

## **Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board February 13, 2023**

The directors of the board met on the above date at 6:00 p.m. in the Central Office Board Room, 200 West Oak St, El Dorado, Arkansas with Susan Turbeville presiding. Other directors present were Vicky Dobson, Renee Skinner, Kenneth Clemons, Wayne Gibson, Keith Smith, and Todd Whatley. Also in attendance were Jim Tucker, Melissa Powell, Sherry Floss, Shelley Pruitt, Taylon Steele and Missy Passmore.

Mrs. Turbeville asked if there were corrections or additions to the minutes of the meetings held January 9 and the Special Called Meeting on February 7. On a motion by Renee Skinner, a second by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 7-0 vote the minutes were approved and are on file in the superintendent's office.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Tod Whatley, seconded by Kenneth Clemons, and carried on a 7-0 vote, the minutes were approved and are on file in the superintendent's office.

Jennifer Lee stated that she was contacted by Lockheed Martin in December requesting information regarding the Robotics program in the district. She stated that Washington Middle School has 39 students in robotics classes with 14 of those students choosing to participate on a competition team under the guidance of Michael Herren. Barton Junior High also has 39 students in robotics classes with 10 students on competition teams sponsored by teacher Jill Humphreys. The teams competed in November and February with the goal of qualifying for the state competition and the hope of receiving an invitation to the World Robotics Competition in Dallas in May. One team at BJH qualified for the state competition in March. This team also received the following awards. 1st place in the Team Alliance Competition, 2nd place overall in Skills and Programming, and Design Award. The other BJH team placed 4th in the Team Alliance Competition and 4th in Skills and Programming. Then last weekend the team came in 1st Place overall in Skills and Programming which also qualified them for the State Tournament as well.

Mrs. Lee then said that after speaking with the robotics teachers on both campuses, she realized the need for both campuses to upgrade their VEX IQ robotics equipment from the next 2nd Generation Kits. She relayed that need to Lockheed Martin and they decided to donate \$5,000 for these upgrades. With that money they were able to purchase 3 of the 2nd generation VEX IQ Robotics competition kits and one small classroom bundle.

She then thanked Mr. Aaron Huckaby, Operations Manager for Lockheed Martin for the generous donation granted to El Dorado School District and presented him with cards made by the students in the robotics program. Mr. Aaron stated that Lockheed Martin was very excited to be able to contribute to the program. They feel it is very important to be part of developing the next generation in this field and look forward to continuing their partnership with the El Dorado School District.

Mr. Gibson then said that he was honored to present the EHS Student of the Month Skyler Vincent. He is a junior at EHS with a 3.6 GPA. His guardians are Lacy and Cory Miller. He has two siblings at EHS, Maddox and Ashton. Skyler is a vital member of the Wolfe Program at EHS.

EHS teachers had the following to say: Skyler is a hard worker and goes above and beyond to help other students who need it in class. He has a very positive attitude and reflects kindness to others as well.

Skyler personifies the term grit. He works hard to achieve excellence in and out of the classroom. He has a quick wit and a ready smile. Not to mention, he is always willing to lend a helping hand. It is an honor to be his teacher.

Skyler is respectful of his teachers and fellow students. He does his best every single day, no matter what mood he is in. Skyler is a wonderful role model!

Skyler is a kind hearted student who will help any student or adult who asks. He is always looking for extra work to stay busy in class. Skyler is a positive influence for all Wildcats. He will say hi and high five students and peers in the hallways. He will also check on various adults and peers who have had a tough day. I look forward to seeing Skyler in class. He makes me smile everyday.

EHS Principal, Mrs. Hill said: I am thrilled that Skyler was selected student of the month by the EHS staff. He is friendly, helpful, and kind to all. Skyler works hard and when he struggles, he puts his

foot down and keeps working hard. And when his classmates struggle, he is always encouraging them to keep trying. His teachers enjoy having him in class and we all enjoy seeing him around school. EHS is proud to have Skyler Vincent represent us as Student of the Month.

Classified Employee of the Month: Darlene Williams. Darlene Williams has worked for the El Dorado School District in the Food Services Department for 19 years. She is an active member of St. John Missionary Baptist Church. Most of her spare time is taken up with attending all Wildcat sporting events, watching sports on TV, and playing with her precious grandbaby.

Staff had this to say, Ms. Darlene is a bright spot in our day at EHS. Her smile and her laugh are infectious, and she shows how much she cares for our students and staff with her joyful service.

Darlene is on time for work every day and ready to work! She loves to serve her Wildcats!

Darlene supports every sport and is the epitome of the Wildcat's number 1 fan!

Coach Scott Reed said: Congratulations Ms. Darlene, on being selected as the classified employee of the month! As everyone in El Dorado knows, you are the absolute # 1 Wildcat fan of all time and a true friend to all players, coaches, and administrators. I'm afraid I can't say the same about officials....But that's ok! You are all about the CATS and that is what so many of us love about you. You are a tireless worker in the cafeteria and for all wildcat athletics and truly have a heart for the young people of El Dorado! If you are getting this award, I guess that means you have made it a whole month without burning the rolls in the cafeteria! (LOL!) From your extended family...Coaches Sprawls, Wylie, Panter, Connie and I We LOVE you and CONGRATULATIONS!

Mrs. Hill said: Ms. Darlene is a mess! She picks with the coaches..and some of the kids and admins....and they love her for it. She is always smiling as she serves breakfast and lunch each day. And just about the whole world knows how much she loves EHS and especially EHS athletics. I can't think of a sporting event that she doesn't attend. If you don't see her there and think, "I wonder where Ms. Darlene is?" ...just listen a bit longer and you will definitely hear her!! EHS would not be the same without Ms. Darlene and we are all thrilled that she was selected as Classified Employee of the Month.

He then presented the Teacher of the month Aprile Richardson. Aprile received her Bachelor's Degree from Ouachita Baptist University. She has taught for 26 years and this is her 3rd year at EHS. Aprile is married to Ricky and has two children, a daughter Reagan, and a son Rhett, who graduated from EHS last year. She is an active member of the praise team of First Baptist Church in Smackover and spends most of her spare time going to her student's activities. This spring she will start burning up the roads watching her son play baseball for Crowder College. She and Ricky are also learning to be empty nesters.

EHS teachers had the following to say, Mrs. Richardson is an amazing teacher and friend. She taught me as a student at another school and is one of the main reasons I decided to pursue a career in education. I'm truly honored to teach alongside her. She is an absolute light in any room she walks into and continues to encourage me to be the best educator I can for my students. She is an all around amazing and kind human being who cares immensely about her students and we are so proud to have her teaching English at EHS.

Aprile is sunshine. She is always smiling and generally just lights up a room when she enters. Even when she is tired, she doesn't let on. She is upbeat and happy. Additionally, she is always willing to pull up a chair for a therapy session if needed. She is a genuinely caring person who showcases the love of God on a daily basis. She is loved by the staff and students alike.

On the first day every year, I give my students a questionnaire that includes the question "Which of your teachers from last year would you use as a job reference? Why?" Aprile is consistently the most frequently cited teacher in student replies, and their range of reasons demonstrates the high regard students have for her.

Aprile is sunshine in human form. I am so glad she is here with us at EHS. Every student who passes through her doorway will be blessed beyond measure from having her as a teacher. She is constantly lifting everyone around her up. When you work with Aprile, you all rise together.

Mrs. Hill said: Aprile Richardson is one of a kind. She is smart, funny, kind, hardworking, friendly, and a leader. She doesn't always see herself as a leader, but teachers naturally gravitate towards her. She is not bossy, but she just naturally leads her team meetings. Teachers respect her opinions and seek her advice. I personally was super excited when she made the promising choice to join us at EHS. She was nervous about coming to the "big" school, but she fit right in and has certainly made her mark. In her second year here, she led the National Honor Society and then for this year, we asked her to take over Student Council, which is a much bigger job. She agreed and has done a great job. The main thing I can say about Aprile Richardson is that she is the human I wish we all could be. EHS staff and students are thrilled that Aprile is representing us as Teacher of the Month.

Mr. Tucker then stated he was proud to announce that EHS had received three awards. The first award was the US News Award. EHS received a best High School ranking from US News and World Report. U.S. News reviews Ed data from almost 18,000 high schools nationwide and has published detailed school-specific information on enrollment, graduation rates, student body demographics, location, school type and results of state assessments as well as Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate tests. The Best High Schools rankings available online only are produced in conjunction with RTI International, a global research firm. US News doesn't collect data directly from high schools. All data comes directly from official third party sources. US News receives AP and IB data directly from the College Board and International Baccalaureate, respectively, for use in the rankings. The state assessments data and graduation rates are from each state, and other data comes from the US Department of Education Common Core of Data.

The second award was the Southwest Region High Overall Growth on ACT Aspire Award. El Dorado High School has been recognized by the Office for Education Policy (OEP) at the University of Arkansas as a school where students demonstrated high growth on the ACT Aspire! As you may know, the OEP creates an annual report entitled the Outstanding Educational Performance Awards where we recognize schools with high student academic growth. We think growth is the best indicator of the positive impact that your school is having on students.

The final award was the Arkansas School Recognition: Top 6-10% Growth/Graduate Rates. The Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education is pleased to announce that a total of \$6,877,600 will be awarded to 178 schools through the Arkansas School Recognition Program. Awards are based on student assessment results from the 2021-2022 school year and graduation rates from the 2020-2021 school year. The Arkansas School Recognition Program provides financial awards to the top 10% of public schools that achieve high student performance on the state-required assessments in grad3es 3-10 and the top 10% of public schools that achieve high student academic growth, including high school graduation rates where applicable. EHS was top 6%-10% Growth/graduation rates, receiving \$50 per student for this award with a total awarded to EHS of \$64,850.00

Mrs. Hill then gave the principal's report for El Dorado High School. She stated that enrollment for the 2022/2023 school year went up to 1,319 students from 1,308 for the 2021-2022 school year. She also stated that EHS is fully accredited and exceeds the state requirements of 38 courses by 179 courses for a total of 217 offered courses. In addition, courses are offered at South Arkansas Community College. There are 18 Advanced Placement courses listed in the course catalog and taught during the 2022-2023 school year. There are also 8 concurrent courses taught at EHS during the 2022-2023 school year. She stated that she is very proud of the fact that there is something for everyone, and each student has the opportunity to find their niche. She shared a story about a student who found her passion through the offered courses. She invited Mrs. Hill to come to her tent at the MAD Farmer's Market.

She also stated that ACT Aspire scores show that EHS in most subjects was either at or just above the state average, and a few classes were almost at the state average. She stated that English scores in 2021 students in the state had an average of 17.6 and EHS was at 15.9. In 2022 the state had an average of 17.6 and EHS had come up to 17.6. So our English scores came up just barely under the state average. Student Reading scores for 2021 state average was 18.4 and EHS was

17.2. In 2022 EHS exceed the state overage of 18.6 and EHS had an average of 18.8. Student Mathematics scores in 2021 were a state average of 17.8 and an EHS average of 16.8. Student Mathematics scores in 2022 were a state average of 17.7, EHS exceeded that with an average of 17.8. Student Science scores in 2021 were a state average of 18.6 and an EHS average of 17.8. Student Science scores in 2022 were a state average of 18.7 matched by an EHS average of 18.7. ACT Composite scores in 2021 were a state average of 18.2 and an EHS average of 17.0. In 2022 ACT Composite scores were 18.3 state wide and at EHS. She was proud to state that they had brought the score up in every subject!

Mrs. Hill stated that she was very proud of the THREE awards that EHS had received! They received the 2022 US News & World Report Best High School Award, 2022 Best Overall Growth Scores from the Office for Education Policy and University of Arkansas. They also received \$64,850.00 from the Arkansas School Recognition Program for being top 6%-10% for growth and graduation rates. She just wanted to remind everyone one more time!

She then went on to congratulate the EHS Cheer Team for placing 3rd in the Nation the day before!. She congratulated the Quiz Bowl for taking 1st place in the SCSC competition and stated they won by a considerable margin! She wanted to congratulate the EHS Band & Orchestra students for making ASBOA Region III Senior High All Region Band! She was proud of the Beta Club for their acts of service. One of those being "Socktober" where they collected over 500 pairs of socks for the Salvation Army. She was proud to congratulate Dunte Maker, who is the first EHS wrestler to receive a scholarship! She also stated that the Cafe has been on Gold Level for eight years in a row!

Mrs. Hill said that this fall EHS hosted a College Fair. There are many students who do not have the means to visit the college campuses, so we bring the colleges to EHS for them. EHS also hosted the second College and Career Night. Kristi Miller had the idea for this event and was vital in getting it set up. There were 50 vendors and over 300 students in attendance for this event. Many local businesses, and many colleges participated in this event and we felt like it was a success!

Mrs. Hill shared pictures of the PLC Process in action. She also stated that Assistant Principal Geni Smith is the PLC Coordinator and does a wonderful job! Mrs. Smith also works with the EHS Solution Tree Coach David Jones to keep this process running smoothly.

There has been a behavior emphasis led by Vice Principal John Jameson. This week was dubbed "Kindness Week." Students and staff alike have been able to focus on building their character by choosing kindness, and some fun dress up! Monday was "Crazy for Kindness" and they were encouraged to wear crazy socks. Tuesday is "Peace, Love, & Kindness" where students are encouraged to wear tie-dye or red/pink. They had Wristband Wednesday where they were encouraged to wear their Be Kind, Ryan Kind wristband and any others they have. Thursday is "Make a New Friend" by wearing a shirt that represents your interests and finding someone that matches. Friday is "We Are All on the Same Team" by wearing purple to support the Wildcat Basketball Team! There is also a competition going to see which grade receives the most links on their kindness chains which are hanging in the Commons. It has been a great way to promote kind behavior

Mrs. Hill also showed several pictures of the progress on the Ag Building. She stated that they have started building the green house and said it will be State of the Art and will be the best in the state! She was happy to report that there are over 150 students currently in the Ag Program. Many of those students have joined the FFA program and are participating in FFA Competitions. She is very excited about this program and looks forward to the opportunities the new facilities will present to these students. She is waiting in anticipation for the day that we start bringing in animals and plants, as well as projects for Ag Mechanics. She stated that when they visited other AG programs they sold items from the green house, as well as other profitable ventures. When our program is up and running they will be able to sell their products as a fundraiser for their department. Mrs. Hill stated that she was very excited for the opportunity to be the principal at EHS!

Mr. Gibson asked Mrs. Hill if she knew the numbers on the homeless and non english speakers at the high school. Mrs. Hill stated that she did not have those numbers in front of her, but asked if Jennifer Lee knew that answer. Mrs. Lee stated that she doesn't not have the specific number for the high

school but District Wide we have just under 140 students that are counted as homeless which puts us at 3%. She said that this includes students who are homeless, doubled up, living in shelters etc. Mr. Tucker stated that the number is consistent with other school districts and that there are special funds set up to assist those students. They did not know the specific numbers for students who are non-English speakers.

Bailey Camacho then presented the proposed 2023-2024 school calendar. She stated that there were three things they really wanted to ensure on this year's calendar. They wanted to make sure to have PD days, they wanted the first semester to end before Christmas and wanted to make sure school ends in May. They created several calendars and narrowed it down to two for the ESD employees to vote upon. The calendar presented received over 55% of the vote. Mr. Tucker stated that the Calendar Committee consisted of members of the PPC. They started working on calendars in October, then were informed that a law had been changed and they and they had to adjust. He also stated that they did a good job creating these options. Mr. Tucker said that it was his recommendation to approve the 2023/2024 school calendar as presented to the board. After some discussion and on a motion by Todd Whatley, a second by Wayne Gibson and carried on a 7-0 vote it was

RESOLVED that the board hereby approves the 2023/2024 school calendar as presented to the board, a copy will be on file in the superintendent's office.

Kim Newman stated that on December 19th the food service department emailed Sysco, Ben E. Keith and Tankersly for procuring a bid for the remainder of the 2022/2023 school year after terminating a contract with School Eats. Sysco and Ben E. Keith responded. After breaking each vendor's bid down into cost per unit to consider that some cases have a different each amount, it was determined that Sysco had the lowest prices. Ben E. Keith's total was \$879,090.59 and Sysco totaled \$842,825.32. This is a difference of \$36,265.58. She then stated that it is her recommendation that we move forward with Sysco for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year. New opportunities to bid for the 2023-2024 school year will be presented at a later date. Mr. Tucker recommended that the board approve the lower bid from Sysco at \$842,825.32 for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year. After a time of discussion on a motion by Vicky Dobson, a second by Kenneth Clemons and carried on a 7-0 vote it was

RESOLVED that the board hereby approves Sysco as the food vendor for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year with a bid of \$842,825.32.

Mr Tucker then stated that we did not have to purchase paper at the beginning of the school year, but we are starting to run low and it was necessary to purchase paper to finish out the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year. Alexander Michaels sent out paper bids for 840 cases of 8 ½ x 11 copy paper. He sent the bids out to the following companies:

- El Dorado Printing, El Dorado, AR
- Contract Paper Group, Cuyahoga Falls, OH
- Vertiv, Texarkana, TX
- American Paper & Twine, Little Rock, AR
- Peregrine Solutions (formerly B&B Solutions), El Dorado, AR

We received bids from the following companies as follows

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|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| • Contract Paper Group:   | \$40.66/case | \$34,154.40 TOTAL |
| • Peregrine Solutions:    | \$41.75/case | \$35,070.00 TOTAL |
| • Veritiv:                | \$39.52/case | \$33,196.80 TOTAL |
| • American Paper & Twine: | \$39.00/case | \$32,760.00 TOTAL |

Mr. Michaels proposed we accept the lowest bid submitted by American Paper & Twine with a bid of \$39 per case for a total of \$32,760.00. After some discussion Mr. Tucker explained that the rates are better with a large bulk order, and recommended that the board approve the lowest bid from American Paper & Twine at \$32,760 for 840 cases of 8 ½ x 11 copy paper. On a motion by Kenneth Clemons, a second by Todd Whatley and carried on a 7-0 vote it was

RESOLVED that the board hereby approves the bid submitted by American Paper & Twine at \$32,760.00 to purchase 840 cases of 8 ½ x 11 copy paper.

Mrs. Turbeville stated that we had received the following transfer requests. One student who resides in the Smackover-Norphlet School District transferred to the El Dorado School District. Three students who reside in the El Dorado School District requested to transfer to the Parkers Chapel School District. One student from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ AR, parent Gfrazier. Mr. Tucker recommended these legal transfers. On a motion by Todd Whatley, a second by Wayne Gibson and carried on a 7-0 vote it was

RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves these legal transfers as presented by the superintendent.

Mrs. Turbeville made the following announcements:

- **MEC School Board Lunch:** Thursday, February 23 at 12:00
- **NW School Board Lunch:** Thursday, March 30 at 12:00
- **Yocum Elementary School Board Lunch:** Thursday, April 20 at 12:00
- **Yocum Primary School Board Lunch:** Thursday, May 11 at 12:00

The meeting recessed to an executive session to discuss personnel matters at 6:57 pm. The board reconvened to an open meeting at 7:18 pm and on a motion by Wayne Gibson, a second by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 7-0 vote. 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 at 7:40 pm.