



BOARD highlights

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

May 6, 2019

Board Recognizes Superstar Teachers

Thirty-one first-year and second-year teachers representing 25 schools were recognized as “Superstar Teachers” at Monday night’s board meeting.

The honor was given to teachers in the first or second year of their careers who consistently exceed expectations in building relationships with students, use teaching strategies to increase student engagement and work collaboratively with their PLCs to promote improved teaching and learning. Honorees were nominated for recognition by their principals. This is the fourth year for recognition of Superstar teachers.

Each Superstar teacher received a certificate, a portfolio and a Superstar award.

While the award was established to honor teachers early in their careers, district leaders also gather information from Superstar teachers in order to better serve the needs of new teachers entering the profession.

The Putnam City Association of Classroom Teachers and the Putnam City Schools Foundation funded the recognition program and awards.

(continued on page 2)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT by Dr. Fred Rhodes

▶ Emily Clark, a 4th-grade teacher at Coronado Heights Elementary School, played a leading role in an effort to widen and improve care for new mothers in Oklahoma. Clark met with Sen. Stephanie Bice in July 2018 and proposed legislation calling for new mothers to be given information about and screened for postpartum anxiety and depression. Bice submitted the legislation this year. Both the House and Senate approved it and on April 29 the governor signed it. The law goes into effect in November.

▶ Putnam City High School student and JROTC cadet Alejandra Flores-Cardoza is one of just 30 students in the nation to be selected for the Mississippi StarTalk program, which is funded by the federal government to provide high school students with intensive instruction in Chinese. The instruction will take place this summer on the University of Mississippi in Oxford. In addition to studying Chinese inside and outside of the classroom, students will participate in a cultural program introducing them to China, its people, and its culture. Students will receive scholarships that cover the cost of their instruction and books, and provide them with housing and meals on the Ole Miss campus. Eligible students who complete the program will receive college credit in Mandarin Chinese.

(continued on page 3)

COMMENTS by Public and Board Members

Patron Kimberly Willis asked the board to consider creating part-time contracts for teachers as a way to bring good teachers back into the classroom.

Priscilla Cude, chairman of the board for the Northwest Oklahoma City Chamber, and Jill McCartney, president of the chamber, thanked Putnam City Schools for their partnership with the chamber through the years and presented a plaque naming the district as a chamber legacy member.

Board members said they are looking forward to graduation ceremonies. They also noted the upcoming retirement of Steve Lindley and thanked him for his service to the district.

Jay Sherrill said there are awesome things going on in the district and thanked the administrators and teachers who are planning and carrying out the activities. He also thanked the Putnam City Schools Foundation for making the Wall of Fame banquet such a fantastic event.

(continued on page 2)

Meeting Date:	Monday, May 6, 5 p.m.
Location:	Administration Building
Roll Call:	Four members of the board were present: Gail LoPresto, president; Cindy Gibbs, vice president; Charity Avery; and Jay Sherrill. Also present were Dr. Fred Rhodes, superintendent; and Tina Losawyer, deputy board clerk.
Next Meeting:	Monday, May 20, 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.

Superstar Teachers Recognized (continued from page 1)

Superstar teachers in Putnam City are:

Elementary Schools*

- Sara Campbell, 2nd Grade, Apollo Elementary School
- Stephanie Olson, 2nd Grade, Arbor Grove Elementary School
- Katie Thorne, 2nd Grade, Central Elementary School
- Brittany Owze, Kindergarten, Coronado Heights Elementary School
- Kylie Godwin, 5th Grade, Ralph Downs Elementary School
- Jacob Dail, 4th Grade, Harvest Hills Elementary School
- Jessica Williams, 3rd Grade, Hilldale Elementary School
- Christine Swank, 2nd Grade, Kirkland Elementary School
- Kendall McWilliams, Pre-K, Kirkland Elementary School
- Jennifer Brooks, 2nd Grade, Lake Park Elementary School
- Emily Buchalla, 1st Grade, Northridge Elementary School
- Andrew Wiggins, 4th Grade, Northridge Elementary School
- Kyle Hood, 5th Grade, Overholser Elementary School
- Faith Salyer, 3rd Grade, Overholser Elementary School
- Tamara Ellis, Kindergarten, Overholser Elementary School
- Claire Myers, Speech and Language Pathologist, Rollingwood Elementary School
- Mercedes Vega, 1st Grade, Tulakes Elementary School
- Lindsey Johnson, 3rd Grade, Western Oaks Elementary
- Laura Griffith, 1st Grade, Will Rogers Elementary School
- Makenzie Colton, 2nd Grade, Windsor Hills Elementary School

*There were no new teachers at James L. Dennis Elementary or Wiley Post Elementary this year.

Middle Schools

- Jessica Trotter, 8th Grade Counselor, Capps Middle School
- Aaron Jones, 6th Grade Math, Cooper Middle School
- Mr. Cassidy Wion, 6th Grade Math, Hefner Middle School
- Justin Stevenson, 6th Grade Geography, Hefner Middle School
- Jennifer Boyes, Orchestra, Mayfield Middle School
- Karina Tarpey, 7th-grade English, Western Oaks Middle School
- Denise Starnes, 6th-grade Math, Western Oaks Middle School

High Schools

- Melia Mullins, English I Honors and English I, Putnam City High School
- Melanie Lambert, Dance, Putnam City North High School
- Brian Lockart, Social Studies, Putnam City North High School
- Lynsey Thomas, Geometry, Putnam City West High School

Board Comments (continued from page 1)

Charity Avery said the district is doing well and that she is looking forward to seeing everything that is going on.

Cindy Gibbs said she enjoyed seeing Kirkland students perform. She praised Putnam City North for holding a signing day for seniors who will continue their fine arts education in college, saying fine arts students work hard and deserve recognition. She remembered the help that Putnam City North Counselor Kathryn Lambert gave to her children when they were in school and said Ms. Lambert played a role in the master's degree her youngest child is on the verge of receiving.

Gail LoPresto congratulated board member Charity Avery on earning her MBA. She thanked Dessi Black for sending a list of district events. She said the Putnam City West band gave a great performance, and she mentioned that Levi Dobrinski, the director of Silver Strings and the Putnam City West orchestra, has a new baby at home. She also noted that Putnam City High School Drama Teacher Daniel Smith, who has helped produce so many outstanding young actors, will be leaving the district to enter a doctoral program at New York University.

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>

Superintendent's Report (continued from page 1)

▶ Congratulations to golfers from our district high schools. Three golfers, one from each high school, qualified for the girls state tournament. Rebecca Davis from Putnam City High School, Sydney Mason from Putnam City North and Carter Russell from Putnam City West played on in state competition on May 1-2 at Earlywine Golf course in Oklahoma City. On the boys side, Christian McAllister from Putnam City High and Grant Murphey from Putnam City North qualified for the state tournament to be held today and tomorrow at Rose Creek Golf course in Edmond.

▶ Congratulations, too, to the Putnam City High School boys soccer team, which made it to the state playoffs last week. Although they lost their first round game, it was nevertheless a successful season. This is the second time in the last four years the team has qualified for the state tournament. In addition, two of their players – Leonardo Lopez and Julian DeLoera – made All-State.

▶ Five Putnam City High School drama students are among 20 finalists for best actor/actress for the first-ever Kelli O'Hara Awards, which are Oklahoma's part of the National High School Musical Theatre Awards (sometimes known as the "Jimmy Awards.") Putnam City High School has more finalists of any school in the state. Each of the Putnam City High students who are finalists for the award were nominated based on their performances in the school's production of the musical Urinetown.

Finalists are:

- Kindle Ford, for best actress in a leading role
- Jaiden Sango, for best actress in a leading role
- Diego Martinez, for best actor in a leading role
- Tyler Swenson, for best actor in a leading role
- Common Wallace, finalist for best actor in a leading role

Finalists will audition before a panel of theatre professionals on Saturday, May 11, for the chance to be named best actor or actress in a musical. All nominees will perform at the awards ceremony on Sunday, May 19, at 6 p.m. at the Civic Center Music Hall in downtown Oklahoma City. The awards are produced through the Oklahoma City Civic Center Foundation and Broadway's producing juggernaut, the Nederlander Organization. They are named for Oklahoma native Kelli O'Hara, an actress and singer well known for her work on Broadway as well as in television, film and opera.

▶ Congratulations to the Putnam City High School women's choir that competed at the WorldStrides St. Louis Heritage Festival in late April. The choir earned second place in the gold division and has been invited to compete in the prestigious Festival of Golds next year.

▶ The Air Force JROTC unit at Putnam City High School has been selected as one of 376 units to receive the 2018-2019 Air Force JROTC Distinguished Unit Award. The award recognizes Air Force JROTC units that have performed well above and beyond normal expectations, and that have distinguished themselves through outstanding service to their school and community while meeting the Air Force JROTC citizen development mission for America. Air Force JROTC is located in close to 900 high schools across the United States and at selected schools in Europe, in the Pacific, and in Puerto Rico. Air Force JROTC enrollment includes more than 120,000 cadets who do over 1.6 million hours of community service each year.

▶ Signing ceremonies for student-athletes to commit to colleges and universities has become commonplace, but this year, for the first time, Putnam City North hosted a Fine Arts Signing Day. Twenty-three fine arts seniors in band, orchestra, choir, theater, film, dance and visual arts met the criteria to participate in the signing ceremony. To qualify, students had to meet one of the following criteria: a) Received a scholarship to participate in a fine arts program in college; b) Auditioned for and accepted into a fine arts program at their college; or c) Plan to major or minor in an area of fine arts in college. The signing day was a great way to recognize these seniors and encourage them in their future endeavors in the arts.

▶ District high school vocal music students recently attended state solo and ensemble contest. Forty-two Putnam City North students earned superior ratings and 13 earned excellent ratings. Three Putnam City West students earned superior ratings and one earned an excellent rating., and from Putnam City High, two students earned excellent ratings.

▶ John Coerver, the PEAK teacher at Arbor Grove Elementary School, was last week named the Devon Energy STEM teacher of the game as part of a program operated by Devon Energy and OKC Energy FC. At an upcoming Energy FC game Coerver will be presented with a \$1,000 check to be used for supplies for his classroom.

Administrative Interns Announced

Superintendent Dr. Fred Rhodes announced administrative interns for elementary schools next year.

- **Deana Ellis**, an administrative intern at Hilldale Elementary this year, will split her time as an intern next year at Apollo Elementary and Will Rogers Elementary.
- **Kristen Parker**, an administrative intern at Central Elementary this year, will split her time as an intern next year between Ralph Downs Elementary and Positive Changes.
- **Kimberly Fletcher**, an administrative intern at Coronado Heights Elementary and Will Rogers Elementary this year, will next year serve as an administrative intern at Rollingwood Elementary.
- **Jennifer Evans**, an administrative intern at Arbor Grove Elementary this year, will next year serve as an administrative intern at Central Elementary.
- **Erin Frizzell**, a counselor at Coronado Heights, will next year serve as an administrative intern at Hilldale Elementary.
- **Jamie Taylor**, a 5th-grade teacher at Arbor Grove Elementary, will next year serve as an administrative intern at Harvest Hills Elementary.
- **Monserat Randolph**, a 4th-grade teacher at Western Oaks Elementary, will next year split time as an administrative intern between Lake Park Elementary and Windsor Hills Elementary.
- **Megan Abrams**, a 5th-grade teacher at John Rex Charter School, will next year serve as an administrative intern at James L. Dennis Elementary.
- **Claire Sengupta**, a 4th-grade teacher at César Chávez Elementary in Oklahoma City, will serve as an administrative intern at both Northridge Elementary and Coronado Heights Elementary.

Board OKs Student Teachers

The board on Monday night approved an agreement with Arizona State University that will allow university students to serve as student teachers in district schools during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years.

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

Support Staff Rehired

The board on Monday night unanimously approved a list of support employees to rehire for the 2019-2020 school year.