

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board October 12, 2020

The directors of the board met on the above date at 6:00 p.m., at the TAC House, 1101 Northwest Avenue with Renee Skinner presiding. Other directors present were Kenneth Clemons, Vicky Dobson, Wayne Gibson, Keith Smith, Susan Turbeville and Todd Whatley. Also attending was Supt. Jim Tucker, Melissa Powell, Michelle Henry, Katie Sandifer, Shelley Pruitt, and Lou Ann Voris.

Mrs. Skinner called the meeting to order and asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meetings held September 14, 23, October 1 and 5. On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 7-0 vote, the minutes were approved.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. After some discussion and on a motion by Keith Smith, seconded by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 7-0 vote the bills were approved for payment. A list of bills paid and monthly financial statement are on file in the business office.

Phillip Lansdell said he is happy to present the 2020 5A Boys and Girls State Golf Champions. He noted it has been since 2010 for the girl's team and 1987 for the boys to be state champions. Coach Chris Ezell introduced: Junior – Lani Hammock, Junior – Alexa Hulsey, Junior - Aubrey Marx, Sophomore – Hope Walthall, Senior - Preston Howard, Junior - Miller Wallace, Sophomore - John Brooks Elia, Freshman - Keaton Michael, Junior - Aaron Ezell and Assistant Coach Natalie Bolick. He noted their grade classification because all but one will be returning to the golf teams next year. He explained the Country Club course is usually the course the E.H.S. golf teams use or have been using for the last 10-12 years however, the grounds were not conducive to play on this year. Murphy U.S.A. and Mystic Creek were gracious to allow the high school team use of their course. Coach Ezell said Mystic Creek is known to be the hardest golf course in the state and he believes that played a big role in their success at the state tournaments. Mrs. Skinner said it takes a great deal of effort to win a state championship and the board is very proud of the students and coaches. Mr. Tucker thanked the coaches and students for their hard work and noted his appreciation to Mystic Creek for allowing the teams to practice there.

Student of the Month from Barton Jr. High School is Kathryn “Bella” Rothwell. Mr. Gibson said Bella is in the eighth grade and her parents are Shawn Rothwell and Shayne Rothwell. Her teacher Mrs. Davis said: Bella is a hard worker! The epitome of: If I asked her to jump, she would say, “How high?” Bella does her work with a smile and is always very respectful.

Her principal, Mr. Mark Smith said: I have not encountered a student as polite as Bella and I have been in education for 30 years. She brightens my day every time that I see her. Something as simple as smiling and saying thank you when I hold a door for students. Her impact is felt on campus. When students are walking with her, they see and hear her speaking politely and then they do it as well. When I stopped her in the hallway to let her know that she was selected as the student of the month, the way she responded and thanked me for letting her know, made me feel like I had won an award. When I asked how long she had been in the El Dorado School District, Bella said, “Nine years and I wouldn't have it any other way!” He noted the Barton staff is so proud of Bella and congratulate her on being selected Student of the Month. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board.

Mr. Gibson said Classified Employee of the Month from Barton Jr. High School is Tiffani Streetman. Mrs. Streetman is in her second year at Barton, working as the Barton attendance clerk but she is so much more. Mrs. Streetman has a Bachelor's degree in athletic training from Henderson State University.

The teacher that nominated her said: Tiffani Streetman has helped streamline records for teachers to have access to information without having to look up emergency cards. She helps daily with all kinds of issues that come through the office and I personally have never seen her respond in a rude or ugly manner to anyone, despite others being

disrespectful at times. She is eager to help and learn what is needed with all the new ways of addressing students' and teachers' needs and to send out detailed instructions of activities when a reminder is needed.

Her principal, Mr. Mark Smith said: Mrs. Streetman has become someone that I depend on. I know that if I need something done, she will be one of the first to say that she can take care of it. When she stops me to ask a question, she thinks that she is bothering me. In fact, I like that she is asking me questions because I know that she is looking for ways to make things better for students and teachers. She is part of a terrific team in the office. They help each other constantly and do so with a smile. The Barton staff is proud that Mrs. Streetman is our Classified Employee of the Month. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board.

Teacher of the Month from Barton Jr. High School is Mary Thomas Hodnett. Mrs. Hodnett received her Bachelor's degree in literature and her Masters of Arts in teaching from the University of Arkansas at Monticello. She teaches eighth grade literacy and is co-sponsor of the Barton cheerleading team. This is her second year of teaching, with both years at Barton.

Co-workers nominating Mrs. Hodnett stated she works really hard and connects well with students. She always makes learning fun and engaging. Her principal, Mr. Mark Smith said: Mrs. Hodnett is great at connecting with students. She welcomes them to class with a smile a mile wide. She brings a tremendous amount of knowledge to her classes and communicates her knowledge in a way that students can understand. She is part of a hard working eighth grade literacy team and when asked if they needed anything said, "Just keep us supplied with pickles and we will be good." It is impossible to be depressed when Mrs. Hodnett is around. She will find a way to bring a smile to a students' or co-worker's face. Barton's staff and students are excited that Mary Thomas Hodnett was chosen Teacher of the Month. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board.

Mark Smith gave a report from Barton Jr. High School. He said the Barton staff is incredible and has also proven to be flexible during the pandemic. The school's enrollment is 671 with an onsite enrollment of 523 students and the Wildcat Online Academy has 148 students. He said the mission statement for Barton is to work collaboratively to provide a safe and equitable environment where all students grow, learn, and communicate in order to achieve academic, emotional, and social success. The first goal at Barton is to keep our students and staff safe, especially during this pandemic year. Mr. Smith noted in the second goal they are moving toward becoming a Professional Learning Communities (PLC) school. In reaching that goal Barton will: focus on essential standards, making sure that we know what we want our students to know. Develop and implement the use of common formative and summative assessments. Use the information from our common assessments to discover when interventions are needed and create opportunities to provide those interventions.

Mr. Smith explained to work to meet their goals they implemented reducing the number of students in the cafeteria at one time by moving to four lunch shifts. This allows for social distancing during lunch. Each classroom has removed unnecessary furniture and reduced on-site class sizes. By doing this, teachers are able to use their space to allow for as much distancing as possible. The school is also following the district's Ready for Learning plan. In moving toward becoming a PLC school, Barton has developed and implemented the use of common formative and summative assessment. When the essential standards are determined, teacher then begin to develop common assessments. Data gathered through the common assessments will be used to improve instruction and address student needs. Mr. Smith said the need to socially distance this year created an opportunity for us. We found that we were not able to distance properly in the cafeteria during lunch with three lunch shifts. Changing to four lunch shifts provided approximately 25 minutes that is devoted to intervention and enrichment. We call this intervention and enrichment time (I/E). Each of the four core areas, one per day, provide an intervention or enrichment assignment for all students to complete during this time. The interventions are based on needs that are found during common assessments. All teachers are using Google Classroom and a parent can sign-up to receive class notification on their student's account.

Mr. Smith showed slides and explained the required curriculum that is unique to Barton: Wildkitten Way, Cultivating Culinary Tools, and Slams & Jams class. He added they are in a refresh year with technology for teacher which includes: new laptops, interactive panels for all core classes, educational software to facilitate online learning and interventions, and continued trailing for the new hardware and software. The social studies department is preparing for a standards revision. All departments are continuing discussions about essential standards and staff is continuing to receive training in becoming a PLC school. Mr. Smith thanked the board for all they do for the schools and said he and his staff truly appreciate the board's support.

Mrs. Skinner presented the E.H.S. Student Council officers to the board. President Camille Terry introduced the other officers: Madilyn Bonsall, secretary; Brooke McCoy, treasurer and Ellis Parker, reporter. She said Jadon Cunningham is vice president but was unable to attend. They each covered some goals of the council for the year but said the pandemic was making many activities and events difficult. Mrs. Skinner thanked the young ladies and noted this is a hard year to try to implement many of the activities they have in the past and said they all had a very mature outlook in their roles on the student council.

Shawn Lamkin presented the special education budgets and surrogate parent program for the board's consideration. She noted the special education budgets were voted on by the board in the spring but a requirement is to review again in the fall for state and local equalization, Medicaid, catastrophic and ARMAC. Those budgets were included in the board member's packets to study and Ms. Lamkin gave a detailed description of each. The budgets are on file in the special education department and school administration office. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Kenneth Clemons and carried on a 7-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the budgets for Title VI-B, State and Local, Catastrophic, ARMAC, and Medicaid.

Ms. Lamkin said surrogate parent representatives for 2020 – 2021 school year are: Gwen Williams, Linda Coleman, Jackie Jackson and Don Thompson. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 7-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the surrogate parent representatives, Gwen Williams, Linda Coleman, Jackie Jackson and Don Thompson for the 2020 – 2021 school year.

Debbie McAdams presented a report on the School Based Health Center services and Coordinated School Health program. She said this was the sixth year of offering services through the School Based Health Center (SBHC). The SBHC had enrollment of 257 students - 181 in dental and 76 in physical health for 2019 – 2020 school year. Mental health reported 457 enrolled with 2,760 student encounters for the year. She mentioned that no data was reported for the last nine weeks due to COVID-19. Mental health providers for the district were South Arkansas Regional Health Center (SARHC), Quapaw House, and Methodist Family Health Services. Quapaw House furloughed all outpatient clinic staff due to COVID and closed the local clinic indefinitely. Mrs. McAdams said SARHC is the primary local Mental Health Agency but has COVID restrictions in place for its staff to not allow them to see students in our school buildings. Methodist Family Health mainly focuses on students at Murmil and is housed out of Magnolia. She noted our district has partnered with Integrity Telehealth to offer another means for our students to receive mental health services and medication. The telehealth units are in place at Barton Jr. High School and Washington Middle School with services beginning soon.

Sixty-seven hours of classroom time were saved this past school year for enrolled students. This includes all dental and physical health visits from all campuses and mental health visits at Washington Middle School. One of the state goals for SBHC schools is to report an attendance rate equal to or greater than the state average rate. The district's attendance rate was 94% for the 2019 – 2020 school year. Mrs. McAdams said the state

of Arkansas' attendance rate was 94%, so we are right on target. She added no schools in Arkansas took attendance during COVID-19. Mrs. McAdams said she ran a report from E-School comparing non-SBHC student's attendance rates per campus to enroll SBHC students. In the 2018 – 2019 school year, Yocum Elementary was the only school showing a better attendance rate of enrolled SBHC students than other campuses. In the 2019 – 2020 school year, El Dorado High School, Northwest Elementary and Yocum Elementary all showed slightly higher attendance rates for enrolled SBHC students than non-enrolled.

GrandMED Family Medicine Clinic is still the physical health provider for the SBHC and the medical director for the district. Due to Medicaid billing changes, Medicaid will not pay for exams done at the SBHC. To get around this obstacle we transported students on a bus to their office on Grove Street for well child checks and sick visits. This will continue this year as well. The students are seen before the clinic opens to the public so only students are in the waiting area. This form of service is termed, linked. We also connect students to vision care through Kinslow Eye Clinic and MyEyeDr, formerly South Arkansas Eye Clinic. Dental and mental health services are the only health services offered on site within the SBHC. Dr. Taylor Everett, D.D.S. is the district's dental provider. Speech therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy are housed within the SBHC on the Washington Middle School campus. The Union County Health Department gave 1,196 flu shots district-wide in October 2019. That number was down 184 from the past year of 1,380. Mrs. McAdams said she has seen a decline in the flu clinic participation over the past few years. The Arkansas Department of Health is currently doing the flu clinics at the district schools this month.

Mrs. McAdams said she was elected to serve as secretary of the Arkansas School Based Health Alliance Board. The Alliance provides support to all SBHC's in the state and represents Arkansas on a national level as they advocate for the wellbeing of all students. El Dorado was part of a National Oral Health Playbook which was created to help other schools and organizations create a successful model of oral health care within their communities. The SBHC received \$500.00 from the United Way of Union County to provide scholarships to students without insurance to receive dental and health services that cannot be provided in the SBHC. Mrs. McAdams helps coordinate care for district students through the help of community connections, our district social worker and the director of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). The SBHC received a \$2,000.00 grant from the Union County Community Foundation to purchase supplies and resources for the dental program. The funds will be used to bring the dental clinic into compliance under new state and federal guidelines in order to serve students in the fall. The funds will be used to bring the dental clinic into compliance under new state and federal guidelines in order to serve students in the fall of the 2020 - 2021 school year.

Arkansas SBHC's had a ten year celebration at the Rockefeller Conference Center in October 2019 and Mrs. McAdams was awarded the "Badge of Courage" for demonstrating exceptional leadership and creating a solid foundation of support for health and wellness within the El Dorado School District. She noted the district's successful dental program and the advancement of a mobile dental clinic for Union County were highlighted in the award.

Mrs. McAdams said Arkansas Coordinated School Health conducted its twelfth year for dental sealants in our schools. The clinics were completed last fall. The dental van intended to return to the high school campus in the spring but COVID happened and halted the process. The ACH is currently getting all dental vans and programs into compliance with state and federal guidelines in order to meet the enhanced standards of care.

Arkansas celebrates Farm to School Month each October. Hugh Goodwin Elementary is ramping up its garden areas and structuring lessons around farm to school as its theme this school year. They will celebrate Farm to School week this week with the state theme of "Celebrating Local." El Dorado School District applied for an Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year contest and just learned Hugh Goodwin was awarded the Best Community Collaboration Garden for the state of Arkansas. This award will be announced state-wide this month. Arkansas was at the table in January 2020 at a national

conference to share best practices and to gain a better understanding of how other communities work with poverty students, families and the challenges they face.

The district's food pantry is a member of the Arkansas Food Bank. It was relocated to Murrell Educational Center last fall. Murphy USA conducted two food drives among their employees to stock the shelves. Disposable utensils to include in the food bags were purchased by Mrs. McAdams. Identified students are provided food to take home on a weekly basis through the counselors at each school. The district has a Back Pack program that was at Retta Brown Elementary and has now been moved to Yocum Primary. She noted the program supplemented the Helping Hands Food Pantry, through St. Paul United Methodist Church, with snacks from our pantry when school closed in March. Another ACH benefit is the walking trail at Washington Middle School. Some classroom lessons are even held outside on the trail, she said.

The El Dorado School District is in its third year as one of six priority districts in the state to receive special funding through the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to support the Arkansas Coordinated School Health program. Mrs. McAdams said in the 2019-2020 school year we received \$15,333.00 to focus on improving nutrition, physical education, physical activity and chronic disease management. We now have four smoothie blenders in the district. El Dorado was highlighted on Arkansas Ideas, Books and Breakfast for increasing consumption of fruit and vegetables through smoothies. Mrs. McAdams added two nurses attended the School Nurse Academy throughout last school year to receive training and supplies on asthma and diabetes. She purchased 1,400 toothbrushes to include in food bags distributed during the COVID feeding program of March – May 2020. She purchased physical activity resources for Murrell Educational Center like kick balls, basketballs, badminton and jump ropes. Also purchased were bean bag toss games (corn hole), large connect four games and jenga blocks for elementary schools to have for activities during indoor recess. The supplies purchased for Retta Brown Elementary will be offered to Washington Middle School. Hugh Goodwin received a sensory garden for its outdoor garden space. Elementary physical education teachers continue to use Sports, Play and Active Recreation for Kids (SPARK) lessons in the classroom. SPARK is supported by the Arkansas Department of Education and is an evidence based, grade appropriate physical education curriculum that promotes active and inclusive physical education. Yocum Elementary has begun creating a Comprehensive School Physical Activity Plan (CSPAP). This concept will be introduced during Professional Learning Communities this school year. Plans are to expand the playground equipment at Washington Middle School and add special needs playground equipment where needed. Mrs. McAdams said the program purchased nineteen new insulated milk bags for the food and nutrition department and plan to support our after school partner, The Boys and Girls Club with additional supplies. This school year we will be awarded \$19,500.00 to support Coordinated School Health.

Mrs. McAdams said coordination of care for students and families is ever changing. She feels the School Based Health Center and the Coordinated School Health Program are major players in this process. Providing for the whole child is a win for everyone. The SBHC is open for business this school year and precaution measures are in place. We began seeing students for dental on September 3rd and the mentoring program began reconnecting with their student the week of September 21st, she said. Mrs. McAdams thanked the board for allowing her to be a part of this school district. Mr. Tucker added that on top of all that Mrs. McAdams does in her role, she has taken on being the Point of Contact for the Arkansas Department of Health in reporting COVID-19 cases within the district. He thanked her for taking on this task and all that she does for the students and staff throughout the school year.

Michelle Henry presented the curriculum and technology portion of the Annual Report to the Public. She said the district is accredited and noted when Response to Intervention (RTI) is implemented with diligence, we see much growth. We have worked in the past few years to develop a strong RTI program in all grades and subjects all the way through twelfth grade. This is being monitored and continues to be a focus district-wide. She explained regarding the Professional Learning Community (PLC) the model focuses on four questions:

- What are the students supposed to know (essential standards)?

- How do we know they have learned the standard?
- What do we do if they have not learned the standard?
- What do we do if they have learned the standard?

She said the district has three schools that are going through their second year of extensive training with the PLC model and all administrators and many leadership team members have received training toward implementation of the PLC model. The entire district continues working with this process, which when done effectively proves to bring teachers together as a team and move student progress. Mrs. Henry explained that essential standards are non-negotiable standards that students absolutely must learn to move forward. These standards are the ones that are the ones that are discussed in team meetings and are the standards most intervention focuses around. The district continues to work toward developing and identifying these standards for kindergarten through grade twelve in major subject areas. She noted that PLC and RTI cannot take place without the identification of essential standards.

Mrs. Henry covered the score reports, with the board, regarding Renaissance K-2, ACT Aspire, ACT and Advanced Placement. She showed ACT scores for El Dorado High School in comparison with the state scores in English, reading, mathematics, science and then a composite. Mrs. Henry said the ACT was administered to all juniors in February, before the school closure. The AP exams were administered to students online by the College Board in May and noted that most students took their exams from home. She shared these exams were in the following courses: biology, calculus AB, calculus BC, chemistry, computer science A, computer science principles, drawing English language and composition, English literature and composition, environmental science, human geography, physics I, physics II, physics C: electricity & magnetism, physics C: mechanics, psychology, seminar, statistics, United States government & politics, United States history, and world history.

Mrs. Henry said the district's summer school was virtual and for three weeks this past summer with forty-five students participating. She covered the AR Reading results from summer school in grades one through four, with seventy-seven students taking five hundred thirty-two tests. In other areas within the district, the transportation department has eighty-nine buses, fifty drivers, and forty-five bus routes transporting over one thousand five hundred students. In the food service department, meals served per school day – breakfast: 1,746 and lunch: 2,337. During the summer, 35,747 breakfasts and 35,100 lunches were served. The demographics in kindergarten through twelfth is 562 students in the gifted and talented program; 148 students receiving 504 services; 339 in special education, and 179 in the English language learners program. She covered the enrollment for the last three years and currently there are 4,122 students enrolled. In the Wildcat Online Academy there are 233 students enrolled in grades kindergarten through fourth grade and 575 in grades five through twelve.

Jim Tucker summed up the annual report, provided each board member with a facilities report of work done up to this point, and noted directors of the board's continuing education hours are to be reported and everyone is on track with their hours.

Mrs. Skinner said the A.S.B.A. Region 13 Annual Meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 22 through virtual means. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m. She said the A.S.B.A. Annual Conference is December 9-11 and more information is upcoming regarding conference details. 7:07 p.m.

The meeting adjourned to an executive session to discuss personnel matters, then reconvened to an open meeting. On a motion Keith Smith, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 7:35 p.m., it was

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.