



BOARD highlights

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

Sept. 5, 2017

Board Approves Updated Hazard Mitigation Plan

The board on Tuesday night approved a resolution authorizing adoption of an updated version of Putnam City’s hazard mitigation plan.

The plan establishes a framework for reducing risks from natural hazards and serves as a guide for the district in preparing for, responding to and recovering from the damaging impact of natural hazards.

Natural hazards that are concerns to the district and addressed in the plan are severe storms, lightning, wind (including tornadoes), earthquakes and winter storms. Updates in the plan include the addition of new earthquake data and notice that the district has now completed three safe rooms (at Lake Park Elementary, Windsor Hills Elementary and Hilldale Elementary).

The updated plan has already been approved by Oklahoma’s Office of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Development and approval of a hazard mitigation plan is required in order to request FEMA storm shelter funding.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT *by Dr. Fred Rhodes*

▶ Brandy Sitts, Putnam City’s fine arts and gifted/talented coordinator, has been named Secondary Art Educator of the Year by the Oklahoma Art Education Association. She will receive the award on Sept. 30 during the organization’s fall conference in Tulsa.

▶ Mike Walkup, an English teacher at Putnam City High School who is also the school’s head wrestling coach, has been recognized by the Big 12 Conference and the College Football Playoff Foundation for making a positive impact on students. Mr. Walkup was nominated for the recognition by Keegan Moore and Zachary Moore, who graduated from Putnam City High in 2015. Now Keegan and Zachary are students and wrestlers at West Virginia University as well as two of the 100-plus Big 12 student-athletes featured in its “Champions for Life” campaign. Speaking about Mr. Walkup, Zachary said “He gave me the opportunities to succeed and helped me outside of class times to make sure I understood what he was teaching me.” Keegan added that “He encouraged me on and off the mat, letting me know the potential I had in the classroom as well. He pushed me to do my best academically.” Congratulations, Mr. Walkup.

▶ You may remember that in early July we mentioned that Gabriel Lewis, a 2015 graduate of Putnam City North High School, is a contestant this season on MasterChef, a show airing at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays on Fox. Mr. Lewis has now made it to the final seven! We wish him luck and look forward to seeing him advance further in the competition.

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COMMENTS *by Public and Board Members*

Jay Sherrill thanked school administrators for quick responses to parents with back-to-school questions.

Becky Haliburton said it was exciting to be at Putnam City Stadium for football again, especially with a new digital scoreboard in place. She also noted that Putnam City patrons will have the opportunity to vote in the district’s upcoming bond election. The election is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 10.

Meeting Date:	Tuesday, Sept. 5, 5 p.m.
Location:	Administration Building
Roll Call:	Three members of the board were present: Becky Haliburton, president; Gail LoPresto, vice president; and Jay Sherrill. Also present were Dr. Fred Rhodes, superintendent; and Samantha Dawes, board clerk.
Next Meeting:	Monday, Sept. 18, 5 p.m.

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Superintendent's Report (continued from page 1)

▶ Samantha Spagnola of Northridge Elementary and Larissa Speer of Rollingwood Elementary have been named by Oklahoma Educators Credit Union as 2017 Teacher Grant recipients. Ms. Spagnola's grant proposal requested funds to create fine motor centers to help her students build fine muscle control. Ms. Speer submitted a grant proposal requesting materials for a "maker space" hands-on learning area, complete with two robotic balls, that would allow her students to engineer, explore, build, create and discover.

▶ Tara Miles, a resource teacher at Hefner Middle School, has been awarded a \$2,200 grant from The Donna Nigh Foundation. The foundation was established by the former first lady of Oklahoma (the wife of Governor George Nigh) to benefit Oklahomans with developmental disabilities. The grant will be used for alternative seating and lighting; social studies and science curriculum; and cases and screen protectors for classroom sets of iPads.

Psychological Services Contract Gets OK

The board on Tuesday night approved a contract with Olinger Educational Consulting Services to provide support to the district in the areas of individual behavioral or psychological assessments, observations, direct therapy, training, consultation, and written behavior plans, data reports, and service summaries.

Requests to Olinger for consultation and support will be made as needed.

The cost of the services, not to exceed \$4,000, will be covered by federal funds.

OCU Student Nurses to Assist in District Clinics

The board on Tuesday night approved a contract with the Oklahoma City University that will allow nursing students to gain clinical experience in school health clinics. The experience gives nurses in training a better perspective of what it's like to be a school nurse and gives the district the potential to recruit student nurses for future vacancies.

The nursing students are mentored by Putnam City school nurses and are supervised by an instructor from the university. Students nurses are required by the contract to safeguard the protected health information of district students.

There is no cost to the district as a result of the contract.

Board Approves Speech Pathologist Help

The board on Tuesday night approved two contracts for speech language pathologist services.

As a result of the board action, Shana Covalt and Lauren Mays will help meet the requirements for evaluating and servicing children who qualify for Speech Language Pathology services within the district.

Each contract is for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year. The cost of the services, not to exceed \$8,500 for Covalt or Mays, will be covered by the federal funds.

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>