



BOARD highlights

April 1, 2019

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

Five People Receive Golden Apples

The Putnam City Public Schools Foundation Monday night presented Golden Apple Awards to five people in recognition of their service and dedication to district students. Awards went to Diana Carter, a volunteer at many schools and a substitute teacher at Putnam City North; Judy Hohne, a volunteer at Harvest Hills Elementary; Herb Nelson, assistant chief with Putnam City Campus Police; Jae Miller, a social worker at Wiley Post Elementary; and Tony Shoemaker, the financial secretary at Rollingwood Elementary.

The honors are given each year to employees and volunteers who promote excellence in education. Each honoree receives a check for \$200.

Since 1992, the Foundation has honored more than 250 district employees and volunteers with Golden Apple awards.

Below are excerpts of comments read about each of this year's honorees, including quotes (in italics) from some of the people who nominated them.

Dianna Carter

Volunteer, Putnam City North High School Substitute Teacher

Dianna Carter has been actively involved at all levels of the district for more than 15 years. From homeroom mother, to booster clubs, to teacher appreciation events, she is always willing to give of her time to support our schools. She has served in leadership roles in many PTO organizations, including at James L. Dennis Elementary, Hefner Middle School, Putnam City North High School, and the district's PTO Council. As if that weren't enough, Dianna is now a long-term substitute teacher at Putnam City North, where she consistently goes above and beyond with a passionate commitment to the future of every student she encounters.

Quotes from those who nominated Dianna:

"Dianna has served all of the children in our district because she has a heart for children and a heart for public education. She is simply one of the most caring and giving individuals that I have ever met. She never tires of doing good for our teachers, our students, and our families." (continued on page 3)



COMMENTS by Public and Board Members

Jay Sherrill thanked Golden Apple Award recipients and other district employees who go above and beyond and make Putnam City what it is. He also wished principals and their staffs good luck during testing season, and said his thoughts would be with them.

Cindy Gibbs related a story about Judy Hohne, a Harvest Hills Elementary volunteer who was presented with a Golden Apple Award tonight. Gibbs said the time she spent reading to children at the school helped her get through a challenging time in her life. She also said she appreciated the Teacher of the Year program's new venue, and she noted that she enjoyed greeting the Capps Middle School teacher of the year because she was acquainted with her before she came to teach in the district.

Gail LoPresto joined Sherrill in congratulating Golden Apple Award recipients. She thanked award winner Tony Shoemaker for her 40-year career with the district. (continued on page 2)

Meeting Date: Monday, April 1, 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 Tina Losawyer, deputy board clerk.
Next Meeting: Monday, April 15, 5 p.m.

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**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** by Dr. Fred Rhodes

▶ We congratulate four of our high school basketball teams: The Putnam City High boys team, the Putnam City North boys team, the Putnam City West boys team and the Putnam City West girls team. While we did not bring home a state championship this year, we're very proud that these four teams went to the state tournament this year. From the research we have conducted, four district teams going to state the same year has not happened in our 105-year history. Most of the games were "nail biters." They could have so easily ended in our favor. I have to commend our head coaches and the entire coaching staff for the incredible work they do with our young people. Not only are they winners on the court, they are guiding our students to be young women and young men with good character, high morals, respect and courtesy. For example, in all the interactions and conversations I observed of our students, I always heard adults addressed with a "Yes Sir" and a "Yes Ma'am". In addition to the coaching staff, I also want to commend Dr. Dick Balenseifen, our district athletic director. Because of his leadership, we are seeing great success in our athletic programs across the district. He works tirelessly to make it all happen. He is constantly striving to improve our programs. He has his radar out and looking for prospective coaches to bring to Putnam City. He is also highly respected around the state. He has extraordinary passion for and loyalty to the district. Thanks to all of you. You have made us Putnam City Proud!

▶ Congratulations to Valerie Castro, a junior at Putnam City High School on becoming Putnam City High's first DECA Student Executive Council member in more than 15 years. She will serve with five other members from across the state and will attend the DECA International Career Development Conference in Orlando as a state leader. In state DECA competition, Putnam City High student Mary DeLoera earned first place in Restaurant Service Management. In other categories of competition, one Putnam City High student earned a second-place finish while three other students brought home third-place finishes.

▶ Putnam City West and Putnam City North students also took part in state DECA competition. From Putnam City West, Lyssa Albertson and Pahola Deleon won first place in Financial Literacy Promotion Project, and Tiantian Lin won first place in Integrated Marketing Campaign. Four other students earned second-place finishes, and three other students won third place in their categories. From Putnam City North, five students earned second-place finishes, and four more took third place.

▶ Putnam City High School students who are part of Business Professionals of America took part in competition during the recent state leadership conference in Tulsa. Sean Tabor earned first place in C++. In other categories of competition, three other Putnam City High students earned second-place finishes and four students earned third-place finishes.

Emergency Leave Granted by Board

The board on Monday night approved four emergency leave days for the current school year. The leave, for employees working contracts of 236 days or more, relates to four days of the school year missed due to inclement weather. All employees in that category receive the four days of emergency leave because on those inclement weather days they reported to work or took vacation days.

Emergency leave must be taken during the remainder of the current fiscal year.

Board Comments (continued from page 1)

She congratulated Putnam City West on their production of *Hairspray* and Putnam City High on their production of *Urinetown*. She also mentioned the excellent collaboration between fine arts teachers at Putnam City West.

Becky Gooch said the student sections for all three schools at the state basketball tournament were phenomenal. She thanked principals and assistant principals for the hard work they do.

Board Approves Contract for Services

The board on Monday night approved a contract for school psychologist services with Adriene "Ann" Maddox for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year.

Maddox 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 \$7,000, will be covered by 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>

Golden Apples Awarded to Five People (continued from page 1)**Judy Hohne****Volunteer, Harvest Hills Elementary School**

Motivated by nothing more than wanting to be a good neighbor, Judy Hohne became a volunteer at Harvest Hills Elementary more than seven years ago. Twice a week, without fail, she works one-on-one with kindergartners listening to them read and helping them with basic reading skills. The patience and encouragement she shows each student is truly remarkable, and she is an invaluable helping hand to their teachers. Judy's kindness extends beyond academics. She often brings students goodie bags for holidays, attends their school programs, and gives gifts to staff to make sure they feel appreciated.

Quotes from those who nominated Judy:

"Mrs. Hohne goes above and beyond as a volunteer, showing each child she loves and cares about them."

"She understands that schools should be a place of community responsibility and priority, and that one should never pass up the opportunity to offer love and kindness."

"I really can't think of anyone more deserving than this amazing woman, who consistently supports our students in a very basic but extremely crucial way. What would our schools be like if every young reader had a Mrs. Hohne?"

Herb Nelson**Assistant Chief, Campus Police Department**

Herb Nelson has been a member of the Campus Police Department for more than 37 years. In his role as assistant chief, he is responsible for administering building access cards for the entire district and supervising all of the department's officers. Herb is highly regarded for his professionalism and commitment to keeping our students, patrons and staff safe and secure. He is known for his enthusiasm and willingness to always lend a helping hand.

Quotes from those who nominated Herb:

"If Herb could be summed up in just a few words, it would have to be a big heart and willingness to help at anytime."

"The positivity and professionalism he represents go before him and he serves as an amazing role model for others districtwide."

"Every time he is called upon for his services, Officer Nelson arrives wearing his smile. From a patron's desperate time of need due to car trouble, to an employee needing a ride, or even caring for a child lost and afraid, Herb was there to not only assist but to help each person feel comforted and safe."

Jae Miller**Social Worker, Wiley Post Elementary School**

Jae Miller has worked at Wiley Post Elementary for seven years. She is highly respected for her dedicated work with the school's most vulnerable students, those who have suffered Adverse Childhood Experiences, and children experiencing difficulties with behavior or emotional regulation. She is committed to ensuring students have the resources and coping skills to be successful in school and life. Jae is also a support for teachers, sharing with them the latest research and encouraging self-care during difficult times. She is a member of the district crisis team and available at a moment's notice to provide counseling to students and adults.

Quotes from those who nominated Jae:

"Every child she helps is greeted with open-mindedness, respect, and a never-give-up attitude. The children know deep down that they are loved, valued, and have an advocate in their corner."

"My son is autistic and has ADHD and without her I would have been lost. Her joy and patience are what allowed him to stay in school most days. He still uses the tools she taught him to better himself."

"...her infectious smile and joyful personality light up our classrooms..."

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Golden Apples Awarded to Five People

(continued from page 3)



Receiving Golden Apples at Monday night's board meeting were (left to right) Judy Hohne, Diana Carter, Jae Miller, Tony Shoemaker and Herb Nelson.

Tony Shoemaker Financial Secretary, Rollingwood Elementary

Tony Shoemaker has served Rollingwood Elementary for more than forty years. Generations of students know and love "Ms. Tony," and still recall her welcoming smile each morning. She is an integral part of the Rollingwood team, and highly regarded by staff for her vast knowledge, efficiency, and the consistent way she keeps the school and its resources running smoothly. Tony is always willing to go the extra mile, whether it's helping teachers coordinate school events, assisting a student in the medical clinic, or helping students contact their parents for afterschool pick-up.

Quotes from those who nominated Tony:

"I remember well the morning Ms. Tony greeted me in the Rollingwood Elementary office as I enrolled my first child in school. Her warm smile and kind words assured me that Rollingwood would be a wonderful environment for my daughter..."

"Mrs. Shoemaker is truly one of the reasons Rollingwood Elementary is such an outstanding school."

"Tony is a wonderful co-worker. She has an excellent rapport with the faculty and she is always willing to help whenever she is needed and will do whatever it takes to get the job done."

Board Approves Contract for Youth Powwow

The board on Monday night approved a contract with Terry Tsotigh to serve as master of ceremonies at the upcoming Putnam City Youth Powwow.

As emcee, Tsotigh will be responsible for making sure the proper verbal guidance, explanations and traditional protocols are followed as instructed by the arena director and the powwow committee.

The youth powwow is a cultural event that serves to motivate and provide a place for Native American students to realize and appreciate their Native American culture. The youth powwow is scheduled for May 3 at the Putnam City High gymnasium and is open to all students and families of the school district.

The cost of the contract, \$200, will be covered by federal funds.

Administrators Rehired

The board on Monday night voted unanimously to rehire the district's certified administrators for the 2019-2020 school year.

The certified administrators are school principals and assistant principals plus the assistant director of Special Services, the Smart Start administrator, the District Enrollment Office administrator, the district Transportation Department director and the district athletic director.



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