



BOARD highlights

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

June 5, 2017

Elementary Executive Director Appointed

The Putnam City Board of Education on Monday night appointed longtime district principal Barbara Crump as the district's new executive director of Elementary Education.

Since 2012 Crump has served as principal of Central Elementary School. Before her time at Central, Crump spent eight years as principal at Apollo Elementary and three years as an assistant principal at Hilldale Elementary. She also spent a year as an administrative intern at Windsor Hills Elementary School.

Prior to her time in Putnam City, she worked for five years as a teacher in Shawnee Public Schools, at different times teaching both 1st-grade and 5th-grade.

She holds a master's degree in education and a bachelor's degree in education, both from the University of Central Oklahoma.

She will replace Drew Eichelberger, who in July will become superintendent of Bethany Public Schools.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT by Dr. Fred Rhodes

► Congratulations to Randy Utt, a teacher at James L. Dennis Elementary School, who received Congressman Steve Russell's 2017 Fifth Congressional District Teacher Recognition Award on May 26. The award recognizes outstanding teaching. Randy was presented the award as a surprise by Craig Smith, Congressman Russell's district director. Her reaction was one of shock as her colleagues gave her a standing ovation for her accomplishment.

► Glenda Tiller, a 2008 graduate of Putnam City High School, was named the Outstanding Family Medicine Student from the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine Class of 2017. Ms. Tiller recently spent a day in Scott Richards' 8th-grade science class at Western Oaks Middle School discussing with students the path she has followed from elementary, middle and high school in Putnam City to Southwestern Oklahoma State University, where she got her bachelor's and master's degrees, and then to medical school.

► We congratulate Kenneth Cooper Middle School for being recognized as a Model Professional Learning Community. They were selected for recognition because the dedication of their faculty and leadership led to sustained student academic success.

COMMENTS by Public and Board Members

Jay Sherrill thanked administrators, teachers and students for making each of the district's three high school graduation ceremonies fantastic.

Bill Wetmore thanked Putnam City West student Noah Bowles for the piece he played on his viola, saying it was wonderful.

Cindy Gibbs joined Wetmore in complimenting Bowles on his piece, saying it's evidence of Putnam City's efforts to provide opportunities for students and educate the whole child. She said she appreciated the diversity of students who were high school valedictorians. She also thanked Putnam City High School Principal Brett Bradley for telling the audience about post-graduation plans of each valedictorian.

Gail LoPresto thanked district administrators and teacher for their work in making end-of-year events meaningful and smooth-running. She also thanked Drew Eichelberger for the excellent work he's done in the district.

Meeting Date:	Monday, June 5, 5 p.m.
Location:	Administration Building
Roll Call:	Four members of the board were present: Gail LoPresto, vice president; Cindy Gibbs; Jay Sherrill and Bill Wetmore. Also present were Dr. Fred Rhodes, superintendent; and Samantha Dawes, deputy board clerk.
Next Meeting:	Monday, June 16, 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.

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Superintendent's Report (continued from page 1)

▶ James L. Capps Middle School received a \$5,000 Cox Charities Innovation in Education grant. The grant will enable every orchestra student using a school-owned instrument to perform with a new, high-quality bow. At James L. Capps, more than 75 percent of students utilize school-owned instruments, and due to recent budget cuts, funding for repair and replacement of bows has been drastically reduced. The new bows will allow students to achieve greater musical proficiency, including mastery of more advanced techniques not possible when using substandard or broken equipment.

▶ Kenneth Cooper Middle School received a \$1,000 Cox Charities Innovation in Education grant. Funds will be used to purchase alternative and flexible seating, including bean bag chairs, lap desks, yoga balls and standing desks. Research shows that attention and focus increases when mobility is added to a learning environment. The alternative and flexible seating will specifically be used with remedial reading students, creating a comfortable, fun space for students who may otherwise dislike reading or find it difficult.

▶ Bob Melton, the district's testing and STEM facilitator, was in early June named winner of the Jack Renner Distinguished Service Award by the Oklahoma Science Teachers Association (OSTA). The award is presented annually to individuals or organizations who have made significant contributions to the advancement of science education in Oklahoma and is named for Dr. Jack Renner, the longtime professor of Science Education at the University of Oklahoma. Melton taught science at Putnam City West for 17 years, is a former district teacher of the year and worked 20 years as the district's science coordinator. He has served as state director of the Oklahoma Science Olympiad since 2005, has been a member of the Board of Governors of Oklahomans for Excellence in Science Education since 2006, and served as the Communications Chair for the OSTA from 2007 until 2015. He is past president of the National Association of Biology Teachers.

Federal Law Requires Increase in Lunch Prices

The board on Monday night approved a slight increase in the price of lunches for next school year, a move required by federal law. The increase means that when students return to school in August, price of elementary and secondary lunches will be 10 cents higher. Elementary lunches will be \$2.30 and secondary lunches will be \$2.60. Adult lunches will remain at \$3.45.

The price increase applies only students who pay full-price lunches and will not affect those who qualify for free or reduced-price food services. About 76 percent of Putnam City students receive free or reduced-price meals.

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 requires annual review of school meal pricing and sets target levels of paid meal prices. As part of the federal law, school lunch prices must increase annually until they reach an amount equal to or greater than the rate of federal reimbursement received by school districts for meals served to students eligible for free meals.

Section of Kenneth Cooper Roof to be Replaced

The board on Monday night adopted a resolution declaring an emergency at Kenneth Cooper Middle School due to a significant roof leak.

The leak is related to hail damage to the school roof several years ago. Water damage from the leak has destroyed ceiling tiles in the majority of hall where elective classrooms are located.

The declaration of an emergency will speed the process of repairing the roof. The \$104,239 cost of the work will be covered by bond funds approved by voters.

Board Renew Child Nutrition Contract

The board on Monday night voted to renew an agreement with Sodexo Food Service Management Inc. for management of the district's child nutrition program for the 2017-2018 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>

Assistant Principals Appointed at Two Elementary Schools

Putnam City's Board of Education on Monday night appointed assistant principals at two district elementary schools for the 2017-2018 school year.

Susan Illgen was appointed assistant principal at Rollingwood Elementary. For the past two years Illgen has served as an administrative intern in the district, splitting her time between Coronado Heights Elementary and Ralph Downs Elementary. Before serving as an administrative intern, Illgen was an instructional coach at Harvest Hills Elementary and Overholser Elementary. In years past, she served as the executive director of the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness and director of Early Childhood Programs for the Oklahoma State Department of Education. From 2000 through 2005, she taught kindergarten in Grove Public Schools, where she was named Oklahoma's teacher of the year for the 2004-2005 school year. She holds a master's degree in administration from the University of Central Oklahoma and a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Northeastern State University.

Fallan Wolff was appointed as assistant principal at Central Elementary. Wolff has served an administrative intern at Central Elementary for the past two years. Before her time at Central she taught at Rollingwood Elementary for four years, two years in 5th-grade and another two years in 4th-grade. She holds a master's degree in educational leadership and a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, both from the University of Central Oklahoma.

Administrative Changes Announced at Elementary Schools

Superintendent Dr. Fred Rhodes announced three changes in elementary administrative positions for the 2017-2018 school year.

Kimberly Harper, a principal at Wiley Post Elementary this year, will next year be principal at Central Elementary.

Lisa Derryberry, last year a middle school teacher at Hydro-Eakly Public Schools, will be an administrative intern at James L. Dennis Elementary next year.

Whitney Saladin, a teacher at Wiley Post Elementary last year, will be an administrative intern at the same school next year.

Board Approves Demolition of Three Buildings

Putnam City's board of education on Monday night approved the lowest best bid from Total Demolition Services to demolish three buildings on district property.

The three buildings to be torn down are:

- The Arnett Building at the corner of N.W. 39th and State
- The Ione YWCA building at 6103 N.W. 58th, which closed in 2004
- The former Island Ice building, a small red brick structure at 4901 N. Meridian

The Arnett Building and the Ione YWCA building, both unused, are sites for future district construction and are currently considered unsafe for people who may illegally attempt to gain entry. The Island Ice snow cone stand is unneeded.

Some architectural components of the Arnett Building will be removed before the building is taken down so that they can be used later in a new district administration building.

The \$173,262 cost of demolishing the three buildings will be covered by the district's Building Fund. The work is expected to be completed in late June or mid-July.

Kenneth Cooper Middle School Receives Award

Kenneth Cooper Middle School is one of about 200 schools and schools districts in the United States and Canada to be recognized as a Model Professional Learning Community at Work. Dr. Melani Mouse, assistant superintendent for Academic Services, announced Monday night. Cooper's recognition came from Solution Tree, a leading educational strategies company, for sustained success in raising student achievement. The school's successful implementation of the Professional Learning Communities at Work™ process was a major contributing factor in the improved achievement of its students.

PLCs are schools and districts in which educators recognize the key to improved learning for students is ongoing, job-embedded learning for the adults who serve those students. The three big ideas of a PLC call upon educators to 1) focus not on teaching, but on learning; 2) build a collaborative culture; and 3) create a results orientation.

Schools are recognized as model PLCs based on strict criteria, including demonstration of a commitment to PLC concepts, implementation of these concepts for at least three years and clear evidence of improved student learning over that period. Once measurable results are seen, the school must explain its practices, structures and culture and submit its application for consideration by the PLC Review Committee.

Schools recognized as model PLCs schools are listed on www.allthingsplc.info, where other educators interested in improving their schools can learn about more about practices and strategies.

Cooper Middle School is one of a number of award-winning schools listed on www.allthingsplc.info, where other educators interested in improving their schools can learn about more about practices and strategies of schools recognized as model PLCs schools.

Mouse presented a banner recognizing Cooper's award to Mark Lebsack, the school's outgoing principal.



From left to right, Secondary Executive Director Rick Croslin, Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services Dr. Melani Mouse and Cooper Middle School Principal Mark Lebsack display a banner recognizing Cooper's PLC award.

Board Hears Report on PEP Grant

The board on Monday night heard a report on the district's Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) Grant, aimed at reducing childhood obesity by enhancing physical activity and nutrition programs.

Jason Hasty, the district's PEP Grant coordinator, told board members that nine new Action Based Learning (ABL) labs are being added this month to district elementary schools. One ABL lab will be installed at James L. Dennis Elementary and two labs will be installed at Kirkland Elementary, Lake Park Elementary, Northridge Elementary and Tulakes Elementary. With the new additions, the district will have 25 ABL labs in 13 schools. Research shows that schools using action-based learning improves student academic performance, student behavior and student health.

Hasty also told board members that all 18 district elementary schools now have after-school and recess equipment and training. In addition, Hasty said, 16 elementary schools now have in place at least one indoor hydroponic garden in which fresh vegetables and herbs are grown year-round. The plants are used in nutrition and science lessons and are also a source of fresh vegetables that give students the chance to try foods that many of them do not eat regularly.

Data collected throughout the year regarding the effect of action-based learning on student behavior, attendance, fitness and academics will soon be tabulated. Data collected during the coming school year will compare schools with ABL labs to schools without, looking at areas such as fitness, absences and suspensions.

Putnam City was awarded its three-year PEP Grant in 2014 and has now received a 12-month extension.