



BOARD highlights

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

June 17, 2019

Board Appoints Assistant Principal at Western Oaks Middle School

The Putnam City Board of Education voted Monday night to appoint Holly Fike as an assistant principal at Western Oaks Middle School for the 2019-2020 school year.

Fike's appointment as assistant principal will continue her role at Western Oaks, where she has served as an administrative intern since 2017. Before her time at Western Oaks, she was band director for 10 years at Monroney Middle School in Mid-Del Public Schools and in Duncan Middle School for five years before that. She also served as an elementary music teacher in Richardson Independent School District in Dallas and as band and choir director in Waurika Public Schools for three years.

She holds a master's degree in educational leadership from Southern Nazarene University, a master's degree in music from Southwestern Oklahoma State University and a bachelor's degree in music education, also from Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

She will replace Jennifer Robertson, who at the most recent board meeting was named principal at Western Oaks.



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT by Dr. Fred Rhodes

▶ Nathan Poppe, a 2007 graduate of Putnam City North High School and a talented local writer, photographer, and videographer, is also editor of the *Curbside Chronicle*, a magazine sold on Oklahoma City street corners to employ and benefit men and women transitioning out of homelessness. Now, Poppe and the *Curbside Chronicle* are among five finalists for an international award: The 2019 Best News Feature to be chosen by the International Network of Street Papers. According to the organization, the best news feature award recognizes the best original story, investigative feature, scoop or news interview uncovered by a street paper of the year and demonstrates outstanding journalistic depth and accuracy as well as original thinking. An article by Poppe and Whitley O'Connor about a Texas woman who is facing the prospect of prison time for voting in the 2016 presidential election is competing against stories that ran in street newspapers in Canada, Germany and Switzerland. The winner will be announced June 19.

▶ Putnam City High School Orchestra Teacher Colin Waddell was named the KOCO-TV teacher of the month for May. He was nominated by his students and will receive \$1,000 for his classroom from Quail Creek Bank!

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COMMENTS by Public and Board Members

Board members thanked Steve Lindley for his work through the years.

Charity Avery congratulated students who were named Oklahoma Academic Scholars.

Becky Gooch asked administrators to report to the board about training in the district regarding how teachers and administrators can recognize and respond to students who have been impacted by traumatic stress.

Cindy Gibbs commended principals who attended the meeting.

Meeting Date: Monday, June 17, 5 p.m.
Location: Administration Building
Roll Call: All five members of the board were present: Gail LoPresto, president; Cindy Gibbs, vice president; Charity Avery; Becky Gooch; and Jay Sherrill. Also present were Dr. Fred Rhodes, superintendent; and Sandy Lemaster, board clerk.
Next Meeting: Monday, July 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)

► Congratulations to the 54 Putnam City seniors who were recently named Oklahoma Academic Scholars by the Oklahoma State Department of Education. To achieve recognition as Academic Scholars, students must have a minimum (non-weighted) grade point average of 3.7 on a 4.0 scale accumulated over grades 9, 10, 11 and the first semester of grade 12 or be in the top 10 percent of their class. They must also complete the curriculum requirements for a standard high school diploma and achieve either a minimum composite score of 27 on the ACT college-entrance exam or a combined reading and math score of 1,220 on the SAT I.

► Congratulations are also in order to five district career tech teachers who were awarded grants for next year from the Oklahoma Education Lottery Trust fund for technology and innovation in the classroom.

- Chad Ellis of Putnam City High School will receive \$14,997 for an actual computer network for students to interact with as they learn networking and root level operations systems functions without putting the district network at risk. These experiences will be valuable for students to explore careers in the high-growth, high-paying fields of network engineering and cyber security.
- Lacy Grotheer from Putnam City High will receive \$8,347 for sewing machines and computers to support the Family and Consumer Sciences programs at the school, preparing students for more advanced FACS classes in the high school and for Francis Tuttle Technology Center.
- Melissa Lair from Putnam City High will receive \$8,213 for an audio-video editing lab that will allow students to develop skills in still photography, filming, and editing.
- Tammy Graves from Putnam City West will receive \$8,275 for virtual reality equipment that will be used in the marketing curriculum for virtual college visits, virtual job shadowing, and other career explorations.
- Tim Sanders from Hefner Middle School will receive \$14,640 for a laser engraving machine that will create an innovation hub for young inventors, teaching them work skills that can be used in fields such as architecture and engineering.

New Communications Director Hired for District

The Putnam City Board of Education voted Monday night to hire Sheradee Hurst as the district's new communications director.

Hurst's communications experience includes a five-year career as a news reporter with stops at KSNF in Joplin, KJRH in Tulsa and KFOR in Oklahoma City. Following her time in broadcast news, Hurst became media relations and marketing coordinator for St. Anthony Hospital for two years. Ten years ago she launched her own photography business and added writing for local and national magazines and business promotion via social media. She also coordinates all media for Oklahoma Kids, a non-profit organization.

She holds a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism from the University of Central Oklahoma.

She will replace Steve Lindley, who is retiring at the end of the current fiscal year.

Board Renews Auditor Contract

The board on Monday night approved an agreement with Eide Bailly CPAs & Business Advisors to conduct an independent audit of the district for the 2018-2019 school year and assist in preparation of the Estimate of Needs for fiscal year 2020.

The cost to the district for the agreement, \$54,000, will be paid for through the district's general fund.

Purchasing Card Approved

The board on Monday night approved an agreement with Arvest Bank that will allow authorized district employees to use a purchasing card (P card) to make selected purchases and payments.

Establishment of a P card program will provide the district with access to currently unavailable vendors, reduce check-writing costs and create an additional revenue stream.

While the balance on each card will be controlled via the normal Board purchase order approval process, with vendor payments made electronically. The district will receive a 1 percent rebate on all expenditures.

P cards look and operate similarly to credit cards. However, they have limits set to control transaction amounts, what can be purchased, and where purchases can be made.

The only cost to the district is a one-time card set-up fee of \$300.

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 Approves District Partnership with BSN Sports

The board on Monday night approved an agreement with Dallas-based BSN Sports that in time will put all district varsity teams in Nike uniforms, footwear and apparel. The agreement also calls for all coaches to wear Nike apparel for games and public appearances.

The agreement offers a number of different incentives to district athletic programs. Incentives include a one-time bonus of \$20,000 in BSN sports equipment, discounts and rebates on purchase of selected Nike goods and BSN sports equipment, and marketing and promotional opportunities.

BSN Sports is the country's largest distributor of team sports apparel and equipment.

District Lends a Hand to Bethany Public Schools

The board on Monday night approved an agreement with Bethany Public Schools that will allow the district to carry Bethany Schools Officer Zach Zamudio on its law enforcement commission. The agreement means Zamudio can be employed by Bethany Schools as a school resource officer.

In order for police officers to maintain CLEET (Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training) certification they must have their training supervised and certified by a police department. Bethany Public Schools has one officer but no police department. Zamudio will attend training with Putnam City Campus Police officers and Campus Police Chief Mark Stout will oversee and certify his training and professional development, thus allowing him to maintain his CLEET certification.

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

Board Renews Agreement with Foundation

The board on Monday night approved renewal of an agreement with the Putnam City Schools Foundation for the 2019-2020 school year.

Established in 1987, the Foundation has worked to focus public attention on academic excellence within Putnam City Schools by investing more than \$3.2 million in programs that enhance and enrich education.

Some of the efforts the foundation has supported in its 30-year history include programs that honor teachers and students for their outstanding work, provided thousands of dollars for staff training and curriculum, offered ways for parents to become true partners with teachers through Early Birds and English language classes, and challenged children to be more creative and career-ready in STEM labs all across the district.

Last year alone the Putnam City Schools Foundation donated more than \$133,000 during the year to district schools for a variety of projects, including classroom sets of award-winning books, Colonial Day at the Capitol and student leadership training.



THE OKLAHOMAN