

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
December 14, 2020**

The directors of the board met on the above date at 6:00 p.m. at the T.A.C. 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 Superintendent 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 November 9. On a motion by Vicky Dobson, seconded by Keith Smith and carried on a 7-0 vote, the minutes were approved.

The board reviewed the monthly bills with Shelley Pruitt. After some discussion and on a motion by Wayne Gibson, 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.

Mr. Gibson introduced Student of the Month from Washington Middle School, Kerrigan Shelton. She is the daughter of Kerry Shelton, Sr. and Curitha Shelton and a sixth grader at Washington. Mrs. Chelsey Turner said Kerrigan is always such a wonderful student but this year she went above and beyond by being such a wonderful student leader by asking for dress up days to express student spirit. It takes a special kind of student to do something like that. I admire her diligent hard work and fun spirit! Her principal, Mrs. Bethanie Hale said that Kerrigan has been such a joy to get to know this year. She is a natural born leader who strives to do her best in all she does. She takes initiative and works hard to spread school spirit. I am thankful to have such an incredible young lady as a student at Washington Middle School. Staff and students are proud that Kerrigan was chosen Student of the Month. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board.

Mr. Gibson said that Angela Moore from Washington Middle School was chosen Classified Employee of the Month. This school year begins Mrs. Moore's nineteenth year in the public schools. Her career started in 2002 at Union School as a teacher's aide and APSCN coordinator and she then moved into the position of principal's secretary at Washington Middle School.

Co-workers said: Angela Moore does her job with perfection! She calmly juggles several tasks at once and never loses her cool. She will often stop what she is doing to help someone and still be the epitome of kind! No one can multi-task like Angela Moore. Cori Martinez noted: Mrs. Moore is an outstanding secretary that holds the school together! She has the most positive attitude, works hard 24/7 and is so deserving of this award.

Bethanie Hale said: Angela Moore is an incredible woman. She is constantly willing to lend a hand and always does it with a fantastic attitude. She works diligently to keep us all in line at Washington. We couldn't do what we do without her. She is loved and admired by everyone and I am so thankful to have Angela Moore as a member of the Washington family! Mr. Gibson presented Mrs. Moore with a certificate from the board.

Teacher of the Month from Washington Middle School is Victoria Bennett. Mr. Gibson said Ms. Bennett received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Central Arkansas in behavioral health sciences with an emphasis in physical therapy. She completed the MAT program at the University of Arkansas at Monticello and received her Master's degree in December 2019. She brought two years of teaching experience to our district and began teaching English and reading with the 2019 – 2020 school year.

Fellow co-worker said: Victoria Bennett is an amazing educator. She creates the absolute best environments for her students. They work so hard for her but feel free to ask questions and feel comfortable enough to be themselves in her class. She holds high expectations and her students want so desperately to meet them. Ms. Bennett jokes, has

fun in her class and all of her students know that she would do anything for them. One teacher said, "I want to be Ms. Bennett when I grow up!"

Mrs. Bethanie Hale said Victoria Bennett has a true passion for teaching. She strives to reach every student every day. Ms. Bennett sets high expectations for all her students and holds them accountable on a daily basis. She is always willing to lend a helping hand and is a tremendous asset to the Washington family. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board.

Principal of Washington Middle School, Bethanie Hale explained to the board she is really enjoying being at Washington and came into a school with a great staff. They started the school year setting expectations for working with students in a school amidst a Covid pandemic. She showed the board a power point as she explained each area covered. She said teachers and administrators started the year setting expectations. They worked to review rules and procedures in interactive ways for onsite and online students. Washington Middle School was featured in KTVE 10 segment on "What Does School Look Like?" during a pandemic. Mrs. Hale showed the address for the board and audience to view that feature. She said that not only a pandemic hit but so did a hurricane on the fourth day of school. She said Washington has a great staff and school full of students that can adjust to whatever comes their way.

Technology Integration is happening consistently. Pictures were shown of how Mrs. Hickmott's students used Peardeck to have an interactive lesson over each area. By using Peardeck, onsite and online students have the same learning experiences. Ms. Gavin's classes, both onsite and online, begin with music as they get ready to learn. Mrs. Hale said in Hands on Learning students followed the engineering design process to plan and construct a bridge prototype in Innovation Station. She pointed out in the picture, paper and blocks represent the bridge and beams and beads represent the number of cars that can safely cross the bridge. Pictures of Ms. Escamilla's agriculture engineering class showed pulling weeds from the flower beds so they can prep to start planting. Mrs. Hale said they are transforming their playground and she wondered by putting in new swing sets how this age group would feel about swinging. That was answered quickly when the set of eight swings were constantly being used and there was line of students waiting to swing. Staff even decided to set a two minute limit for each student, which has worked out really well and another set of eight swings has been ordered. Along with swings, there is limbo, a sensory path, and even music playing during recess. The Marissa Savage memorial bench has found its home on the Washington playground, shaded under a beautiful oak tree. Students and staff lost Mrs. Savage in the spring and miss her more than we can express, Mrs. Hale said. She added they are happy to have this place to remember her and her beautiful legacy. She thanked Mrs. Alie Shepherd, Mrs. Liz Williamson and parents of last year's fifth graders for providing the bench.

Mrs. Hale said Library Media Specialist, Chelsey Turner was presented the Retta Patrick Award at the 2020 Arkansas Library Association Virtual Conference. This award recognized the Arkansas outstanding school librarian for 2020. It was first awarded in 1989 and named in honor of Retta Patrick, former Director of Library Media Services of the Pulaski County Special School District, the award recognizes an individual member of the Arkansas library profession who has made an outstanding state and national contribution to school librarianship and school library development. Nominees have demonstrated achievements in such areas as: Service to the library media profession through the Arkansas Library Association and related organizations, and planning and implementing of a school library media program of exemplary quality. Staff and students were thrilled when Mrs. Turner was presented with this state award.

Mrs. Hale explained when students recently finished their test in Mrs. Motl's class, she allowed them to visit the Washington virtual library. All students visit the actual library as well but they had fun exploring the school's Maker Space sites and even checking out books online using their new SORA app. She showed the board and audience the link to the virtual library, if they would like to check it out. In learning about government, students are studying about Arkansas and U. S. government. In Mrs. Griffin's class students went through the process of how a bill becomes a law. Each class voted for their president and vice president and then split into groups representing each branch of

government and citizens of the United States. Mrs. Hale noted they have a few senators, representatives and Supreme Court justices along with a few Mr. Presidents and Madam Presidents. Students had a great time dressing up and playing their roles while learning how a bill becomes a law. The school had virtual visitors first semester: Arkansas' Speaker of the House, Matthew Shepherd visited with sixth grade social studies classes, Seth Bailey, University of Tennessee swimmer and Olympic trials qualifier talked to the Washington Competition Shake elective class about how to set goals, chase dreams, and what it takes to be a division 1 athlete and the Competition Shake class had a virtual visit from Senator Trent Garner.

During Celebrate Freedom Week students got to wear something different each day such as, wear your favorite hat, wear camo, wear a college T-shirt, wear red, white and blue, and finished with wear your Wildcat gear. Mrs. Hale praised the cafeteria staff and said they are the best and have been known to boost student's spirits when they dress in character for different events. Administrators, local businesses and groups keep teachers happy and feeling appreciated by providing: Sonic drinks, pumpkins during the fall for a carved pumpkin contest where students voted on their favorite teacher's carved pumpkin, Stars Cinema provided popcorn, Chicken Express a meal, and another group provided caramel apples with different toppings to choose from for each teacher. This semester students wrote letters of appreciation for their service to the officers of the El Dorado Police Department.

Mrs. Hale touched on the Ron Clark Academy House System featuring four Houses, which are learning and leadership communities for students. The system is a dynamic, exciting and proven way to create a positive climate and culture for students and staff. She said each House has unique properties such as its own color, symbols, nation of heritage, history, and more. Over time, each House also starts to take on its own values and personality driven by the culture of the students and staff within it. Using Ron Clark Academy methods helps the school confidently implement processes that build character, relationships, and school spirit. The system provides an opportunity for positive competition and a closer relationship between students and teachers. Mrs. Hale said the program is loads of fun with positive outcomes for both students and staff.

Mrs. Hale said, "This year we have embarked on a new learning adventure with online and onsite learning. Over the past six weeks, we have worked to engage students both remotely and in person. We feel that we have done a good job implementing this process, but we know we could do better. In order to continue to improve instruction for both students online and onsite, we feel that adjusting schedules would be an effective way to do just that. Beginning the second nine weeks, Washington will have mostly online classes and onsite classes rather than hybrid classes. We feel that this is what is best for our students and our staff. Teachers will be able to engage students more effectively with this change." She added a favorite Albert Einstein quote, In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity.

Mrs. Skinner presented high school teacher, Jason Sanders with a certificate from Economics Arkansas as Mr. Tucker read: Economics Arkansas is pleased to announce Jason Sanders as a new Polly M. Jackson Master Economics Teacher (MET) for Economics Arkansas. Polly Jackson established the MET Program in 1992 with sixteen inaugural METs from varying grade levels and curriculum backgrounds. The program was designed to provide Economics Arkansas School Districts with certified METs to provide staff development opportunities and fulfill Economics Arkansas' need for dynamic, enthusiastic economic educators to staff professional development offerings across Arkansas. The METs are ambassadors of Economics Arkansas in our most important mission of economic literacy. This program offers invaluable expertise to Arkansas schools, teachers, and students in cooperation with its six affiliated Centers for Economic Education.

Mr. Sanders has distinguished himself as a leader and advocate for economic education and has demonstrated those traits in his classroom by infusing economic opportunities in innovative ways. His students, parents, colleagues, community, and Economics Arkansas have benefited from Jason's many endeavors. Mrs. Skinner and Mr. Tucker thanked Mr. Sanders for his contributions to the students and Economics Arkansas.

Mr. Tucker said he has visited with the board about considering solar energy, received bids from two companies, and invited Entegrity Solar to make a presentation to the board. Entegrity Solar representatives John Coleman and Jacob Estes said they are based out of Little Rock with offices in northwest Arkansas, Memphis, Jackson, and Kansas City. Mr. Coleman said Entegrity is a sustainability and energy services company specializing in the implementation of energy conservation and renewable energy projects. They help their clients realize long-term operational savings by focusing on their needs. Their process walks you through the entire solar installation process starting with a feasibility report, engineering, financial modeling, net metering agreements, execution, commissioning, maintenance contracts, and project financing.

If within the first 10 years of your solar installation, you experience maintenance issues due to craftsmanship, Entegrity will return and make any necessary repairs, free of charge. For the life of the district's solar system, you will receive free solar monitoring. At any time, via our mobile app, you can track day-by-day the performance and production of your solar system. For the first 25 years of ownership, Entegrity guarantees the district's solar panels will produce the minimum amount of power calculated in the solar proposal. If power production goals are not met, Entegrity Solar will add panels as necessary at our cost until you meet the minimum guaranteed power production. Additionally, Entegrity guarantees the district's solar inverter for 12 years from the date of your solar installation. This excludes loss of production due to new obstructions not present during installation.

They showed a power point presentation of the twelve K-12 solar projects they currently have underway. Mr. Coleman touched on the Arkansas laws and regulations and how far the solar market has progressed since 2009. He then covered the district's utility data with the board showing the consumption, costs and kwh rate of the district's forty-one meters. Mr. Coleman showed a picture of the high school's June 2020 Energy bill to illustrate the economics of no solar versus solar and the solar annual and lifetime savings. He said the projection of savings for the district on a 28 year contract is 5.1 million dollars.

Mr. Coleman noted they will use 14 acres of land currently owned by the district. He showed an aerial view of the district's property near Highway 167 and Main Street (3409 East Main Street) that will be used and explained more about the consumption reduction each month by going solar. He noted for every kilowatt hour generated, they mark that off or credit your yearly bill. Jim Tucker added that by doing that there are educational benefits by investing those savings into our students. Mr. Coleman said Entegrity also has a kit they present to the district's STEM program of a solar panel with hands-on sustainability curriculum for students to develop and bring life to classroom solar projects. After a time of discussion and questions by board members with the Entegrity representatives, Mr. Tucker recommended to the board consideration to go with Entegrity Solar for the district's solar project. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 7-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves Entegrity Solar bid for the district's solar needs.

The board approved a Petition for Transfer Request for a student to transfer to the Parkers Chapel district.

The meeting adjourned to an executive session to discuss personnel matters, then reconvened to an open meeting. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Susan Turbeville, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 7:20 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.