



BOARD highlights

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

March 4, 2019

March is Youth Arts Month in Putnam City

The board on Monday night approved a proclamation declaring March as “Youth Arts Month” in the district. The proclamation was presented to the board for consideration by Cristy Gosset, the music teacher at Western Oaks Elementary. (See the full text of the proclamation on page 3.)

Student performances were a big part of the Youth Arts Month recognition at the meeting. Four members of The Silver Strings of Putnam City, Jeremy Ward, Sydney McLeary, Josphina Alkanmma and Trinity Davis, performed outside the board room before the meeting started. During the meeting, Common Wallace and an ensemble from Putnam City High School performed “Run Freedom Run” from the play *Urinetown*, which will be performed in full at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 14, and Friday, March 15, in the Putnam City High Performing Arts Center. The Putnam City West jazz combo, made up of Rogelio Ramirez, Brandon Ramirez, Noah Helton and Cris Reyes, performed “Sir Duke” by Stevie Wonder, and Gosset played a video of the school’s 1st-grade and 2nd-grade students performing “The Mane Man” from *Welcome to the Jungle*.

Also as part of events at the meeting, winners in the Youth Arts Month visual arts competition were announced. The high school winner was Kennedy Yarbrough, a 10th-grade student at Putnam City High, taught by Vanessa Lango. The middle school winner was Semmei Ne, a 7th-grade student at Capps Middle School, taught by Laura Ogles. At the elementary school level, two students tied – Noemi Escobar, a 2nd-grader at Northridge Elementary, taught by Amanda Day, and Lyric Morgan, a 1st-grader at Western Oaks Elementary, taught by Holly Adams.



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT by Dr. Fred Rhodes

► Jaiden Callies of Putnam City High School has been named to the 2019 Academic All-State Class by the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. The award places Ms. Callies in a select group – one of the 100 top public high school seniors in Oklahoma. The Academic All-Staters were selected from 535 nominations statewide and hailing from 83 different schools in 75 Oklahoma school districts. Each of this year’s All-Staters will receive a \$1,000 merit-based scholarship and a medallion and be recognized at the foundation’s 33rd annual Academic Awards Banquet on Saturday, May 18, at the Renaissance Tulsa Convention Center.

(continued on page 2)



COMMENTS by Public and Board Members

Jay Sherrill suggested that the district use social media to spotlight the talent of district students who take part in arts programs.

Cindy Gibbs said the board appreciated the awesome students who performed at the meeting.

Meeting Date: Monday, March 4, 5 p.m.
Location: Administration Building
Roll Call: Three members of the board were present: Becky Haliburton, president; Cindy Gibbs; and Jay Sherrill. Also present were Dr. Fred Rhodes, superintendent; and Sandy Lemaster, board clerk.
Next Meeting: Monday, April 1, 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)

▶ The results of the basketball tournaments this past weekend made history by sending four district high school basketball teams to the state tournament in Tulsa this week. Congratulations to the Putnam City West girls team, Putnam City West boys team, Putnam City North boys team and Putnam City High boys team. All four teams will make their tournament appearance this Thursday. Let's cheer them on to "Take State" in 2019.

▶ The annual Teacher of the Year program will be tomorrow evening, Tuesday, March 5, at Victory Church located at 4300 N MacArthur Blvd. The event's reception begins at 6:30 p.m. with the program beginning at 7. We look forward to honoring our district's best and we appreciate the Putnam City Schools Foundation for hosting this opportunity for us to showcase our teachers.

▶ We congratulate the Western Oaks Middle School cheerleaders who recently took first place in 6A performance and second place in 6A game day.

Networking Equipment to be Replaced

The board on Monday night approved the lowest, best bid from United Data Technologies for the replacement of network switches and related equipment at district schools. The new equipment will replace aging equipment with faster technology necessary for supporting future growth and needs.

E-rate is the discount that schools may receive for the acquisition of telecommunication services as a result of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. It's anticipated that 85 percent of the \$2,349,321.80 cost of the equipment and installation will be paid for by e-rate funds.

The district is hoping for the work to be completed this summer.

Board Approves High School Summer School

The board on Monday night approved high school summer school dates, times and locations. The high school summer school schedule looks like this:

High School Summer School

These sessions allow students the opportunity to take classes they need to meet graduation requirements.

Location: Putnam City Academy

Dates: June 3 – June 27 (Monday through Friday)

Time: To be determined

Cost: \$220 per session

Senior Credit Recovery Academy

These sessions allow seniors the opportunity to finish needed credits in order to graduate this year. Classes include Government, Intermediate Math, English I, Physical Science, U.S. History, World History, Oklahoma History, Humanities, Physical Education and Earth Science.

Location: Putnam City Academy

Dates: June 3 – June 27 (Monday through Friday)

Time: To be determined

Cost: \$60 tuition

Board Rehires Superintendent

The board on Monday night approved reemployment of Dr. Fred Rhodes as superintendent of Putnam City Schools for the 2019-2020 school year.

Superintendent's Staff Rehired

The board on Monday evening approved rehiring the superintendent's administrative staff for the 2019-2020 school year. That staff is made up Patricia Balenseifen, chief of Human Capital; Cory Boggs, executive director of Information Technology Services; Cecil Bowles, chief operations officer; Rick Croslin, executive director of Secondary Education; Barbara Crump, executive director of Elementary Education; Keely Frayser, executive director of Curriculum and Instruction; Steve Lindley, chief communications officer; Scott McCall, executive director of Special Services; Shannon Meeks, chief financial officer; and Dr. Melani Mouse, assistant superintendent of Academic Services.

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>



Putnam City High School students performed during the Youth Arts Month presentation at the Monday's board meeting.

Youth Arts Month Proclamation

As part of marking Youth Arts Month, the board approved a proclamation about the value of arts education. The proclamation reads:

WHEREAS, arts education contributes powerful educational benefits to all elementary, and secondary students including the following:

- Fine Arts education develops students' creative problem-solving and critical-thinking abilities;
- Fine Arts education teaches sensitivity to beauty, order, and other expressive qualities;
- Fine Arts education gives students deeper understanding of cultural and multi-cultural values and beliefs;
- Fine Arts education reinforces and brings to life what students learn in other subjects;
- Fine Arts education interrelates student learning in production, history, communication, citizenship and aesthetics.

WHEREAS our national leaders have acknowledged the necessity of including the fine arts experiences in all students' education and that support should be given to fine arts teachers as they attempt to strengthen art education in their schools and communities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that support should be given to fine arts teachers as they attempt to strengthen fine arts education in their schools and communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is proclaimed that March be observed as YOUTH ARTS MONTH. All citizens are urged to take an interest in and give full support to quality school fine arts programs for children and youth.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Becky Haliburton, School Board President of Putnam City Schools, do hereby proclaim March 2019 as YOUTH ART MONTH and urge all residents to take interest in and give full support to quality school art programs for children and youth.

Coming Soon in District Arts

The proclamation that March is Youth Arts Month in Putnam City is a good time to note some of the upcoming arts events at the high school and middle school level. Here is a list of just some of the scheduled events:

Theatre

- *Urinetown* (PG performance,) March 14-15, Putnam City High School
- *Diary of Anne Frank*, March 14-15, Putnam City North High School
- *Shrek the Musical*, March 14-15, Capps Middle School
- *Hairspray*, March 28-31, Putnam City West High School

Visual Arts

- Visual arts showcase, through the end of March, Northwest Library and Warr Acres Library
- Visual arts showcase, through the end of March, State Department of Education
- Visual Art showcases at each site, through the end of March

Band

- Spring band concert, May 13, Capps Middle School
- Spring band concert, May 14, Kenneth Cooper Middle School
- Spring Western Oaks Middle School band concert, May 14, Putnam City West
- All-percussion concert, April 4, Putnam City West

Orchestra

- Spring orchestra concert, May 7, Hefner Middle School
- Spring orchestra concert, May 13, Mayfield Middle School
- Orchestra season finale concert, May 14, Putnam City North
- Orchestra season finale concert, May 14, Putnam City North
- Choir and orchestra concert, May 23, Putnam City North

Board Approves Construction Manager for Projects at Four Schools

Putnam City's board of education on Monday night approved the employment of Pope Contracting Inc. to manage projects at three district elementary schools and one middle school.

At Apollo Elementary, Northridge Elementary and Overholser Elementary, Pope will oversee renovation of rest rooms to bring them into compliance are compliant with standards included in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 2010.

At Cooper Middle School, Pope will take on replacing the cracked and decaying three-lane asphalt track circling the football field with a new six-lane track made from long-lasting, competition-quality surface.

The work on each of the four projects is expected to begin shortly after the end of the current school year and end before the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year.

Work on all four projects will be funded by a bond proposal approved by voters in August 2014.

Change Order Approved

The board on Monday night approved a change order in the stadium construction job at Putnam City North High School. The change order will allow installation of rubber flooring for both team rooms at the stadium. The rubber flooring was not part of the original bid but is desirable for safety reasons.

This cost of the flooring change will be covered with unused funds within the stadium project budget.

Board Approves World Languages Curriculum Institute

The board on Monday night approved a contract with the American Council on the Teacher of Foreign Languages for a four-day curriculum development institute to be held May 7-10.

World languages teachers will create a curriculum framework, design performance assessments and design sample lesson plans. The \$8,309 cost of the four-day workshop will be covered by grant funds.

Board Approves School Psychologist Help

The board on Monday night approved a contract for school psychologist services with Saarah Joyce.

Joyce 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 \$6,500, will be covered by federal funds.

Board OKs Native American Consultants

The board on Monday night approved contracts for Native American consulting services for the current school year.

Kricket Rhoads Connywerdy will provide storytelling to educate and foster awareness of Native American history and culture. She will offer two storytelling sessions at Apollo, Arbor Grove, Central, Coronado Heights, Dennis, Downs, Harvest Hills, Hilldale, Lake Park, Northridge, Overholser, Rollingwood, Tulakes, Wiley Post, Will Rogers and Windsor Hills elementary schools. The \$5,600 cost will be covered by federal funds.

Eddie Yellowfish Jr. will open the Native American Tribal Consultation meeting with a Native American traditional honoring song for tribal leaders. The \$100 cost will be covered by federal funds.