



# BOARD highlights

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

May 23, 2019

## District to Launch Bus Tracking App

Board approval Thursday night will make SpotMyBus, a bus tracking app, available to students and parents in the 2019-2020 school year. SpotMyBus is smartphone app that shows students and parents where their bus is and tells them when it will arrive at their stop. The app is free to download and available for both Android and iPhone users.

The mobile app uses information from GPS trackers, which will be installed on all Putnam City school buses. The district will provide a special code only to parents and legal guardians that they will need in order to track their children's buses. Parents and children will no longer have to guess where the school bus is or worry if they are getting to the bus stop too early or too late. Children can spend less time waiting for the bus in the rain, wind or cold. Parents and children can know the estimated time of arrival (within 2 minutes) each day. The app will also indicate if a bus has already arrived at the stop and proceeded on.

Another positive feature of SpotMyBus is if that if parents have children riding different school buses, they can track each bus. Parents can also track buses taking their children to and from field trips and sporting events.

While SpotMyBus clearly helps students and parents, it also helps the district's Transportation Department. Spot My Bus allows department officials to see the exact location of school buses in real-time. It can provide substitute drivers an audible turn-by-turn of the route. The app will also help decrease the number of calls parents make to ask where their children's bus is.

The district's agreement with SpotMyBus is for one year with four optional renewals at the same cost. The \$45,936 annual cost will be paid for with bond funds.

## Assistant Principal Hired for Capps MS

The Putnam City Board of Education voted Thursday night to appoint Mandy Deason as an assistant principal at Capps Middle School for the 2019-2020 school year.

Deason served as an administrative intern at Kenneth Cooper Middle School this year. Before her time at Cooper, she was a special needs teacher at Mayfield Middle School for nine years. She holds a master's degree in educational leadership from Southern Nazarene University and a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Northern Michigan University.

She will replace Rustin Donaldson, who has taken a position with another school district.

## COMMENTS by Public and Board Members

Board members congratulated students on their academic and athletic awards, and also coach congratulated coaches on their accomplishments.

Charity Avery congratulated Harvest Hills Elementary on being named a Leader in Me Lighthouse School. She congratulated Special Olympics participants for an awesome job. She also apologized for being ill and missing graduation ceremonies, but promised to be in attendance next year.

Becky Gooch said it was remarkable that as many as a third of district students take part in athletics. She said graduation ceremonies were amazing and that it was always fun to see the excitement. She said that graduation of special needs students was touching.

Cindy Gibbs said it has been a great year and that she is already looking forward to next year. She joined Avery in congratulating Harvest Hills on being named a Lighthouse School, and said that

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Meeting Date:	Thursday, May 23, 8 a.m.
Location:	Administration Building
Roll Call:	Four members of the board were present: Gail LoPresto, president; Cindy Gibbs, vice president; Charity Avery; and Becky Gooch. Also present were Dr. Fred Rhodes, superintendent; and Tina Losawyer, deputy board clerk.
Next Meeting:	Monday, June 3, 5 p.m.

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

This last weekend we enjoyed celebrating graduations of our seniors at all three district high schools, but the Putnam City High School graduation was especially significant because it was the 100th graduation class for the school. While the school district started in 1914, the first class of graduating seniors was in 1919. At that time, the graduation rate in America was only 16 percent because school districts had not yet established high schools. Most students were graduating with only an 8th-grade education, partly because America at that time was predominately an agricultural society. Many young people who were of high school age were needed to work on the family farm. There was no time to attend school.

Prior to the establishment of Putnam City Schools in 1914, there were four one-room country schools that only went through the 8th-grade: (Central School (at N.W. 23rd and Rockwell), County Line School (at Wilshire and County Line), Goff School (at N.W. 63rd and Rockwell), and Ozmun School (at N.W. 23rd and Portland). If students living in any one of these four dependent school districts wanted to attend high school, they went by streetcar, horse, wagon or car to downtown Oklahoma City every school day to attend Central High School.

Established in 1914, Putnam City High School became the third high school in our great state, following two previously established high schools in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. National publications and memorabilia described Putnam City Schools as the world's largest consolidated school district.

In the first graduating class of 1919, there were only three graduates: Etta Green, Charles McKinney and Verde Stinchcomb. (The son and daughter-in-law of Mr. Stinchcomb, David and Beverly, are still very active in our school district today, having helped establish the Putnam City Museum and now serving as members of the museum committee.) From just three graduates in 1919, fast forward 100 years to 2019 and Putnam City High has now sent into the world more than 31,000 graduates.

Thirty-one thousand graduates of Putnam City High now span the globe in all walks of life and continue to make incredible contributions to our society. We thank those pioneers, those trailblazers, those who were willing to give of themselves and had the foresight to establish Putnam City Schools, from which we all benefit from today.

## Board Comments (continued from page 1)

her granddaughter, a student at the school, is absorbing the Leader in Me language and philosophies. She wished district employees a good summer.

Gail LoPresto thanked everyone who participated in awards presentations during the meeting. She also thanked all district employees for their work, saying it's amazing all the things they do to make school better for students.

## Board Appoints Negotiating Team

The board on Thursday night appointed the 2019-2020 negotiating team to represent the board in the bargaining process with the Putnam City Association of Classroom Teachers. The team is to be chaired by Human Capital Chief Patricia Balenseifen. Additional team members are Dr. Melani Mouse, Rick Croslin, Barbara Crump and Shannon Meeks. Dr. Keely Frayser and Scott McCall are alternate members of the team.

## Secondary Moves Announced by Superintendent

Superintendent Dr. Fred Rhodes announced these administrative changes at district secondary schools next year:

- **Jon Belt, the PEAK teacher at Hefner Middle School this year,** will be an administrative intern at Capps Middle School next year.
- **Scott Graham,** an assistant principal at Cooper Middle School this year, will be an assistant principal at Mayfield Middle School next year.
- **Ben Hodges,** an assistant principal at Mayfield Middle School this year, will be an assistant principal at Cooper Middle School next year.
- **Holly Fike,** an administrative intern this year at Western Oaks Middle School, will serve in the same position next year at Cooper Middle School.
- **Abbie Nidiffer,** an administrative intern at Putnam City High School this year, will be an administrative intern at Western Oaks Middle School next year.
- **Erin Mitchell,** an instructional coach at Putnam City High School this year, will remain at the school next year as an administrative intern.
- **Isaac McCord,** principal at Western Oaks Middle School since 2017, will next year be an assistant principal at Putnam City High School. McCord asked to move to a high school assistant principal position.

## Retiring Employees Honored

Thirty-seven retiring district employees were recognized Thursday night and thanked for their years of service to Putnam City.

Twenty-two of this year's retirees are certified employees; 15 are support employees. The 37 retiring employees have a combined 915 years of experience in education, 742 of which are with Putnam City. When considering certified staff only, it's 581 years of teaching experience retiring from the district, 431 of which came in Putnam City. The retiring employee with the longest career in public education is Kay Compton, a library media specialist at Cooper Middle School. She is retiring after 42 years in public education, 11 of which came with Putnam City.

*(See list of retirees at right)*

## Students Recognized for Academic Excellence

The board on Thursday night honored five district students for academic excellence.

### National Merit Finalist

**Long Pham**, a senior at Putnam City High School, was recognized this year as a National Merit finalist, an honor placing him among the nation's elite high school students.

### Questbridge Scholarships

In addition to being a National Merit Finalist, **Pham** was announced in early December as recipient of a prestigious QuestBridge College Match Scholarship. Also earning that distinction was **Lyssa Albertson** of Putnam City West. It's an honor that will send each of the two district students to premier universities on full four-year scholarships, Pham to Stanford University and Albertson to the University of Chicago/

### Oklahoma Academic All-State

**Jaiden Callies** of Putnam City High School was named to the 2019 Academic All-State Class by the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. The award places 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. Students chosen for Academic All-State are selected on the basis of academic achievement, extracurricular activities, community involvement and an essay. David L. Boren, chairman and founder of the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence, describes the selection of the scholars as "Oklahoma's most rigorous academic competition."

### National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars

**Alexander de Jesus** of Putnam City West and **Erick Calderon Leon** of Putnam City High are two of about 5,000 students to be selected as a National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) Scholars out of more than 250,000 students who took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholar Qualifying Test as juniors. Like all NHRP honorees, de Jesus and Leon earned a qualifying test score and a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. While NHRP does not directly include any financial awards or scholarships, colleges use the program to identify academically exceptional Hispanic/Latino students.

## List of Retirees

- Kathleen Amour
- Thomas Anderson
- Sherrita Bailey
- Mona Black
- Jean Bradley-Saatian
- Barbara Brown
- Nona Burling
- Kay Compton
- Roger Eccles
- Cheryl Fern
- Jeanne Fields
- Daniel Griffin
- Barbara Hammons
- Julie Harris
- Michele Hawkins
- Patricia Henderson
- Patricia Holland
- Jason Robert Jefcoat
- Marvin Johnson
- Karen Kock
- Carol Koeneke
- Karen Lancaster
- Sally Limber
- Steve Lindley
- Vicki McClain
- Janice Reimers
- Pamela Rhodes
- Suzanne Rogers
- John Rothenay
- Cheryl Samples
- Pamela Schafer
- Kathryn Simpson
- Rebecca Sipes
- Kelly Taylor
- Tommy Thomason
- Charles Thompson
- Misty Williams

*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 <https://www.putnamcityschools.org/about-us/board-of-education/board-meeting-minutes>

## Board Recognizes Student-Athletes

The board on Thursday night recognized 12 district athletes for outstanding accomplishments this year. The honorees were:

### Putnam City High School

- **Julian De Loera**, boys' soccer, OSCA All-State
- **Leonardo Lopez**, boys' soccer, OSCA All-State
- **Tre Carolina**, boys' basketball, Large West 6A All-State, OK Big 10 All-Conference, Big All-City second team
- **Christian McAllister**, Golf, OCA boys All-State

### Putnam City North High School

- **Micah Thomas**, basketball, The Oklahoman Super Five, Oklahoman Player of the Year, Big All-City Player of the Year, OCA Class 6A All Star, OCA Large West All-State, 2018-19 All-USA OK boys first team, Faith Seven award winner
- **Will Taylor**, football, The Oklahoman Big All-City Defensive Team, 6A1-2 Defensive player of the Year, The Oklahoman All-State
- **Juan Macedo**, football, OCA Class 6A Defense All-Star
- **Dk Stevenson**, football, OCA Class 6A Defense All-Star football team, OCA Large West, Defense All-State, 2019 Class 6A leader in interceptions
- **Kyle Owen**, boys' soccer, OSCA All-State
- **Elise Kraft**, girls' soccer, OSCA All-State

### Putnam City West High School

- **Mekayla Furman**, girls' basketball, OGBCA Large West All State
- **India Morgan**, girls' long jump state champion (second year in a row)
- **Rondel Walker**, boys' basketball, Big All-City first team, Oklahoman's Super Five second team, 2018-2019 All-USA OK boys second team, OK Big 10 Defensive player of the Year, OCA Class 6A All-State

*OCA = Oklahoma Coaches Association*

*OSCA = Oklahoma Soccer Coaches Association*

*OGBCA = Oklahoma Girls Basketball Coaches Association*

## Board Hears Update on Kelly Sports Partnership

District Athletic Director Dr. Dick Balenseifen told board members Thursday night that the district's partnership of almost four years with Kelly Sports Properties has resulted in more than \$380,000 being distributed to secondary athletics and fine arts programs. Balenseifen added that another \$73,000 will be distributed among schools in October, and contracts with local business partners call for another \$50,000 by Oct. 1. If everything stays on schedule, Balenseifen said, the district's agreement with Kelly Sports will have brought into district schools more than \$500,000 in less than five years.

The district formally began a relationship with Kelly Sports in late June 2015 when the board approved an agreement for the company to promote, market and advertise sports and other OSSAA-governed activities at district secondary schools.

## Coaches Honored by Board

Four district coaches were recognized by the board Thursday night for accomplishments in their positions during the last several years. Coaches recognized by the board were:

**Ryan Wagner**, Putnam City North athletic director, boys basketball head coach

- 2018 6A Coach of the Year
- 2016-2019 State qualifiers four times
- 2018 state champion
- 2019 state runner-up

**Lenny Bert**, Putnam City West athletic director, boys basketball head coach

- 2016 6A Coach of The Year
- 2013-2019 State qualifiers seven times
- 2014 State runner-up
- 2016 State champion

**Eddie Wright**, Putnam City High athletic director, boys soccer head coach

- 2005-2019 State qualifiers seven times
- Awarded \$50,000 grant for weight room equipment project

**Ryan Laverty**, Putnam City North boys football head coach

- 2018 Region 8 Coach of the Year
- 2018 OK Big 10 Coach of the Year
- 2017-2019 raised \$45,000 for weight room equipment project