

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
November 6, 2017**

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 Susan Turbeville presiding. Directors present were Vicky Dobson, Wayne Gibson, Renee Skinner, Keith Smith, Todd Whatley and Shaneil Yarbrough. Also attending was Supt. Jim Tucker, Rhonda Simmons, Melissa Powell, Bonnie Haynie, Katie Sandifer, Shelley Pruitt, and Lou Ann Voris.

Mrs. Turbeville asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting held October 9. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:00 p.m., the minutes were approved.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Todd Whatley and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:00 p.m., the bills were approved for payment. A list of bills paid and monthly financial statement are on file in the business office. 6:00 p.m.

Jim Tucker visited with the board about consideration of a one-time payment to the staff. He asked them to consider \$1,000.00 for licensed employees and a 2.86% payment, not to exceed \$1,000, for classified employees. On a motion by Renee Skinner, seconded by Dobson and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:01 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approved a \$1,000.00 payment to the licensed staff and 2.86% payment, not to exceed \$1,000, for classified employees.

Mayor Frank Hash read the proclamation of the 96th observance of American Education Week which will be November 13 – 17. The board expressed their appreciation to Mayor Hash for helping the district celebrate American Education Week. 6:04 p.m.

Mrs. Turbeville introduced Student of the Month from El Dorado High School, Kate Vernon. Kate is a senior at El Dorado High School and the daughter of Trey and Pam Vernon. Mrs. Caitlin Noble, her AP Human Geography teacher stated that Kate Vernon exemplifies the true meaning of growth mindset. As a student, she actively seeks specific feedback, sets goals for herself and then tries out different strategies to meet those goals. She is intrinsically motivated to grow and is always focused on personal improvement and scholarship. Additionally, Kate is truly kind and compassionate to all classmates and students at E.H.S. She brings out the best in others by being an example of an active learner and kindhearted young person. It is an absolute joy to teach Kate.

Mrs. Reibe notes that Kate has a 4.2 G.P.A. and plans to attend Ouachita Baptist University and major in speech pathology. At E.H.S., she participates in Student Council, Senior Steering Committee, National Honor Society, and Beta Club. She is also a member of Campfire Girls and loves art and dance. Kate is a member of First Baptist Church and is a youth worker, helping with the lights during worship service.

Although Mrs. Reibe has not had the opportunity to visit with Kate often, she states that through conversation, she recognizes Kate is a very pleasant, kind, and serene young lady who is comfortable with who she is and handles herself well. She is a great role model for other students. The faculty at E.H.S. are delighted to have Kate as a student and wish her the best throughout her senior year and then as she pursues her education at Ouachita. Thanks Kate for being such an exemplary student! Mrs. Turbeville presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:07 p.m.

Mrs. Turbeville said that Teacher of the Month from El Dorado High School is Taylon Steele. Mrs. Steele graduated from E.H.S. in 2004 and received her Bachelor of Science in English from Harding University, her Master of Science in education and her Master of Art in journalism from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. This is her second year of teaching at the high school where her classes are EAST I, II, III, IV and photography.

Co-workers nominating Mrs. Steele and her principal stated: Taylon Steele is a teacher who is determined, dedicated, and diligent in making an impact on young peoples' education and lives. She engages students in real-life and relevant learning through problem solving and community involvement and encourages students to always do their best. She teaches a broad spectrum of students – from the highest to the lowest achievers – but treats each equally in terms of valuing them as productive and worthy students.

In addition to teaching her content, Mrs. Steele is involved in many projects on the high school's campus where she shows students what it truly means to have a servant's heart. Some of those projects include: Sponsor of Beta club; organized and carried through a school-wide project in partnership with the Adopt-A-School program to aid in Hurricane Harvey relief; sponsored "Socktober" school-wide where students donated socks for the Turning Point and The Call; Homecoming and Sweetheart organizer; E.H.S. website and Facebook manager and editor of Wildcat Weekly.

Mrs. Steele is a teacher and active member of College Avenue Church of Christ and teaches dance at TNT. She is married to Daniel Steele and mom to toddlers Sutton and Gabe. There are no words to accurately describe the work ethic and the passion Mrs. Steele has for the high school and its students. She is amazing and we all love her at E.H.S. Thanks Mrs. Steele for all that you do! Mrs. Turbeville presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:09 p.m.

Michael Cobb, C.P.A. gave an end of year financial audit report to the board. Fellow auditor and business partner, Anne Suskie Pinyan was also in attendance. Mr. Cobb said his firm looks for compliance with state and federal rules and regulations and described the district's audit as "sound financially." As auditors, we look at financial statements to see they are accurate – the assets are there, the cash exists, things are charged as they should be, Mr. Cobb noted. He reported the district has revenues of \$37.2 million and expenditures of \$32 million, creating a balance of \$5 million. Wayne Gibson ask "if no more money" came into the district, how long could the district operate? Mr. Cobb replied, "You could go for over ninety days – which is appropriate. You all are handling financial matters in a prudent manner, things are charged as they should be. Internal controls show that the district is in compliance with state and federal rules." 6:21 p.m.

Mrs. Bethanie Hale and Mr. Tucker recognized Reggie Thomas for his work and contributions to the playground at Retta Brown Elementary School. Mrs. Hale said that Mr. Thomas took it upon himself and worked tirelessly to raise over \$35,000.00 for playground equipment and when it was delivered, he helped take it off the truck and put it together. He painted the basketball goals and other older playground equipment. Mr. Thomas replied that kids are his passion and he just wanted to make a difference in their lives, whether it is working with them at the Boys and Girls Club or seeing that they have nice playground equipment. Mr. Tucker and the board thanked him for his hard work and contributions. 6:25 p.m.

Thomas Simmons recognized Barton Jr. High School math teacher, Tonya Sims. He stated the Arkansas Department of Education partnered with the Cyber Innovation Center in Bossier City and with Louisiana Tech University to offer a unique program. Ms. Sims was one of the twenty-seven educators from Arkansas, Louisiana, and South Carolina that made up the first cohort.

Courses aligned with Computer Science Certification requirement, target K-12 educators who desire the following to become leaders at their schools in the fields of cyber, computer science, and science, technology engineering, and mathematics (STEM), to enhance or develop their schools programs to engage students in new and innovative learning strategies, curricula, and programs, and to connect students with the cyber jobs of today and tomorrow. In addition, participants in the program will gain continuing education units as well as graduate course credit that will count toward a master of education degree, a Cyber Education certificate, or a master plus 30. Mr. Tucker added he would like to encourage the audience and board to check out Ms. Sims on Twitter. 6:27 p.m.

Evan Chandler, president of the E.H.S. Student Council reported to the board that the council made \$800 by taking advantage of the Murphy Arts District's grand opening September 27 through October 1 and sold parking spaces in the Administration Office parking lot. He said \$500 of the total raised was donated to the Agape House Children's Home, the rest will be used at the high school and thanked the district for allowing them to raise this money. He visited with the board about the school's winning football season, with a 9-1 record in regular season and said the Wildcats will have a bye this Friday. Evan added how busy the high school is with activities, sports and tests the two weeks prior to the Thanksgiving break. Whenever Wayne Gibson asked him if there were anything about the high school that he would like to see changed, Evan did not hesitate and said, "Not one thing." He added he loves his classes, especially his STEM engineering and computer software classes. He thanked his teachers for making them enjoyable and plans to attend Louisiana Tech upon graduation. 6:32 p.m.

Alva Reibe stated that next to her grandchildren, the high school is her next favorite thing to talk about. She explained about the thirty-seven students that received their letter jackets. She told of the excitement of Mrs. Jennifer Murphy's writing project that asked students to post in the hallway, "Why I Write" and how students love seeing their work posted. She said that E.H.S. has had a number of guest speakers recently. Taylon Steele's classes recently had photographer, Brandi Connor to speak with and encourage photography students. Mrs. Reibe said the art classes are painting masks and Mrs. Angie Parker's classes started the school year off with collaborative teamwork on being kind and giving back to the community and fellow students. The school also had an anti-drug awareness campaign where students watched a fifty minute video where the police and F.B.I educated students and staff about the huge prescription pill problem.

Mrs. Geni Smith visited with students about bullying with examples from the viewpoint of a bystander. She also brought in the topic of cyber bullying. Mrs. Reibe said that recently there was a three-on-one bullying situation and she feels that due to Mrs. Smith's lessons on the subject, one of the students involved in the incident said they needed to stop their bullying and it stopped. Shelly Forbess' AP physics classes had a fun time using Slinkys to investigate wave characteristics. Mrs. Reibe said she appreciated the teachers extra time and excitement in the break out activities this semester. She said that E.H.S. freshman, Dave Davison was recently chosen Most Valuable Player by the Chess Association for Arkansas Schools.

The fine arts department at the high school held a Fright Night that was a success in raising money. Mrs. Taylon Steele headed a school-wide project for Hurricane Harvey victims that attend a school in Texas. Three thousand four hundred boxes were constructed for use in Operation Christmas Child. This student project was headed up by Coaches Bledsoe and Borosvskis. Mrs. Reibe said students have contributed to the district's food pantry, collected 459 pairs of socks for Turning Point and The Call organizations, and sold Christmas ornaments at the recent Mistletoe Market for contributions to Agape House. Students are involved in Keep Arkansas Beautiful and recently took a tour on the city's trolley to the El Dorado Recycling Center. Mrs. Reibe said she is thrilled with the atmosphere that teachers and students have at the high school and is looking forward to second semester. Director Vicky Dobson left the meeting at this time. 6:47 p.m.

Rhonda Simmons said recently lemonade has been on the minds of teachers and students in the district because of a book titled, "The Lemonade War," by Jacqueline Davies. The children's book tells the story of an exciting summer spent by a loving but competitive pair of siblings, Evan and Jessie Treski, who operate separate lemonade stands during the summer.

Since August 23, district elementary school students have been reading the book which takes a practical look at economics using a brother and sister who compete with individual lemonade stands. After reading the book together, students and teachers were given the opportunity to compete in a variety of areas. Students could write business plans or create videos to showcase what they learned by reading the book. Videos were submitted and judged and winning classes received a Chromebook, Mrs. Simmons said. Winners were classes at Hugh Goodwin, Northwest, Retta Brown and Yocum. Mrs.

Simmons showed a video during her presentation which included students singing a song they collectively wrote about “The Lemonade War.” She added that students operated lemonade stands, wrote papers, created posters, made lemon play dough, designed lemon cups and planted lemon trees. They learned about underselling – Evan Treski charged a lower price for lemonade to beat the competition – his sister. Then Jessie Treski started expanding her market by taking her earnings and opening more lemonade stands. Mrs. Simmons stated it has been a fun economics lesson for the elementary students. Mr. Tucker added that Economics Arkansas teaches financial literacy and this chosen book, recommended by them, has been a wonderful and fun lesson in many ways for our students. 6:58 p.m.

Mr. Tucker stated the district’s property in Lawson has been leased, for the past twenty-five years, to the Lawson Volunteer Fire Department. He recommended to the board renewal of that lease with the fire department. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Shaneil Yarbrough and carried on a 6-0 vote at 7:00 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the lease renewal of the district’s Lawson property to the Lawson Volunteer Fire Department. The lease is renewed through January 31, 2042.

The board approved the transfer of two students to Parkers Chapel School District and one student into El Dorado School District from Junction City School District. 7:01 p.m.

Mr. Tucker said the Arkansas School Boards Association has a need for a legislative liaison from the board to the advocacy network of the A.S.B.A. whenever the legislature is in session. The liaison will bring legislative information back to the school board directors. On a motion by Shaneil Yarbrough, seconded by Todd Whatley and carried on a 6-0 vote at 7:02 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves director Wayne Gibson to serve as the legislative liaison to the Arkansas School Boards Association’s advocacy network during the upcoming legislative session.

Mr. Tucker visited with the board about the annual school board election date and Policy 1.21 – Date of Annual School Board Election. He noted that Arkansas Act 910 of 2017 goes into effect January 1, 2018. Arkansas school districts have a choice of a May or November school election. He recommended the board’s consideration of the May election date for the district and board. On a motion by Renee Skinner, seconded by Todd Whatley and carried on a 6-0 vote at 7:04 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves Policy 1.21 – Date of Annual School Board Election and the preferential primary May election date. A copy of the policy is on file in the minutes book in the superintendent’s office and will be filed with the Union County Clerk, Shannon Phillips and Union County Election Commission.

Mrs. Turbeville reminded board members that the Arkansas School Boards Association’s Region 13 Meeting is Tuesday, November 7 at Smackover School District’s high school cafeteria. Also, the A.S.B.A. Annual Conference, December 6-8 is in Little Rock at the Statehouse Convention Center. 7:04 p.m.

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 Keith Smith and carried on a 6-0 vote at 8:13 p.m., it was

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.