



# BOARD highlights

July 9, 2018

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

## Salary Increases Approved by Legislature Put In Place

Increases in compensation approved by state legislators earlier this year are in effect and will show up on employees' initial paychecks of the current contract year, Superintendent Dr. Fred Rhodes told Putnam City board members Monday night.

In March Oklahoma lawmakers approved a bill that increased teacher pay by an average of about \$6,100 a year. In Putnam City, that means district teachers will see an increase in total compensation from \$5,001 to \$8,395, depending on a teacher's years of experience and education levels. (New salary schedules for teachers may be seen here. Impact of legislation on salaries may be seen here.) The increase in compensation for district teachers averages 13.70 percent. The first paycheck in the current contract year for teachers will be in September.

Further salary adjustments are subject to negotiation between the district and the Putnam City Association of Classroom Teachers.

Language in legislation also specified a \$1,250 increase in annual compensation for support employees. That figure equates to a raise of \$1.21 an hour. Support employees working at least six hours a day will see increases in total compensation ranging from \$1,285 to \$2,528, depending on the number of hours worked annually. The increase in compensation for support employees averages 9.02 percent.

Legislation also required that all certified employees (except the superintendent) receive an increase in pay, including principals, assistant principals and district administrators. The increase in total compensation for principals and assistant principals averages 10.48 percent. The increase in total compensation for district administrators averages 6.76 percent.

The total cost to the district of increases in compensation – to be covered by state funds – is \$12.3 million. *(continued on page 2)*

### COMMENTS by Public and Board Members

Cindy Gibbs expressed sympathy to the family of Cathy Keller, who was a math teacher at Putnam City North High School and at Francis Tuttle Technology Center for 28 years. Keller passed away on July 3. Gibbs said it was a huge loss for the district, adding that Keller greatly impacted thousands of students through the years.

Becky Gooch asked that schools keep their website calendars of events up-to-date so that board members and the public can make plans.

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

Putnam City was one of 18 Oklahoma school districts selected to receive a "Champions of Excellence" grant focused on innovative ideas to ensure students have access to a well-rounded education. The district's \$226,852 grant application focused on furthering teaching and learning in the areas of elementary science, world languages and fine arts. The Champions of Excellence grants were awarded by the Oklahoma State Department of Education with funding made available to Oklahoma through Title IV, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act. *(continued on page 2)*

Meeting Date: Monday, July 9, 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, July 23, 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.*

## Elementary Science Initiative Approved

The board on Monday night approved an agreement with the K20 Center at the University of Oklahoma to serve as the district's partner in an elementary science initiative.

K20 will provide professional development in elementary science teaching and learning focused on the 3-dimensional (3D) learning framework of the Oklahoma Academic Standards for Science. The overarching objectives of the initiative are to:

- 1) Increase K-2 and STEM teacher effectiveness in 3D science training and learning;
- 2) Increase the amount of time students are engaged in 3D science learning; and
- 3) Develop building leadership capacity within individual schools through collaborative communication and the creation of a shared vision for 3D science teaching and learning.

Achieving the objectives will begin with a yearlong professional development program hosted by the K20 Center. Teachers involved in the initiative will meet 10 times between July 2018 and June 2019.

The \$41,853 cost of the agreement will be covered by the Champions of Excellence grant.

## New Administrators to be Trained in iObservation

The board on Monday night approved an agreement with Learning Sciences International for 11 new administrators to take three days of training in late July on observing and evaluating teachers in the iObservation protocol.

iObservation is an instructional and leadership improvement system administrators use to collect, manage and report data from classroom walkthroughs, teacher evaluations and teacher observations. Administrators are required to complete iObservation training in order to observe and evaluate teachers as part of their administrative duties.

The \$4,389 cost of the agreement will be covered by the district's General Fund.

## Teachers, Administrators Trained to Evaluate Non-instructional Personnel

The board on Monday night approved an agreement with Learning Sciences International for up to 73 teachers and 27 administrators to undergo training in evaluation of non-instructional support personnel.

The category of non-instructional support personnel includes curriculum coordinators, school nurses, school psychologists, speech pathologists, instructional coaches and others. The training is necessary to support the transition to a new framework for evaluation that is more focused on the actual work people do on a daily basis than did the former framework.

The \$5,500 cost of the agreement will be covered by the district's General Fund.

## Superintendent's Report

(continued from page 1)

► Fifty-six Putnam City students have been named Oklahoma Academic Scholars by the Oklahoma State Department of Education. To achieve recognition as Academic Scholars, students must have a minimum (non-weighted) grade point average of 3.7 on a 4.0 scale accumulated over grades 9, 10, 11 and the first semester of grade 12 or be in the top 10 percent of their class. They must complete the curriculum requirements for a standard high school diploma and achieve either a minimum composite score of 27 on the ACT college-entrance exam or a combined reading and mathematics score of 1,220 on the SAT I. The Oklahoma Academic Scholar recognition includes a gold seal affixed to the high school diploma, the honor recorded on their official transcript and a certificate of recognition from the State Board of Education. Putnam City has the fifth-highest number of Oklahoma Academic Scholars in the history of the award.

## New District and School Websites Planned

The board on Monday night approved an agreement with Active Internet Technologies, better known as Finalsite, for creation of and support and hosting for new district and school websites.

The agreement will provide the district with new websites with a contemporary look and added security and support. More importantly, the websites will have a responsive design that will automatically size the website to make it look good on each device that connects to it.

The \$18,300 initial setup cost will be covered by the district's General Fund.

*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>