hiring. The program enables the district to collect resumes, cover letters, applications, references, transcripts and other documents online. Principals and department directors can easily log onto the platform to search for qualified applicants.

For candidates, the program allows submission or updating of information to job opportunities in the district. Candidates can also be able to track their application status and check interview schedules 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The district has used the software for several years. However, because the district does not use some components, the agreement was renegotiated and resulted in an 18 percent savings. The \$6,300 cost of the program is paid for through the district's General Fund.

## Board Approves Oral Health Education

The board on Monday night approved an agreement with the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry Dental Hygiene Program that will allow Dental Hygiene students from the university to teach dental hygiene and oral health to students at Kirkland Elementary School.

Dental Hygiene students will not provide services or treatment to Kirkland students, instead focusing solely on educating young students about oral health and self-care.

The effort, to take place this spring, will be provided at no financial cost to the school or district.