



BOARD highlights

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

Jan. 22, 2019

Board Approves High School Course Guide

The board on Tuesday night approved the high school course planning guide for the 2019-2020 school year.

The guide, which serves as the board's approved high school curriculum, is designed for use in the spring by students in grades 8 through 11, along with their parents and counselors, in planning student course selections for the succeeding school year.

The guide is divided into two parts. The initial section of the guide is intended for use in course planning and is primarily composed of descriptions of all courses available to students, both at district high schools and Francis Tuttle Technology Center. Prerequisites, grade levels eligible for each course and credits earned are included. A new feature in the course description area is designation of each course as to whether it meets requirements for College Preparatory/Work Ready Curriculum, Oklahoma's Promise and the NCAA eligibility.

The second main section of the publication is a college and career guide. The section includes information about Oklahoma's Promise, college checklists for high school freshman, sophomores, juniors and seniors, and financial aid information. Also in the section is information about concurrent enrollment, building an individual career and academic plan and a listing of what grades or test scores are necessary for admission to various state colleges and universities.

The course planning guide is now posted on the district website. A version in Spanish will be posted in coming weeks.



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT by Dr. Fred Rhodes

▶ The Putnam City Schools Museum this afternoon presented 2019 Lifetime Service Awards to four people for volunteer work that made the district stronger and better. The honorees were Mike Brake, Gloria Porter Quaid, the late Sally Duffy Akin, and the late Leo Mayfield. Brake and Quaid are district graduates, members of the committee that operates the Putnam City Schools Museum, part of the group that wrote and published a district history book during the district's centennial year, and unofficial district historians. Akin, also a district graduate, was a "super volunteer" at the district elementary school, middle school and high school her four sons attended. Mayfield, a beloved former district superintendent, maintained his ties with the district and promoted it energetically during his retirement. We congratulate them all and thank them for their service to the district.

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COMMENTS by Public and Board Members

Board members congratulated the people honored earlier this afternoon by the Putnam City Schools Museum.

Jay Sherrill thanked the Putnam City West band for marching in the parade for Martin Luther King Jr.

Cindy Gibbs said it was awesome to hear about the district history of people honored by the Putnam City Schools Museum. She also offered her condolences to the family of former Wiley Post teacher Terry Durham and to the family of former district student Tristan Allen.

Gail LoPresto said she has enjoyed receiving cards and notes during School Board Appreciation Month and says she appreciates that board members are thanked all the time. She said the the Putnam City Invitational was a great event. She thanked teachers and administrators who attended the last board meeting after a long day of professional development. She also

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Meeting Date: Tuesday, Jan. 22, 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 Sandy Lemaster, board clerk.
Next Meeting: Monday, Feb. 4, 5 p.m.

Putnam City Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, or disability.

Superintendent's Report (continued from page 1)

► Russell Tucker, STEM teacher at Central Elementary School, was named as one of four \$500 prize winners for the December activity of the Devon Thunder Explorers. The program engages students in developing problem-solving skills around questions that focus on STEM principles. The December activity called for students to make and use marshmallow launchers to explore free throw shooting techniques, a challenge undertaken by three of Mr. Tucker's 4th-grade STEM classes. The prize money will be used to buy STEM resources for use by students.

► Congratulations go to Putnam City North's student council, one of just two in Oklahoma and 28 across the nation to be named a National Student Council National Council of Excellence for 10 consecutive years. Putnam City North's student council, along with other councils being recognized, have distinguished themselves for a decade in their leadership and service and promoted student engagement in projects and activities.

► Zhamarius Harmon, a junior at Putnam City High School and a cadet in the school's Air Force Junior ROTC, has received a scholarship to attend an accredited aviation university participating in a private pilot license training program in the summer of 2019. Harmon is one of 150 Air Force Junior ROTC cadets around the world, and two in Oklahoma, to receive the scholarship from Headquarters Air Force Junior ROTC, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama. Putnam City junior Caleb King, also a cadet in the school's Air Force Junior ROTC, has been selected as an alternate for the scholarship.

► Just one more reminder that the third annual Men's Day of Singing in the district will be Tuesday, Jan. 29. Men from all district high schools and middle schools will rehearse in the morning and then present a free, informal public concert at noon in the district's administration building, 5401 N.W. 40th.

Networking Equipment to be Replaced

The board on Tuesday night approved the lowest, best bid from United Data Technologies for the purchase of Arista networking equipment to replace district core networking equipment located in the district's data center at the Putnam City Center.

The new equipment will replace aging equipment with faster technology necessary for supporting future growth and needs.

It's anticipated that 85 percent of the \$129,982.06 cost of the equipment and installation will be reimbursed by e-rate funds.

E-rate is the discount that schools may receive for the acquisition of telecommunication services as a result of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The level of discount, between 20 and 90 percent, is based upon the district's level of eligibility in the federal free and reduced-price lunch program.

Board Comments (continued from page 1)

thanked Deya Adams, a 5th-grade teacher at Apollo Elementary, along with one of her students, for their inspirational message about Henry "Box" Brown.

Becky Gooch reiterated LoPresto's comments about board members being often thanked for the job they do. She said the stadium at Putnam City North is a "neat thing" and thanked patrons for their support. She said she looks forward to the completion of the Putnam City West stadium, Putnam City High gym, new Capps Middle School and other projects. She also offered her condolences to the family of Hilldale Elementary PE teacher Nick Jackson on his recent passing, and said she is praying for them.

Contract with Cox Receives OK

The board on Tuesday night approved a contract that will allow the district to apply for e-rate reimbursement for wide area network services

The district will apply for e-rate reimbursement for the fifth of five one-year optional renewals wide area network connectivity through Cox Communications.

E-rate is the discount that schools may receive for the acquisition of telecommunication services as a result of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The level of discount, between 20 and 90 percent, is based upon the district's level of eligibility in the federal free and reduced-price lunch program.

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>

2020-2021 District Calendar Approved

The board on Tuesday night approved a district calendar for the 2020-2021 school year.

The calendar for the 2019-2020 school year is already in place, having been approved a year ago.

Approving a calendar almost two years in advance helps the district better plan needed professional development opportunities and helps district families and staff better plan their lives.

Here is the 2020-2021 calendar:

Monday, Aug. 17
Teachers report

Thursday, Aug. 20 Classes begin

Monday, Sept. 7
Labor Day
(no school, district offices closed)

Thursday, Oct. 15
End of 1st quarter (40 days)
Parent conferences
(no school, district offices open)

Friday, Oct. 16
Fall break
(no school, district offices closed)

Monday, Oct. 19
Professional Day (no classes)

Monday, Nov. 23 - Friday, Nov. 27
Thanksgiving break
(no school, district offices closed)

Friday, Dec. 18
End of 2nd quarter (39 days)
End of semester (79 days)

Monday, Dec. 21
Christmas break begins
(no school, district offices closed)

Monday, Jan. 4
Professional day (no classes)

Tuesday, Jan. 5
Classes resume

Monday, Jan. 18
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
(no school, district offices closed)

Friday, Feb. 19
Parent conferences
(no school, district offices open)

Monday, Feb. 22
Professional Day (no classes)

Friday, March 12
End of 3rd quarter (47 days)

Monday, March 15 - Friday, March 19
Spring break
(no school, district offices closed)

Thursday, May 27
Last day of classes (if no snow days needed)
End of 4th quarter (49 days)
End of semester (96 days)

Snow days added to end of calendar if needed

Friday, May 28
Professional Day (or day after last day of classes)
(no classes)

Monday, May 31
Memorial Day (no school, district offices closed)

Board Contracts for Speech Services

The board on Tuesday night approved a contract with Jennifer Keahbone to provide speech language pathology services for eligible students during the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year.

The contract helps ensure the district conducts timely speech and language evaluations during times of high need and/or during upcoming maternity leave or absences of existing staff.

The cost of the services, not to exceed \$20,000, will be covered through federal funds.

Board Approves School Psychologist Help

The board on Tuesday night approved a contract for school psychologist services.

As a result of the board action, Lissa Wright will provide comprehensive psychological/educational evaluations as needed. The specific evaluations assigned will be at the discretion of the district.

The contract helps ensure the district conducts timely special education evaluations during times of high need and/or during upcoming maternity leave or absences of existing staff.

The cost of the services, not to exceed \$5,000, will be covered by federal funds.



Museum Honors Four for Lifetime Service

The Putnam City Schools Museum on Tuesday afternoon presented Lifetime Service Awards to four people whose volunteer work has made the district and community better, Kent Mathers, chair of the museum committee, told board members.

The 2019 honorees are the late Leo Mayfield, Putnam City's superintendent from 1964 through 1978, who continued as a volunteer ambassador for the district for many years after his retirement; Gloria Porter Quaid, who launched the preservation committee that became the Museum, served as a member of the Board of Education for 15 years and was an early member of the committee that promotes the district's annual cancer drive; the late Sally Duffy Akin, who volunteered in PTA, homerooms and many other capacities as her four sons journeyed through Wiley Post Elementary, Hefner Middle and Putnam City North High schools; and Mike Brake, who in the past chaired the Museum Committee and also authored the centennial history of Putnam City in 2014.

Quaid, Akin and Brake are all graduates of Putnam City High School. During his long career, Mayfield was a teacher and principal at Putnam City High before becoming superintendent.

The Putnam City Schools Museum is the largest districtwide school museum in Oklahoma, with hundreds of thousands of artifacts, yearbooks, photos and other items. Its collection of items dates back to Putnam City's founding in 1914.

The museum, located at N.W. 40th and Grove, is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and by appointment for reunions and special tours.

Board OKs Extended School Year

The board on Tuesday night approved the time, date and locations for extended school year for students whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) requires that service.

Putnam City staff will provide services from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays from June 3 through June 27. Services will be provided at both Putnam City West High School and Lake Park Elementary School.

The cost of the services will be covered by federal funds.