



# BOARD highlights

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

May 7, 2018

## Superstar Teachers Honored

Thirty-seven first-year and second-year teachers representing 26 schools were recognized as "Superstar Teachers" at Monday night's board meeting.

This is the third year for recognition of Superstar teachers. The honor is given to teachers in the first or second year of their careers who consistently exceed expectations in building relationships with students, use teaching strategies to increase student engagement and work collaboratively with their PLCs to promote improved teaching and learning. Honorees were nominated for recognition by their principals.

While the award was established to honor teachers early in their careers, district leaders also gather information from Superstar teachers in order to better serve the needs of new teachers entering the profession.

Each Superstar teacher received a T-shirt, certificate and a superstar award.

All Superstar recognition awards were paid for through a grant obtained by the Putnam City Association of Classroom Teachers and a donation from the Putnam City Foundation.

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## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT by Dr. Fred Rhodes

- ▶ Renita White, principal at James L. Dennis Elementary, has been selected as a finalist for the 2018 Oklahoma Association of Elementary School Principals Administrator of the Year award. The process for selection involves a site visit, with interviews of faculty and patrons made by former National Distinguished Principals. We congratulate Mrs. White on this highly honorable recognition.
- ▶ Alyssa Noel and Bali Ong of PC North have been named to the 2018 Academic All-State Class by the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. Noel and Ong are two of the 100 top public high school seniors in Oklahoma selected from 536 nominations statewide and hailing from 82 different schools in 74 Oklahoma school districts. Each of this year's All-Staters will receive a \$1,000 merit-based scholarship and a medallion. The All-Staters will be recognized at the foundation's 32nd annual Academic Awards Banquet on Saturday, May 19, at the Embassy Suites Conference Center in Norman.
- ▶ Veronica Herrero of Putnam City High School was selected as a 2017-2018 National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar. The program recognizes approximately 5,000 Hispanic/Latino juniors each year from among the more than 400,000 juniors who take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholar Qualifying Test as juniors. Honorees must earn a qualifying test score and also have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

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## COMMENTS by Public and Board Members

Board members noted that this week is Teacher Appreciation Week. They thanked teachers for making a difference in children's lives. They also said the district arts festival was a showcase for the district's amazing arts program.

Jay Sherrill thanked Jason Hasty and Jenny Banner for an outstanding job of administering the PEP grant that supplied elementary schools with PE equipment, ABL labs and more. He also said that if ABL labs were worth investing in to begin with then they are worth keeping them in the future. He recommended tracking data to see if ABL labs are effective and retaining them if the data points in that direction.

Cindy Gibbs commented on the district pre-k program, saying Kirkland students are blessed to be able to go to PE and music classes. She said the Putnam City North basketball team was outstanding not just in how they played but also in their attitude.

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Meeting Date:	Monday, May 7, 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 Jay Sherrill. Also present were Dr. Fred Rhodes, superintendent, and Samantha Dawes, deputy board clerk.
Next Meeting:	Monday, May 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)

- ▶ Forty-six high school vocal music students from Putnam City's three high schools won superior ratings at the state solo and ensemble contest on Friday, April 20, at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee. Congratulations to these talented students and their teachers.
- ▶ Congratulations to the Putnam City North boys soccer team for qualifying for the state tournament. This is the 16th time in 18 years for the team to qualify for the state tournament under Coach Tom Pecore's leadership. The team defeated Edmond Memorial 2-1 in overtime in the first round of the tournament.
- ▶ Congratulations to Putnam City North golfers Sydney Mason, Grant Murphy and Jaxson Northcutt and Putnam City High golfer Christian McAllister for qualifying for the state tournament.
- ▶ Eighteen students from Putnam City High, nine students from Putnam City West and 12 students from Putnam City North (for a combined total of 39 students) have qualified for the state track meet this weekend in Yukon.
- ▶ Zarina Khalidov, a 5th-grader at Northridge Elementary, has won the Best in Show award in the Oklahoma Education Association's 2018 Reach Across America poster contest. The theme of the contest was Get on Board with Reading and attracted 531 entries. Zarina's colorful drawing of a house being lifted into the sky by a large bouquet of balloons makes her the first non-high school student to win the top prize in OEA's annual student art contest. Seven other district students also earned contest recognition for their artwork.

## Students Recognized for Academic Excellence

The board on Monday night honored three district students for academic excellence. Alyssa Noel and Bali Ong of Putnam City North High School have been named to the 2018 Academic All-State Class by the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. Veronica Herrero of Putnam City High School has been named a National Hispanic Scholar by the College Board.

Noel and Ong are two of the 100 top public high school seniors in Oklahoma selected from 536 nominations statewide and hailing from 82 different schools in 74 Oklahoma school districts. Academic All-Staters are nominated by their principals or superintendents and are selected on the basis of academic achievement, extracurricular activities, community involvement and an essay.

Herrero is one of about 5,000 students to be selected as a National Hispanic Scholar out of more than 250,000 students who took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholar Qualifying Test as juniors. Honorees must earn a qualifying test score and also have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. The program is an academic honor that can be included on college applications. Colleges use the program to identify academically exceptional Hispanic/Latino students.

## Board Comments

### (continued from page 1)

She said she was impressed that Tulakes Elementary students turned "lemons into lemonade" by teaching younger students about science after Science Olympiad was canceled. She mentioned upcoming retirements in the district and said she hated to see that much talent leaving. She also commended Hefner Middle School students who responded quickly and appropriately when faced with a medical crisis in the building.

Gail LoPresto said she attended the JROTC banquet at Putnam City West. She complimented the program on its goal of teaching students to be good citizens. She said the work on display at the arts festival by Putnam City Academy students and Harvest Hills Elementary students was very impressive. She also recalled a recent conversation with an acquaintance in another district wondering why Putnam City had such good programs.

Becky Gooch thanked the Hefner Middle School nurse for her quick and professional response to a medical crisis in the building. She said she enjoys seeing the Superstar teachers and is proud that several of them are district graduates. She said the Superstar program recognizes teachers where recognition is due. She also wish Barbara Crump a happy birthday.

*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>

## Superstar Teachers (continued from page 1)

Superstar teachers in Putnam City are:

### Elementary Schools

- Emily Campbell, Kindergarten, Apollo Elementary School
- Jade Keith, Kindergarten, Arbor Grove Elementary School
- Chelsea Hardesty Ponder, Resource Teacher, Arbor Grove Elementary School
- Kristy Hall, 4th Grade, Central Elementary School
- Kelly Burton, Resource Teacher, Coronado Heights Elementary School
- Jessica Engle, Resource Teacher, James L. Dennis Elementary School
- Jaci West, Counselor, Ralph Downs Elementary School
- Haley (Brown) Hattler, 1st Grade, Harvest Hills Elementary School
- Callie Morgan, Health Class, Hilldale Elementary School
- Brittney Case, Kindergarten, Kirkland Elementary School
- Amelia Brown, Pre-K, Lake Park Elementary School
- Lindsay Davis, Kindergarten, Northridge Elementary School
- Aubree Hurt, 3rd Grade, Overholser Elementary School
- Megan Hayes, 4th Grade, Overholser Elementary School
- Taylor Benson, 1st Grade, Overholser Elementary School
- Stefanie Fast, Pre-K, Rollingwood Elementary School
- Shadonna Watkins, Kindergarten, Tulakes Elementary School
- Molly Sims, 4th Grade, Western Oaks Elementary School
- Meishel Fry, 2nd Grade, Wiley Post Elementary School
- Peyton (Brown) Watley, Resource Teacher, Will Rogers Elementary School
- Mary Beth Barker, Speech Language Pathologist, Will Rogers Elementary School
- Kaitlin Owen, 3rd Grade, Windsor Hills Elementary School

### Middle Schools

- Laura Ogles, Art, Capps Middle School
- Jessica Bowie, Computer Apps/Yearbook, Capps Middle School
- Madison Staggs, Family and Consumer Science, Capps Middle School
- Chad Griffin, 6th-grade Math, Cooper Middle School
- Jacye Gunsaulis, Speech/Drama, Hefner Middle School
- Emily Precure, English, Hefner Middle School
- Kelcie Scarberry, Orchestra Director, Mayfield Middle School
- Kacy Hibdon, 6th-grade English, Mayfield Middle School
- Brookelyne Cooper, Resource Teacher, Western Oaks Middle School

### High Schools

- Christina Gillam Quatro, Biology, Putnam City High School
- Zoe Schaller, 9th-grade English, Putnam City North High School
- Ashley Hull, 9th-grade Biology, Putnam City North High School
- Christine Cooper, Reading, Putnam City North High School
- Michele Wornock, Algebra I/Math Analysis, Putnam City North High School
- Whitney Broussard, 9th-grade Math Enhancement, Putnam City West High School

## Purchase of Math Materials Gets OK

The board on Monday night approved an agreement with Cengage Learning Inc. for purchase of elementary math instructional materials.

The agreement will provide consumable textbooks and online resources for all district elementary students in kindergarten through grade 5.

Additionally, teacher manuals and resources are included for approximately 400 teachers.

The adoption of materials includes an option for four yearly renewals for the district. The \$150,038.20 first-year cost will be covered by the district's General Fund.

## Support Staff Rehired

The board on Monday night voted unanimously to rehire support employees for the 2018-2019 school year.

## Board Honors Putnam City North State Champs



*The Putnam City North state championship basketball team was honored during the board of education meeting Monday night.*

Putnam City North's boys basketball team was honored Monday night for winning the state championship. The Panthers topped Edmond Santa Fe in the championship game March 10 to bring home the school's first-ever basketball state title.

"This team worked really hard and was extremely dedicated. They were also supported by so many people – starting with our board and superintendent, our district athletic director and our principal, and also our assistant coaches who worked with players on a daily basis. We are blessed," Coach Ryan Wagner told board members.

Wagner told board members that Putnam City North's season was special in numerous ways. The team rang up a record of 25-5 and compiled a perfect 13-0 record while winning the Oklahoma Big 10 Conference championship.

It's not surprising that the team's success was built on talented players. Adokiye Iyaye, Micah Thomas, Chris Braggs and Blake Owens each earned spots on The Oklahoman's Big All-City teams, Big 10 Conference teams and Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Association all-star teams. Iyaye added selection as an Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Association All-Stater, Faith 7 team member, Big 10 Conference player of the year and a member of The Oklahoman's state tournament all-tournament team.

Wagner's coaching was also recognized as he was named Oklahoma Big 10 coach of they year, The Oklahoman's Big All-City coach of the year and The Oklahoman's Super Five coach of the year.

## Oklahoma Senate Commends Panthers

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
CITATION  
PUTNAM CITY NORTH PANTHERS

*WHEREAS*, the Putnam City North boys basketball team defeated Tulsa Union, Norman North and Edmond Santa Fe in the 2018 state tournament from March 8th through March 10th to win the Class 6A state boys basketball championship; and

*WHEREAS*, led by state tournament MVP Chris Braggs and all-tournament player Adokiye Iyaye, the Panthers won the first boys basketball title in the school's nearly 40-year history; and *WHEREAS*, head coach Ryan Wagner brought home the gold ball in the state's largest class in just his fourth season at Putnam City North; and

*WHEREAS*, the title represents the second boys basketball 6A title won in the last three years by Putnam City high schools; and

*WHEREAS*, Panther alumni far and wide celebrate this accomplishment, including Senator David Holt and former Senate President Pro Tempore Glenn Coffee; and

*WHEREAS*, the Oklahoma State Senate congratulates the 2018 class 6A State Boys Basketball Champions, the Putnam City North Panthers.

*Now, therefore, pursuant to the motion of*

SENATORS GREG TREAT  
AND DAVID HOLT

*the Oklahoma State Senate extends to  
PUTNAM CITY NORTH PANTHERS  
sincere commendations and directs that  
the citation be presented.*

*March 28, 2018*

## Board Hears Final Report on Physical Education Grant

The board on Monday night heard a report on the district's Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) Grant from Grant Manager Jason Hasty.

The grant, originally awarded in 2014, expired on April 30. In the four years the district has had the grant, Hasty said, the district has enhanced physical education and activity in schools in numerous ways:

- Each elementary school received about \$12,000 in new PE equipment and also received another \$5,000 for equipment for recess and after-school programs to keep students moving.
- PE teachers had 36 opportunities for professional development, working with some of the best and brightest trainers from across the country.
- GoNoodle Plus was purchased for all district elementary schools. GoNoodle is a set of videos for use by classroom teachers, combining kinesthetic learning and standards-based instruction.
- Sixteen elementary schools have one indoor hydroponic garden, and sometimes two, 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.

Hasty also talked about grant-funded investment in action-based learning (ABL) labs in district elementary schools. Sixteen out of 18 elementary schools now have ABL labs. In those schools there are a total of 17 labs for students in pre-k through grade 2, 11 labs for students in grades 3 through 5, one sensory lab for special needs students and one lab at Positive Changes. Putnam City has more labs than any other district in Oklahoma and currently ranks third in the country, enabling 8,873 district students to have access to ABL labs.

Hasty told board members that district teachers have found that their students are more focused, better listeners and ready to concentrate and learn when they go back to the classroom after a visit to the ABL lab. He added that a year ago researchers compared test scores in the nine district schools with ABL labs to the nine schools without labs. Researchers identified gains in math in ABL lab schools compared to schools that at the time did not have an ABL lab. Findings in the district are consistent with research in California in which higher academic performance was found to be directly associated with higher levels of fitness, with the greatest gains coming in math, Hasty said.

Hasty said that next year schools will have updated manuals and instructions for the labs and that teachers will have access to lesson plans for use in the labs.



*Close to 9,000 district elementary students have access to an ABL lab, thanks to the Carol M. White Physical Education Program Grant.*