



BOARD highlights

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

Feb. 25, 2019

Budget Update Shared with Board

Putnam City experienced a mid-year cut of about \$594,000 in state aid, Shannon Meeks, the district’s chief financial officer, told board members Monday night.

Meeks said the reduction in state aid was driven mainly by increases in local property values and funding from the Commissioners of the Land Office, which in turn prompted a decrease in the year’s state aid of just more than \$1 million. A mid-year release of additional state aid, though, brought the district about \$450,000 more. Coupled with an added \$174,000 in flexible benefit funding, the district will receive \$594,242 less than originally budgeted.

Meeks told board members that the district’s fund balance – essentially, its savings account – is now budgeted to be slightly less than it originally was. The fund balance, initially budgeted to be \$11,260,218, is now budgeted to end up at \$10,840,327.



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT by Dr. Fred Rhodes

▶ Four district wrestlers – Juan Macedo, Tre Harley and Ahmad Alserafei from Putnam City North and Rene Martinez from Putnam City High – earned their way into the state tournament that took place over the weekend. Rene Martinez from Putnam City High won second place in the 160 lb. competition.

▶ Eight students from Putnam City North and six from Putnam City High competed in regional swimming competition in early February and qualified for state competition on Friday, Feb. 15, and Saturday, Feb. 16. Carlynn Fast, a freshman from Putnam City High School, had the highest individual finishes in state competition of any district swimmer, earning a 5th-place finish in the 50-meter freestyle and a 4th-place finish in the 100-meter freestyle.

▶ Cadets Joshua Walquist, Timothy Gleason, Robert Leasure, Cristian Campos and Manual Whiteman made up a team of five cadets from Putnam City West’s Army JROTC that finished third in the state in the All-Service category of CyberPatriot competition held in January. The competition puts teams of high school and middle school students in the position of newly hired IT professionals tasked with managing the network of a small company. Teams are given a set of virtual images that represent operating systems and are tasked with finding cybersecurity vulnerabilities within the images and hardening the system while maintaining critical services in a six-hour period. The all-service category is comprised of teams from JROTCs and Civil Air Patrol and Naval Sea Cadets. Twenty-one all-service teams took part in the competition.

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COMMENTS by Public and Board Members

Jay Sherrill said there are a lot of good things going on in the district. He also thanked Arbor Grove Elementary for their presentation on their Maker Space.

Meeting Date: Monday, Feb. 25, 5 p.m.
Location: Administration Building
Roll Call: Three members of the board were present: Cindy Gibbs, Jay Sherrill and Bill Wetmore. Also present were Dr. Fred Rhodes, superintendent; and Sandy Lemaster, board clerk.
Next Meeting: Monday, March 4, 5 p.m.

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Superintendent's Report (continued from page 1)

▶ Ryan Laverty, head coach of Putnam City North's football team, has been selected as Region 8 coach of the year. Region 8 is essentially made up of 40 schools in Oklahoma County. His team made the first round of the state playoffs this year and finished the season with a record of 8 wins and 3 losses.

▶ Phillip Goode, a proud member of the class of 1986 at Putnam City North High School, has created a new scholarship for students at the school. Seniors at Putnam City North will be eligible for The Shelter Foundation \$2,000 scholarship, with the winner selected based on scholastic achievement, participation in leadership, school and community activities, good citizenship, moral character and interest in college. We appreciate Mr. Goode's interest in helping students at his old school.

▶ Congratulations the Putnam City West cheerleading squad that recently competed at the American Spirit Regional Championship. They received first place in the large varsity high school category and won the grand champion title for overall high score of all the school squads that competed. This is the first time Putnam City West's cheer squad has competed in 12 years. We are proud that the hard work demonstrated by the squad has been recognized with this accomplishment.

Board OKs Construction Manager for Improvements at Three Schools

Putnam City's board of education on Monday night approved the employment of Red Sky Constructors to manage projects at Putnam City North High School, Putnam City High School and Ralph Downs Elementary School.

At Putnam City North, Red Sky will oversee construction of a new weight room that will also serve as a storm shelter. The 5,000-square foot facility, to be located just north of the entrance to the Putnam City North gym, will shelter more than 600 people. Red Sky will also manage a second project at the school, renovation of serving lines in the school cafeteria that will increase the speed of service so that students can get through lunch lines more quickly. The serving line improvements at the school are expected to be complete during the coming summer. The new weight room/storm shelter is projected to be finished in spring 2020. The board approved the employment of Kerr 3 Architects to design both projects.

At Putnam City High School, the board approved the hiring of Red Sky to manage construction of a security fence around the student parking lot. The black, 6-foot tall wrought iron fence, along with a guard house and security arm barrier, will allow the school's security officer to better safeguard the campus. The job is expected to be completed during the coming summer.

The board also approved using Red Sky to manage the removal and replacement of carpet in Ralph Downs Elementary School. The carpet now in the school was in place when the building opened in 1990 and is worn, torn, frayed and stained from nearly 30 years of use. The job is projected for completion before the new school year begins in August 2019.

With one exception, the work on all projects mentioned above will be funded by a bond proposal approved by voters in August 2014. The exception – the cost of the security fence project at Putnam City High School – will be covered by the district's Building Fund.



THE OKLAHOMAN

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>