



BOARD highlights

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

June 4, 2018

Teacher's Pets Program Coming to Extended School Year

The Putnam City Board of Education approved a contract with Agvocates for Exceptional Individuals Inc. to provide an interactive educational program this summer.

The program, Teacher's Pets, brings a mobile petting zoo to the school to provide a hands-on experience that meets multiple social and emotional goals by drawing parallels to the animals. The presence of animals and interaction with them naturally captivate a child's attention. Students are allowed to touch, pet, hold and feed animals such as baby ducks, baby chicks, rabbits and lambs.

The experience and accompanying lessons deliver messages that foster the development of empathy, develop an emotional literacy, promote pro-social behaviors, reduce levels of bullying, aggression and violence, increase knowledge of human development, and prepare students for responsible citizenship.

According to their website, AgVocates for Exceptional Individuals exists to promote the cognitive, social and physical development of children with disabilities through daily care and the exhibition of livestock.

The Teacher's Pets sessions will be held twice in June. The \$1,000 cost of the program will be paid for through federal funds.

COMMENTS by Public and Board Members

Cindy Gibbs said she recently attended high school graduation ceremonies in Texas and found them similar to ceremonies in the district.

Becky Gooch thanked Dr. Brian Chastain for his exemplary job as principal at Putnam City North, saying she appreciated that he kept students safe and served as an excellent role model. She said she and the school community will miss him.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT by Dr. Fred Rhodes

► The Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education has funded five of the eight grant proposals that district Career Tech teachers submitted earlier this year. Winning proposals are:

- Brandy Redus, Putnam City High School, \$7,925 toward virtual reality equipment for career exploration.
- Joy Smith, Putnam City North High School, \$14,441.85 toward an upgraded, state-of-the-art cooking lab.
- Kim Crownover, Putnam City High School, \$10,156 toward an upgraded, state-of-the-art cooking lab.
- Jeffery Bishop, Putnam City West High School, \$13,974.50 toward an upgraded computer lab for the new *Fundamentals of 3D Motion Graphics* class.
- Joseph Gravitt, Putnam City North High School, \$14,575.64 toward embroidery machines for career exploration for underserved students in Engineering.

(continued on page 2)

Meeting Date:	Monday, June 4, 5 p.m.
Location:	Administration Building
Roll Call:	Four members of the board were present: Becky Gooch, 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:	Monday, June 21, 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)

This is a total of \$61,072.99 for the district students. Congratulations to the teachers who wrote these grants!

► Recent Putnam City High School Graduate Tiffany Swallow is one of four students in the state to be named as the first members of the new Oklahoma State Scholars Society. The scholar development program offers major financial support and broad academic opportunities to top-performing in-state students. Fellows receive up to \$84,500 in scholarship support, including a one-time study abroad stipend as a part of the program. "They are Oklahoma's next generation of leaders, innovators, and visionaries. We are honored to extend this offer and have them join our university," OSU President Burns Hargis said in the announcement.

► In 1969, U.S. astronauts first landed on the moon, the Beatles had their last public performance, 350,000 people attended the Woodstock concert and Louise Mason started working in a Putnam City school cafeteria. Now 49 years later, Ms. Mason has just retired as a Sodexo employee working as a cafeteria hostess at Harvest Hills Elementary. Ms. Mason says in the last few years she has served grandchildren of children she served decades ago. We so much appreciate her service to children in the district and wish her the best in her retirement.

Board Approves Training for Science Teachers

The board on Monday night approved an agreement that will enable 40 teachers to participate in six days of in-person and four days of virtual professional development intended to build capacity for teaching Oklahoma Academic Standards for Science across the district and develop a shared vision for what science education in Putnam City Schools looks like.

The professional development will provide the framework and essential understanding of the three-dimensional learning on which new science standards are built. Participating teachers from Putnam City, Mustang and Norman will work in vertical and grade-band teams to align instructional materials, collect and reflect upon artifacts of three-dimensional student learning, adjust district curriculum maps and pacing guides, shift their instructional practices, and serve as a cohort of science leaders for the district and state.

The training will be offered by Brett Moulding, director of the Utah Partnership for Effective Science Teaching and Learning and co-author of the books *An Educator's Guide to a Framework for K-12 Science Education*, *Next Generation Science Standards*, and *State Science Standards*.

The \$28,400 cost of the training will be covered by Oklahoma Energy Resources Board grant funds.

Auditor Agreement Approved

The board on Monday night approved an agreement with Eide Bailly CPAs & Business Advisors to conduct an independent audit of the district for the 2017-2018 school year and assist in preparation of the Estimate of Needs for fiscal year 2019. The cost to the district for the agreement is \$54,000.

Board OKs Online Payments for Before- and After-school Care

The board on Monday night approved a contract and related agreements with MySchoolBucks, an online platform that will be used by parents to pay for before- and after-school care. The ability to pay online is a key component in shifting payment for extended care from schools to the district level.

The cost of the program will be covered by a 2.95 percent transaction fee.

In Memory

The staff of Putnam City Schools laments the recent passing of Mike Johnson, a 2nd-grade teacher at Windsor Hills Elementary School. Mr. Johnson was a passionate educator who built positive relationships with students, colleagues, and parents, and believed he was called to impact the lives of children with the highest needs. He will be greatly missed by his Putnam City family.

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>

Board Approves Training for Northridge Elementary Teachers

The board on Monday night approved a contract with The Flippen Group that will allow Capturing Kids' Hearts training for Northridge Elementary School teachers.

The initial two-day workshop will take place Aug. 9-10 for all Northridge teachers and administrators. The contract includes a 13-lesson e-mail course to assist teachers throughout the school year in implementation of the program, and a Capturing Kids' Hearts Cloud online subscription will help each participant extend and reinforce processes.

The Flippen Group website says the processes learned by teachers and administrators can increase attendance rates, student achievement, graduation rates and teacher satisfaction while decreasing discipline referrals. transform the classroom and school environment and pave the way for high performance.

The \$22,500 cost of the training will be paid for through federal funds.

Child Nutrition Contract Awarded

The board on Monday night approved a contract with Sodexo Food Service Management for the 2018-2019 school year.

The request for proposal (RFP) was prepared by the district, approved by the State Department of Education, and then published and opened by the district.

Three companies requested RFP applications; two participated in the pre-bid meeting and site tours. Sodexo was the lone company to submit a proposal.

The one-year contract has four renewal options.