

**Minutes of Called Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
2018 Six-Year Master Plan of Facilities
January 8, 2018**

The directors of the board met on the above date at 6:05 p.m. in the Board Room, School Administration Building, 200 West Oak Street, with Susan Turbeville presiding. Other directors present were Vicky Dobson, Wayne Gibson, Renee Skinner, Keith Smith, Todd Whatley and Shaneil Yarbrough. Also attending were Supt. Jim Tucker, Rhonda Simmons, Katie Sandifer, Bonnie Haynie, Shelley Pruitt and Lou Ann Voris.

Mr. Tucker stated the purpose of the meeting was to present a resolution and report of the 2018 Six-Year Master Plan of Facilities for the District. He covered three major topics: 1) Plans to build a maintenance, food services, and bus facility in one spot in the next couple of years, 2) needed replacement of the HVAC system at Retta Brown Elementary School, and 3) a new Barton Jr. High School to be built on the location of the former El Dorado High School.

Mr. Tucker said the district has sixty-seven acres east of town that is a possibility for the maintenance, food services, and bus facility but he is also exploring other location avenues. He relayed to the board the conditions for the needed HVAC system at Retta Brown. In explaining the desire to move Barton Jr. High to a new location, he said the school was built in 1949 and along with aging conditions of the building, the classrooms are small by today's educational standards. Plans are for tearing down a portion of the old high school within the year for the future junior high school. Mr. Tucker asked for the board's approval of the resolution. On a motion by Todd Whatley, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:09 p.m., it was,

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION FOR LOCAL SUPPORT OF 2018 SIX-YEAR
MASTER PLAN & PARTNERSHIP PROJECT
APPLICATIONS 2019/2021 BIENNIUM**

WHEREAS the El Dorado School Board has reviewed and voted yes to fully support the School District's, 2018 Six-Year Master Plan and 2019-2021; and

WHEREAS the El Dorado School Board understands that the Arkansas Division of Public School Academic Facilities & Transportation must approve said masterplans; and

WHEREAS the El Dorado School Board understands that when masterplans are approved the Academic Facilities Division through the legislative appropriation may participate in the construction of academic facilities at the state computed wealth index as funding permits,

BE IT RESOLVED that the El Dorado School Board has voted to dedicate local resources to meet the school district facility needs in projects listed on the Six-Year Master Plan.

Signed:

Jim Tucker, Superintendent

Susan Turbeville, School Board President

Lou Ann Voris, School Board Secretary

Date: Monday, January 8, 2018

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
January 8, 2018**

The directors of the board met on the above date at 6:10 p.m. in the Board Room, School Administration Building, 200 West Oak Street, with Susan Turbeville presiding. Other directors present were Vicky Dobson, Wayne Gibson, Renee Skinner, Keith Smith, Todd Whatley and Shaneil Yarbrough. Also attending were Supt. Jim Tucker, Rhonda Simmons, Katie Sandifer, Bonnie Haynie, Shelley Pruitt and Lou Ann Voris.

Mr. Tucker stated Governor Hutchison has declared January as Arkansas School Board Member Recognition Month. He thanked the directors for the sacrifice of their time to the students and staff of the district. Mr. Tucker explained to the audience that the board's time is strictly voluntary – they give of their personal time for board meetings, discipline hearings, visiting schools and many hours of continuing education. He noted the district is fortunate to have a good strong board that works well together. Mr. Tucker presented each with a blanket with the wildcat logo and E.H.S. Student Council representative, Buck McKnight presented each with a certificate. 6:16 p.m.

Mrs. Turbeville asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting held December 11. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:17 p.m., the minutes were approved.

The board reviewed the monthly bills with Shelley Pruitt. After some discussion and on a motion by Todd Whatley, seconded by Shaneil Yarbrough, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:18 p.m., the bills were approved for payment. A list of bills paid and monthly financial statement are on file in the business office.

Mrs. Pruitt presented the bids on the school leader's errors and omissions liability insurance policy that will run from February 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019.

| <u>Company</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Policy Through</u> |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| First Arkansas Insurance | \$13,648 | Western World Ins. |
| A.S.B.A. – Bancorp South, Inc. | 12,261 | QBE Insurance Co. |

Mrs. Pruitt said the superintendent's recommendation is to go with the low bid from Arkansas School Boards Association/Bancorp South, Inc. for a policy through QBE Insurance Company for \$12,261. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Renee Skinner, seconded by Todd Whatley and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:19 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the low bid of \$12,261 from A.S.B.A./Bancorp South with the policy from QBE Insurance Company for the School Leaders Errors and Omissions Liability Insurance policy. The policy will run from February 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019.

Blake Dunn with CADM Architecture and Mr. Tucker visited with the board about the bids received on the perimeter fencing at Memorial Stadium. Mr. Dunn stated that last August they put the bids out for the fencing but they came back more than they wanted to pay. They waited a little while and put the perimeter fencing out for bid again and are happy with the results. Mr. Tucker said, in the meantime, the district received a \$70,000 grant for the project, bringing the cost down significantly.

Mr. Dunn said four bids were entered the second time around but there were problems with two bids. The lowest bidder failed to provide a bond required by the Arkansas Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation and the Department of Finance and Administration's procurement office. Due to this, it could not be accepted. A computation error from the highest bidder caused the other bid to not be accepted. The remaining bids are:

| <u>Company</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|--------------|
| Delta Specialty Contractors, LLC, Monroe, LA | \$ 99,000.00 |
| Nichols Landscape Company, Inc., Stephens, AR | 122,952.00 |

Mr. Dunn explained to the board the placement of the six foot commercial steel fencing and noted the vertical pickets make the product hard to climb. He added that several contract requirements ensure the security of patrons using the track and maintenance of the facilities at the stadium. Mr. Dunn added that he and the superintendent recommend accepting the bid from Delta Specialty Contractors. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:31 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the \$99,000.00 bid from Delta Specialty Contractors, LLC, Monroe, Louisiana for the perimeter fencing at Memorial Stadium.

Mr. Tucker and Mr. Dunn visited with the board about a proposed project for the El Dorado High School practice field. Mr. Dunn explained the prints given to the board of the area and said with the board's approval, the district will need to file for a fire suppression waiver request. The reason is an automatic fire sprinkler system is required unless the steel facility is used purely for physical education/athletic practice and would not have any assembly use whatsoever. If that is the case, a waiver request will be considered by the state fire marshal. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Vicky Dobson, seconded by Todd Whatley and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:38 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves a waiver request to be submitted to the state fire marshal regarding the automatic fire sprinkler system. The request will state the new practice facility at El Dorado High School is to be used for physical education/athletic purposes only and that no assembly or spectator viewing will be permitted.

Student of the Month from Retta Brown Elementary School is Saniah Reynolds. Mr. Gibson said she is the daughter of Danielle Parker and Rodriguez Reynolds and a fourth grader in Mrs. Felice Scott and Mrs. Latonya Green's classroom.

Mrs. Green said Saniah is a remarkable student. She utilizes great leadership skills in and out of the classroom. She works hard and is always lending a helping hand to her teachers and classmates. Mrs. Scott said that Saniah is a model student. Her spunky enthusiasm is contagious and I have never known her to be mad or upset about anything. She sets a strong example for other students, always listening and following instructions, as well as showing a great amount of pride in her work. I am so happy to have her in class this year. I have been looking forward to it since I had her for Direct Instruction (D.I.) in second grade!

Her principal, Mrs. Bethanie Hale said that Saniah is a joy to have at Retta Brown. Her smile can light up a room. Saniah is loved by everyone and is a wonderful example to other students in our school. She is always looking for ways to help others and she never hesitates to lend a hand. There are so many words that describe Saniah. She is hard working, kind, loving and so much more. We would be here all night and into the morning if I were to list all of her wonderful attributes. I am so proud of the wonderful, young lady Saniah has become and I know she will represent Retta Brown well as she moves to Washington Middle School next year. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:40 p.m.

Isiah Pierce was chosen Classified Employee of the Month from transportation but was unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Gibson said Teacher of the Month from Retta Brown Elementary School is LaTonya Green. Mrs. Green received her Bachelor of Arts degree in early childhood education from the University of Arkansas at Monticello and is working on her Master's degree at Southern Arkansas University. She began working for the district in August 2014 and teaches fourth grade literacy.

Literacy Facilitator, Kristen Thomas said Mrs. Green has taken their new literacy program and has done an outstanding job putting new procedures in place. She is eager to learn the new program, help her students become successful and lend a hand to

colleagues when needed. Mrs. Green is a great asset to Retta Brown and I am glad she is ours. Math Facilitator, Lisa Hooks noted that Mrs. Green is one of the most wonderful women I know. She has a genuine concern for her children at Retta Brown. She desires to make sure the students receive the best education possible. She has such a great relationship with her students in establishing trust and high expectations. She makes sure her students know how much she wants them to succeed. Her lessons are always so intriguing and students love to go to her class. Felice Scott, fellow fourth grade teacher stated, Mrs. Green is a wonderful partner teacher for the fourth grade. She has a strong relationship with all of her students and many of their parents and families. She always has her classroom in control and her students love all the creative projects that she has them do. Mrs. Green is the kind of teacher I aspire to be.

Her principal, Mrs. Bethanie Hale said Mrs. Green is an extremely hard working teacher who goes above and beyond to motivate her students to reach their full potential. High expectations are set and students are expected to meet those expectations on a daily basis. Her classroom runs like a well-oiled machine and it is apparent that she has put in a lot of time and hard work to ensure it runs that way. Mrs. Green is always looking for ways to help others. She spent a lot of time before the start of the school year helping others set up their classrooms when her room was ready and she could have been going home. She has helped others by decorating bulletin boards on the weekends and when no one else knew about it. She does all of this and more without saying a word, never seeking recognition. Mrs. Green is a true asset to Retta Brown and I am so proud to have her on our team. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:43 p.m.

Bethanie Hale gave a principals report of Retta Brown Elementary School. Mrs. Hale said in an attempt to cultivate a college going culture, the district encourages students to wear college t-shirts every Wednesday. She said the school's mission was to provide a collegiate shirt for all students to wear. Staff started putting the need on social media asking patrons to bring used college t-shirts or whenever they traveled during the summer possibly pick up new ones. She stated they now only need 24 t-shirts for the whole school. It has been fun to note a lot of different states are represented. Students now have t-shirts all the way from New York University to Wyoming and Wisconsin, she said. She added the Retta Brown students know all the different opportunities that they have with the El Dorado Promise in order to go to college.

Mrs. Hale said the math literacy projects have fostered great morale among students, especially the Retta Bucks, sponsored by Simmons Bank and recent district-wide reading of "The Lemonade War." Economic education is wonderful to start early in a student's life. The student can earn Retta Bucks by behaving well in class and doing good deeds around the school. Twice a month they can go to a school store and buy pencils, secure "Lunch with a Friend" passes, and even get backpacks with the Retta Bucks. Mrs. Hale said she is working with Simmons Bank to incorporate a checkbook into the program for fourth graders. It will incorporate math skills as well as life skills like balancing a checkbook and budgeting.

Mrs. Hale visited with the board about the success of the school's literacy initiative. She noted with the help of the literacy facilitator and teachers, the number of Tier 3 students has declined from 73 to 38 at the beginning of January, signaling that its response to intervention program is working. Mrs. Hale said they started out with 73 students out of 150 that were in need of Tier 3 intervention, which is the highest level of intervention and have intervention time with guided reading as well as Dibbles and all of the other things that Retta Brown is doing.

Mrs. Hale said with funds from a Multi-Tiered System of Support grant, the school was able to hire El Dorado alum Jewel Murphy as a paraprofessional who works strictly with kindergarten through first grade students in Tier 2 and Tier 3 intervention. She added that they feel if they can get the students at the youngest possible age then maybe with filling the gap early they won't need that intervention when the students get to third and fourth grade. She said that Miss Murphy pulls all of those students – maybe three at the most students and works with them. Staff saw at the beginning of school ten kindergartners that were in urgent intervention, in the red, and Mrs. Hale said now we have one in kindergarten. She credits the school's literacy facilitator, teachers and

paraprofessionals with the success of the program and definitely feel they are going in the right direction. 7:00 p.m.

Buck McKnight reporter for the E.H.S. Student Council visited with the board about happenings at El Dorado High School. He stated that before and after school tutoring is helpful for him and other students but had a proposal. There are teachers that are not able to tutor students because of duty before and after school. He sees this mostly in advanced placement curriculum, especially for Mrs. Mobbs and Mrs. Forbess. He asked the administration and board to consider moving some of those teachers duty time so they can help tutor students before or after school each day. Board members and Mr. Tucker thanked him for his suggestion. Mr. Gibson asked Buck where he planned to attend college and asked his major. Buck said he plans to attend Ouachita Baptist University and major in Christian studies, followed by attending seminary and becoming a pastor. 7:06 p.m.

Mrs. Turbeville introduced Art Noyes. Mr. Noyes stated he wanted to give the board an update on a program he has called Kids N Golf. For ten weeks last semester he worked with Barton and E.H.S. students that expressed an interest in golf. He explained he has a background in working with youth when he lived in Texas and upon moving to El Dorado he piloted one golf program at Barton Jr. High School and two at El Dorado High School that met on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The program works with the El Dorado Golf and Country Club and teaches learned and life skills. Mr. Noyes found as a pastor, coach, teacher and trainer there is no magic formula with kids. However, after years of youth work, he has come to recognize that the game of golf is an excellent vehicle for guiding and teaching young people. He said that students that may never have shown an interest or probably would never have been exposed to golf have come to him and told him how much they have learned and enjoyed it. He said the program blends athletic instruction with leadership, counseling and teaching in order to help young people develop character, sound decision making skills and personal confidence. Board members thanked Mr. Noyes for his time working with students in this area. 7:21 p.m.

The board approved the transfer of one student to Junction City School District. 7:21 p.m.

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 Todd Whatley and carried on a 7-0 vote at 7:50 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.

On a motion by Wayne Gibson seconded by Shaneil Yarbrough, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 7:51 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the contract of Superintendent Jim Tucker for 3 years effective January 2018 at a salary of \$156,000.00. The salary amount includes a travel allotment.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.