



BOARD highlights

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

Nov. 26, 2018

Board Hears State of the Foundation Report

The board on Monday night heard a report from Putnam City Schools Foundation President Jennifer Seal on the work of the Foundation during the 2017-2018 school year.

Major Programs

The Foundation continued its focus on funding the district’s Early Birds program, ESL classes for parents and STEM classes in elementary schools. Seals said a Foundation investment of more than \$8,000 funded Early Birds classes for 700 Putnam City families while an investment of more than \$11,000 funded STEM programs at 12 schools. An investment of more than \$30,000, funded through a partnership with Kirkpatrick Foundation, meant that 85 adults in the district participated in English classes while their school-age children benefited from tutoring, earning a 2018 Outstanding Program Award from the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence and its Oklahoma School Foundation Network.

YES! Grants

Seal told board members that during the 2017-18 school year 28 YES! Grants were awarded totaling \$20,138 and impacting 6,215 students. Each year the Foundation provides a number of Yes! Grants to classrooms and teachers throughout the district. The goal of these grants is to meet needs that enhance the educational opportunities of our students.

Other Programs

Other Foundation program highlights for the 2017-2018 school year included:

- \$6,250 in scholarships to students and faculty
- 37 eye exams and pairs of glasses for students
- Through the Lemon Family Foundation, new uniforms for every student at Hilldale Elementary and Arbor Grove Elementary
- Through CareShare, help for more that 1,140 students at Christmas, and 208 coats and 159 pairs of shoes to students in need throughout the year
- Continued support for the district’s teacher of the year program and Golden Apple Awards program

Major Goals

Seal told board members the foundation had three major goals for the coming year: 1) finalize and implement the strategic plan; 2) build on the financial success of the 2017-2018 annual campaign and 3) increase revenue from all sources.

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COMMENTS by Public and Board Members

Gail LoPresto thanked the Foundation, its president and its board members, saying she can’t remember a time when the organization was as visible and effective as it is now. She thanked Becky Gooch for her work in bringing information and a proposal to the board for ongoing superintendent evaluation. She also praised district schools for their Veterans Day programs.

Becky Gooch thanked Foundation president Jennifer Seal for her involvement, time and positive impact on children. She noted that tomorrow is Giving Tuesday, a day intended to inspire people to give back in impactful ways to the charities and causes they support. She suggested the Putnam City Schools Foundation is a good organization to donate to on Giving Tuesday, and also said the Foundation can be donated to through AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference

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Meeting Date:	Monday, Nov. 26, 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, Dec. 10, 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

- ▶ This year's annual faculty art show features more than 90 works of art created by district art teachers and other educators. We encourage everyone to come by the Administration Building through Jan. 11 to experience the creations on display in the West Conference Room.
- ▶ Our district art students will soon have their art on display in the Superintendent's Gallery at the State Department of Education in the Oliver Hodge Building in the State Capitol complex. Work of students from almost every school in our district will be on display from Dec. 3 through Jan. 7.
- ▶ Silver Strings and Putnam City West Orchestra Director Levi Dobrinski and District Arts Coordinator Brandy Sitts are part of the State Department of Education's fine arts committee that is developing new state standards for arts education. The committee is also working on the Oklahoma Champions of Excellence program that will establish rubrics to augment the existing accountability system by providing schools the option to celebrate aspects of their school arts programs.
- ▶ Neeli Pope of Wiley Post Elementary and Shari Gateley of Putnam City West High School are taking part in a video produced by the State Department of Education about the state's new accountability system. The video will be used in the toolkit released by the SDE to help districts, parents and teachers better navigate and understand the new system.
- ▶ Congratulations to Heather Johnston, science coordinator, for being selected to present at the National Conference on Science Education in St. Louis in April. Her presentation title is *Three-Dimensional Science Learning for Beginners*.

Board Approves New Evaluation Tool for Superintendent

The board on Monday night voted to adopt an evaluation tool developed by the Oklahoma State School Boards Association (OSSBA).

Ann L. Caine, Ed.D, OSSBA's director of education leadership, made a presentation to board members about the organization's newly developed ongoing method of evaluating superintendents. Instead of evaluating the superintendent annually, the ongoing evaluation process calls for continual, meaningful feedback to the superintendent.

There are 14 categories for feedback, including staff relationships, community relationships, finance, human resources, technology, district goals and teaching, learning and assessment.

The intent of the new evaluation process is to positively impact district and student achievement, improve district leadership, and lay a foundation for continuous school improvement.

More than 60 Oklahoma school districts have adopted the new process. Caine told board members that the ongoing method of evaluation increases communication, collaboration and trust.

Board Comments (continued from page 1)

is that AmazonSmile donates 0.5 percent of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Consultants Hired for Native Students

The board on Monday night approved hiring two Native American cultural consultants.

Kricket Rhodes will provide Native American storytelling on multiple dates for students at Western Oaks Elementary and Kirkland Elementary.

Terry Tsoitigh will provide similar storytelling services and give a Native flute demonstration on multiple dates for Native American students at Putnam City West and Putnam City High.

The cost of the consulting services will be covered by Johnson O'Malley funds. The Johnson O'Malley Program is authorized by the Johnson-O'Malley Act of 1934 which allows contracts for the education of eligible Indian students enrolled in public schools.

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>

State of the Foundation (continued from page 1)

Foundation Visibility

A necessary part of meeting goals is increasing awareness of the Foundation and its activities. The Foundation continued meeting with all new employees, visiting with teachers at each school and producing its quarterly e-newsletter, *The Putnam Pioneer*. The Foundation also launched a new website to better feature and explain its programs.

Social Media Growth

Interacting with the community on social media is an important strategy for the Foundation since it helps build awareness of the organization and the school district. In time awareness can turn into relationships and help. Seal told board members that Foundation has more followers on social media than in any previous year. Facebook impressions went from 1,384 in June 2016 to 15,407 in June 2017 to 31,937 in June 2018. Facebook followers increased from 748 in June 2016 to 1,009 in June 2017 to 1,360 in June 2018. Twitter followers went from 11 in June 2016 to 90 in June 2017 to 138 in June 2018, and Instagram page followers went from 90 in June 2017, the first year of the account, to 135 in June 2018.

Increased Revenue

Seal told board members that the Foundation's gross income increased in 2017-2018 while expenses also went up due to increases in what the Foundation does for the district.

Friends of the Foundation

Seal thanked district employees for choosing to be "Friends of the Foundation." Friends of the Foundation donate to the foundation in small amounts, sometimes just a dollar or two, on a monthly basis through payroll deduction. Those donations are turned into grants and programs to benefits students and teachers. In June 2016 the Foundation had 486 friends and by June 2017 the number of friends increased to 550. In June 2018, Seal said, the Foundation had 615 friends who together contributed more than \$32,000 to the Foundation, a 20 percent increase over the previous year.

Next Wall of Fame Honoree

Seal also announced that well-known movie director Mike Mitchell, a 1988 graduate of Putnam City North High School, will be inducted in 2019 into the Putnam City Schools Foundation Wall of Fame. The event will be held on April 19, 2019. A profile of Mitchell can be found on page 4 of the May 15, 2017 issue of Board Highlights.

Board Approves Hiring Security Guards

The board on Monday night approved two items that clear the way for the district to hire its own security guards for parking lots at the three high schools. Allowing the district to hire security guards is expected to be more cost-efficient than the current method of contracting for security guards.

The board first voted to end a contract with SSSI, a company that for several years has provided security guards to the district. The contract calls for 30 days' notice for canceling the agreement.

The board then voted to approve a job description for security guards who will work directly for the district. The change will allow security guards and Campus Police officers to work under the same guidelines and better work as a team.