

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

## Board Hears Plans for New Middle School

The board on Monday night heard a report from Jeff Wegener, a principal with LWPB Architecture, and Angie Clarkson, an interior designer with the same firm, on coming construction of a new Capps Middle School planned to be ready for the beginning of the school year in August 2020.

The school will be constructed on district property that was for the most part the home for many years to the Ione Branch YWCA. (The Ione Branch closed in 2004.) The property sits roughly halfway between MacArthur and Rockwell and stretches from N.W. 63rd to from N.W. 58th.

Currently, Wegener told board members, earth-moving equipment is rumbling across the property, literally laying the groundwork for construction of the building.



Earth-moving equipment is shaping the site for a new Capps Middle School at 6400 N.W. 63rd.

The land that will hold the school and surrounding grounds is largely undeveloped, a mixture of native trees and grasses, sloping terrain and a natural, free-running creek. The setting served as inspiration for the building's design, Clarkson said. The school's library will extend over the creek to connect the main building with two classroom buildings. Numerous building windows will bring in natural light and showcase the green and serene setting. Colors in the landscape will be echoed in interior colors used for floors, walls and other elements.

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### COMMENTS by Public and Board Members

Patron Tracy Carroll expressed her respect for the Putnam City West football coach and said she would like to see him come back to the school.

Jay Sherrill thanked Rollingwood Elementary Principal Pam Miller and Putnam City Campus Police Chief Mark Stout for their efforts during the recent carnival at the school.

Cindy Gibbs said she enjoyed attending a recent awards assembly for kindergarten and 1st-grade students at Harvest Hills Elementary. She said the design for the new Capps Middle School looks amazing and that the Putnam City North and Putnam City West stadiums and the front of the gym at Putnam City High are taking shape and looking good.

Gail LoPresto thanked teachers for their efforts to encourage the public to get out and vote. She said the recent 7th-grade and 8th-grade all-schools orchestra concert, with more than 300 students on stage, was impressive. She also said the Silver Strings concert was entertaining.

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Meeting Date:	Monday, Nov. 5, 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 Tina Losawyer, deputy board clerk.
Next Meeting:	Monday, Nov. 26, 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

▶ More than 1,100 people took part in Saturday's Putnam City Cancer Classic at Wheeler Park. The event, a fundraiser for cancer research at Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, is each year a fantastic feel-good day for the district. It's good exercise, a lot of good fun and it's for a good cause. Thanks so much to everyone who had a role in planning and hosting the event.

▶ Another district point of pride is coming up: the Veterans Day assemblies at each of our schools. I know from past years that it's impossible to attend these gatherings without feeling a surge of pride in our students and country. It's easy to see that the respect and honor students show for veterans is heartfelt.

▶ Congratulations to Putnam City North High School Vocal Music Specialist Stephanie Keegan-Moring, who has been selected by the Oklahoma Music Educators Association (OkMEA) as the recipient of the high school "Exemplary Teacher" award. Congratulations, too, to Gina Matlock, music specialist at Kenneth Cooper Middle School, who has been named the OkMEA middle school "Exemplary Teacher." Both teachers will be honored at a banquet during the annual OkMEA conference in Tulsa in January. The honors will also appear in the upcoming *Oklahoma Music* magazine.

▶ Cooper Middle School's Treble Choir, under the direction of Ms. Matlock, was selected for performance at the 2019 OkMEA Conference. The conference will be held in Tulsa at the Cox Business Center in January. It is an honor to be selected as a performing group for the OkMEA Conference. Twenty-two choirs applied and only six groups were chosen by the committee to perform.

▶ The marching bands from Putnam City West and Putnam City North both earned superior ratings, the highest possible achievement, at the OSSAA regional marching contest on Tuesday, Oct. 23, at Yukon High School. Putnam City High's band was also at the contest and earned an excellent rating. All three schools are in contention for sweepstakes awards with outstanding performances at the OSSAA concert band and sight-reading contest at OU in April.

▶ James L. Dennis Elementary School 4th-grade teacher Chelsea Woods and her students were excited recipients last week of \$500 worth of school supplies and a pizza party, thanks to J.B. Hunt Transport Inc. As part of J.B. Hunt's adopt-a-class program, truck driver Peter Robb delivered supplies to Dennis Elementary, where his son is a student. The class was one of 22 in the nation selected for the company's adopt-a-school program.

▶ Congratulations to the Putnam City North Panthers football team for a winning season. Their 8 win, 2 loss regular season is their best in 13 years. Friday night they travel to Jenks for their first round game in the state playoffs.

## Board Approves District Budget

The board on Monday night approved the final operating budget for the 2018-2019 school year. The general fund budget projects to be about \$151.9 million in expenditures. The general fund balance at the end of the fiscal year is projected to be about \$11.2 million.

The district's budget guide, which provides a detailed picture of revenue and expenditures for appropriated funds – the general fund, building fund and child nutrition fund – will be posted on the district website by the end of the week. The budget guide also provides prior year activity related to non-appropriated funds, including bond, activity and MAPS for Kids funds.

## Board Comments (continued from page 1)

She said she is looking forward to Veterans Day assemblies at schools. She thanked Officer Connelly and all Campus Police officers for what they do to enrich schools. She also noted that 121 band parents came to parent-teacher conferences, evidence of outstanding parent involvement.

Becky Gooch encouraged citizens to vote in tomorrow's election.

## Board Approves Sale of Bonds Request

The board on Monday night approved a resolution setting the date, time and place for the sale of \$22,750,000 in bonds. The bond sale will take place at noon on Wednesday, Jan. 30, in the board room of the district's administration building.

The bonds were approved by voters in an election in August 2014. Funds from the sale of bonds will pay for numerous improvements throughout the district.

*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>

## Plans for New Middle School (continued from page 1)



*This drawing of the new Capps Middle School shows buildings in the front that house the main entrance, offices, fine arts spaces, cafeteria and gym. The school's library connects the buildings in front to classroom buildings in back.*

Classroom buildings are designed for flexibility, Clarkson told board members. Classrooms can open up into other classrooms or other work space. Collaboration areas outside classrooms and study group rooms can be used for small group work, and each classroom building has a large area that can be configured for project work or presentations. Academic areas will be equipped with a variety of movable tables, chairs and other seating options.

## Board OKs Training

The board on Monday night approved a contract with Speech Dynamics Inc. to provide a two-day workshop for district speech language pathologists Jan. 7-8.

The first day of training will cover practical tips and techniques for successful articulation remediation. The second day of training will focus on timesaving strategies to teach language and the love of words.

The \$4,5000 cost of the training will be covered by federal funds.

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