

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
November 9, 2020

The directors of the board met on the above date at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room, School Administration Building, 200 West Oak Street, with Renee Skinner presiding. Directors present were Kenneth Clemons, Vicky Dobson, Wayne Gibson, Keith Smith, and Susan Turbeville. Director Todd Whatley was absent. Also attending was Supt. Jim Tucker, Melissa Powell, Michelle Henry, Katie Sandifer, Shelley Pruitt, and Lou Ann Voris.

Mrs. Skinner asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting held October 12. On a motion by Vicky Dobson, seconded by Keith Smith, and carried on a 6-0 vote, the minutes were approved.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. On a motion by Vicky Dobson, seconded by Wayne Gibson, and carried on a 6-0 vote, the bills were approved for payment. A list of bills paid and monthly financial statement are on file in the business office.

Mayor Veronica Smith-Creer read the proclamation for the 99th observance of American Education Week which will be November 16 – 20, 2020.

PROCLAMATION
American Education Week
November 16 – 20, 2020

WHEREAS, public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they need to maintain our nation's precious values of freedom, civility and equality; and

WHEREAS, by equipping young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future; and

WHEREAS, education employees -- be they custodians or teachers, bus drivers or librarians -- work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, schools are community linchpins, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders, and elected officials in a common enterprise;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Veronica Smith-Creer serving as Mayor of the City of El Dorado, Arkansas do hereby proclaim November 16 – 20, 2020 as the observance of American Education Week.

Signed this 9th day of November, 2020

/s / Veronica Smith-Creer
Mayor of the City of El Dorado, Arkansas

Mr. Gibson introduced Haylee Carter, Student of the Month from Hugh Goodwin Elementary School. He said Haylee is the daughter of Darryl and LaPorsha Carter and a third grader in Lisa Lewis and Anna Beth Blake's classrooms.

One faculty member said: Haylee Carter is a student who is committed to her education. She is always willing to help, is friendly, kind and an exemplary student at Hugh Goodwin. Her teacher Mrs. Blake said: Haylee is a young lady of exceptional character. She is very helpful to both peers and teachers, she works hard on anything that she does, she is proud of her work and she is humble in her accomplishments. I am so proud of Haylee and I think she is a wonderful representation of what we stand for at our school, which is hard work, positive attitude and being kind to others. Haylee brings a smile to my face every single day she walks through my door!

Her teacher Lisa Lewis said: She's the sweetest! I would describe Haylee as a student who comes to class every day with a smile and eager to learn. She always puts forth a great amount of effort into everything she does. She is a great role model for her peers and very respectful to her teachers. It is a privilege and honor to have her in my class.

Her principal, Jesica Collins said: Haylee is a prime example of a Gator who strives for her best daily. She shines bright in the hallways with her beautiful smile as well as in the classroom with her academic success. We are so proud to have Haylee Carter represent Hugh Goodwin as the Student of the Month! Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board.

Classified Employee of the Month from Hugh Goodwin Elementary School is Griselda Dorman. Ms. Dorman has seventeen years as a paraprofessional, with two of those in our district. Co-workers said she goes above and beyond to help the ELL students and parents across the district. Last semester she did home visits during Covid-19 to explain how to use Google Classroom or deliver paper packs to be completed and returned to school. Ms. Dorman helped Barton Jr. High and E.H.S. students with setting their schedule for the next school year and volunteered to help with summer Accelerated Reading on Thursday evenings during July.

Ms. Dorman assists teachers and ELL parents from any school in the district to set up parent teacher conference schedules. She has been working on Tuesday and Thursday evenings during the Google Classroom assisting at the TAC House and at Hugh Goodwin. Ms. Dorman works with the teachers to find the best time to pull ELL students to work on the Imagine Learning program. She comes in at 6:50 each morning to tutor using Imagine Learning and helping students in the computer lab with AR tests. We enjoy sharing her and having her at Hugh Goodwin and are so proud for her to represent us as the Classified Employee of the Month. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board.

Mr. Gibson said Kathy Sixbey is the Teacher of the Month from Hugh Goodwin Elementary School. Ms. Sixbey received her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Early Childhood from Southern Arkansas University. She started her career in our district and this begins her twenty-seventh year of teaching. She serves as the literacy instructional facilitator at Hugh Goodwin.

The district's literacy chair, Jeannie Strother said: It is both a privilege and a pleasure to work with Kathy Sixbey. Kathy is an expert in the field of literacy. She knows the skills children must master in order to learn to read, but it is her passion to ensure that each child masters these skills that drives her. She works tirelessly to get books in the hands of students, to help students become confident readers and writers, and to inspire teachers to do the same. Teachers across this district benefit from her knowledge and passion as she helps prepare district curriculum materials and lessons. Everyone on our literacy team loves working with Kathy. She makes learning and working fun! You cannot help but smile and laugh when you are in the same room with Kathy Sixbey but you also have to bring your A-game every time because she will challenge you to be the best you can be. And that is why she is deserving of Teacher of the Month!

One fellow co-worker said: Kathy Sixbey is someone who constantly shows professionalism. She is always helping other staff to be their best. Her enthusiasm to get students to read is contagious. Her principal, Jesica Collins said: Above and beyond describes Kathy Sixbey. She will do whatever it takes to ensure all Hugh Goodwin students are successful. She is always willing to attend anything extra as well as plans and prepares on her own time (lots of evenings and weekends) to ensure that teachers have what they need each week to teach literacy. She has embraced the Wildcat Online Academy this year and has put in many hours to create video lessons that are engaging for students. Her famous quote that all the students and teachers know her by is "READERS are LEADERS" and she is for sure a Hugh Goodwin leader, the greatest Wildcat fan we have, amazing mother, and above all a true joy to work with. We all love her dearly! Hugh Goodwin is proud that Kathy Sixbey was chosen Teacher of the Month. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board.

Jesica Collins presented a report on Hugh Goodwin Elementary School. She said this year's theme is *Cultivating tomorrow's leaders today...Growing stronger together!* She showed slides of farm machinery with their farmer Gator mascot welcoming students back to school this year and explained the school is a member of the Arkansas Farm to School organization. She noted the school has forty-four faculty members and she is so proud of the great group that Hugh Goodwin has on board. The school-wide goals to continue to improve student achievement are: Targeted Achievement Gap Group (TAGG) to close the achievement gap; improve student reading/literacy levels in all grades; become ready/exceeding with appropriate interventions for their student, and triumph over the loss of instruction due to Covid-19 from the 2019-2020 school year.

Mrs. Collins said the school intervention programs and strategies used are: Sonday, Imagine Learning, Small Group Reading, Small Group math, Freckle, Moby Max, Write to Learn, Orton-Gillingham, and Daily Classroom Intervention. Mrs. Collins explained in the Sonday program, twelve different reading groups with a total of sixty-two students are serviced at least three days a week, but most are helped five days a week for thirty minutes or more. In the Imagine Learning/Freckle/Moby Max groups, students are pulled in the morning from 7:30 – 7:50 to go to the computer lab to work, based on need. Students also access these programs during the day while teachers have small groups pulled. Mrs. Collins said the small group reading includes all kindergarten through second grade students daily. Gator Chompers involves kindergarten students receiving intervention based on need daily from 8:10 – 9:10. The Orton-Gillingham instruction approach to reading combines multi-sensory techniques along with the structures of the English language. Those items taught include: phonemes and morphemes, such as prefixes and suffixes, and roots. Common spelling rules are introduced as well. Multi-sensory education incorporates the three learning pathways which are: auditory, kinesthetic, and visual. The approach is beneficial not only for students with dyslexia, but for all learners. The uniqueness of this type of instruction is that it allows the educator to capitalize on an individual student's dominant learning modality while delivering instruction that will strengthen the remaining learning pathways. Mrs. Collins said the daily intervention for literacy and math assures kindergarten through fourth grade students receive intervention with teachers daily in the classroom. Paraprofessionals also pull students to master skills according to data during intervention. All third and fourth grade students receive intervention with their teacher daily from 2:20 – 3:00 in the classroom, as well as with paraprofessionals according to data. She said the Write to Learn will start in January.

Mrs. Collins said Hugh Goodwin celebrates kindergarten students when they reach their district end-of-year reading goal, level K.9, with a Clap Out! I Can Read signs are carried down the halls, while the Gator mascot announces it is Clap Out time for these students while upper grade students clap as the now-reading kindergarten students parade down the hallways. Mrs. Collins said they want these students to feel great about learning to read. After all, learning to read is the key to all future learning. She said Raven Swint started the Gator Ambassadors. This is a new program where students must have excellent behavior, inside and outside of the classroom; be well-mannered and respectful to adults and other students; diligent and responsible; have A's and B's in all academic classes; helpful; honest; works well with other students; able to speak clearly and respectfully in public, and have good attendance. They also run for office within the ambassador program, which has proven to be fun during campaigns.

Mrs. Collins said in every gardener is a child who loves to play in the dirt - in every child is a gardener ready to grow. Hugh Goodwin Elementary School's Gator Garden was one of the recipients of the 2020 Arkansas Grown - School Garden of the Year. Their award area was for the Best Community Collaboration Garden, which garnered a \$500 prize. This program is sponsored by Arkansas Grown - School Garden. Mrs. Collins noted the school garden engaged with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension, Union County Master Gardeners, local farmers, and local businesses to enhance the garden's educational potential for the students and to increase the resources available to the garden. Hugh Goodwin students committed the phrase "it takes a village" to heart. She showed slides of the students working in the school's garden and then showing off their bounty. In fact, she gave each board member a basket of vegetables and flowers from the

garden. Administration staff were given jars of pickles, from the school's cucumber vines that Joely Jackson canned this past summer. Mrs. Collins said October is National Farm to School Month. Students learn about growing food locally and eating locally. She showed slides of students outside at picnic tables while local chef, Lily Ellen cooked with local food. Other lessons included: Julie McGee came dressed in her bee keeper attire and explained about bee keeping and cooking with honey; Cherrie Sweeney showed and explained about cool weather seeds for the garden; and Elizabeth Young and Block-R Feed brought in a goat for a lesson. Jason and Griffin Reed are also local bee keepers, gave a fun demonstration and lesson on bee keeping. Mrs. Collins added the school has a sensory garden which teaches students lessons on the senses: taste, sight, touch, hearing and smell. She concluded with covering the monthly events that have happened or are upcoming and said the staff and students plan to keep going and keep growing.

Athletic Director Phillip Lansdell explained to the board that eleven years ago the current turf at the stadium was laid with an assured lifespan of usually eight years. It appears to be in great shape but due to safety aspects, it is time to replace it. He and Mr. Tucker traveled to several stadium fields in Arkansas and Texas and have asked the United Turf and Track and AstroTurf representatives to speak with the board. Dillon Whitley, founder and C.E.O. of United Turf and Track, based in Oklahoma, and Curtis Wilson, regional sales manager of AstroTurf visited with the board. Mr. Whitley spoke about the process of their work on the field and complimented the district for the care of the current field. He said due to that care, the field has remained in good shape. He explained the process his company goes through. There are 103,000 square feet of turf to be removed which will take two days. It is then laser graded, stone applied, the 17 mm Brock pad is laid, followed by the AstroTurf.

Mr. Wilson spoke in length about the products of AstroTurf, Brock pad, showed samples of the turf they are recommending, explained about the different grades, explained about the client's fields and their experience. Mr. Gibson asked if someone is interested in the old turf if that an option. Mr. Whitley explained that it is, because it is the district's turf. United will even help them load it on their trailer but they will need a big trailer and need to understand the rolls are very heavy. United normally contracts with a transport company to pick up the old turf once it's removed. With board approval they would like to start laying the new AstroTurf after Christmas break. Mr. Tucker recommended the board's consideration of contracting with United Turf and Track for the 17 mm Brock pad, AstroTurf, and work to provide the district with a new field. On a motion by Keith Smith, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves contracting with United Turf and Track for a new AstroTurf field at Memorial Stadium.

Katie Sandifer said this is the third year the district has participated in the Veteran's Diploma program. The program was created by the Arkansas Department of Education to recognize the service of military veterans by giving them the opportunity to receive a high school diploma. Veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War are eligible for the program.

A veteran must also meet the following qualifications: have been honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces; be a resident of the state of Arkansas; and have served a minimum of eighteen consecutive months in active duty or have been discharged with a service-connected disability during one of the wars mentioned above. Mrs. Sandifer said last year no veterans applied but the first year, two veterans were awarded diplomas. She said, "They were very excited and we were also so excited to be able to do that and we still hear from them." She added that applications are on the table by the door and encouraged the audience to think of veterans that did not get to finish high school because they enlisted to serve during one of the mentioned wars. She said they did not have to attend school in our district. Those wishing to participate should contact Katie Sandifer at the district administration office.

Mr. Tucker said prior to Governor Hutchinson starting school two weeks later this school year, we had some professional development days and various breaks scheduled throughout the year. With the adjustment the governor made, we took those dates out of

the calendar to keep teachers and students from attending school later into June. Mr. Tucker proposed adding a break back into the district calendar on Friday, February 12 and Monday, February 15, 2021. This would be two days of completely virtual school. Schools will not be open onsite for students. Teachers will upload work for students to do virtually on those two days. The time will still count as student contact days. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves an adjustment in the district calendar to incorporate break days of Friday, February 12 and Monday, February 15, 2021. Teachers will upload work for students to do virtually on those two days and the time will count as student contact days.

Mrs. Skinner said several years ago the board elected to move from the fall date to the spring to hold our annual school election. The state needs the board's vote on continuing that designated choice. Mrs. Skinner added the next election will be May 18, 2021 with Zone 1, Wayne Gibson and Zone 6, Vicky Dobson up for re-election. A continuation of our millage of 33.5 will also be on the ballot. On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Wayne Gibson and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby elects to continue with the spring date for annual school election. The next election will be May 18, 2021. It's a

*NOTICE OF
ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION IN
EL DORADO SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 15
OF
UNION COUNTY, ARKANSAS*

Notice is hereby given that the annual school election in the above named district will be held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 for the following purposes:

- 1. To elect one (1) member to the Board of Directors for Zone 1 and one (1) member to the Board of Directors for Zone 6.*
- 2. To vote on a proposed school tax of 33.5 mills.*

Given this 9th day of November, 2020.

*BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF EL DORADO
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 15 OF
UNION COUNTY, ARKANSAS*

*By: Renee Skinner
President*

*By: Lou Ann Voris
Secretary*

The board approved one Petition for Transfer Request form for a student to transfer to from Strong-Huttig into the El Dorado School District.

Mrs. Skinner reminded board members that the A.S.B.A. Annual Conference will be December 9 - 11 through virtual means. She also noted the need for a board representative to be elected to the conference's Delegate Assembly. Wayne Gibson nominated President Renee Skinner, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on 6-0 vote at 7:20 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves Renee Skinner as the board representative to the Delegate Assembly at the A.S.B.A. Annual Conference, December 9-11, 2020.

The board went into an executive session to handle personnel matters and then returned to an open session. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 6-0 vote at 7:52 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the superintendent's recommendation concerning the acceptance of resignations, the employment of new personnel, and terminations.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.