

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
April 10, 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, and Todd Whatley. Director Keith Smith was absent. Also in attendance were Jim Tucker, Shelley Pruitt, Taylon Steele and Missy Passmore.

Mrs. Turbeville asked if there were corrections or additions to the minutes of the meetings held on March 13. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, a second by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 6-0 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 Todd Whatley, seconded by Kenneth Clemons, and carried on a 6-0 vote, the minutes were approved and are on file in the superintendent's office.

The student of the month for Northwest Elementary is Hyla Fulmer, she is in Mrs. Fulco's 4th grade class. Her guardian is Suzy Kavanaugh.: Hyla has a wonderful character. She listens and follows directions and ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS follows rules and procedures. She has a quiet demeanor, but has become an advocate for herself in the most polite way. Hyla shows us each day what it means to persevere and pursue excellence. She completes her best work on everything. Her smile and sweet personality can light up a room. We are so proud of you, Hyla.

Her principal, Mr. Odom said that he appreciates Hyla's dedication to her academic studies and the excellent example of student behavior she portrays for other students. If I ever need to lift my spirits I just look at Hyla's sweet smile and everything suddenly is better with the world. We are all so proud of you and know that your hard work and determination will be rewarding as you continue in your studies at Washington. Thank you for being you!

The Classified employee of the month for Northwest Elementary is Kara Rainwater. She is a paraprofessional and has worked in the El Dorado School District for four years. Her nominating co workers stated that Ms. Rainwater does everything she can for students and teachers! She is a dedicated staff member who can jump in at a moment's notice to take over a classroom. She is well loved by the students and goes out of her way to help teachers. She arrives early and stays late to make sure Northwest is running well.

Ms. Rainwater fulfills all of her daily duties and anything else that is asked of her. She always has a smile on her face and never complains.

Her principal, Mr. Odom said that Ms. Rainwater is a living example of humility and hard work. She is an intuitive person with a huge heart for others. Her goal is to make everyone else's day better. Many days she can read my mind and already knows where to help out before I ask. She truly loves Northwest and we love her. Thank you for making Northwest your home away from home.

The teacher of the month for Northwest Elementary is Amanda Kingery. She taught Pre-K for twelve years and has taught as a Kindergarten Teacher for the El Dorado School District for five years. She received her Bachelor of Science in Education from Hannibal LaGrange University. Her nominating co workers stated that Mandy Kingery is an expectational educator. She has excellent classroom management. All of her students know and follow the Roadrunner Way. She has a passion for teaching and strives to always do her best in the classroom for students. Mrs. Kingery goes above and beyond with every detail in her classroom to ensure learning comes alive for students. Mrs. Kingery makes her kindergarten classroom a magical place! She strives to create a warm and inviting place where every student is important and learning comes first. You will often see former students giving Mrs. Kingery a big hug.

Her principal, Mr. Odom, stated that Mrs. Kingery is a breath of fresh air in the teaching world. She is quick to jump on new ideas and is not afraid to try new things. I am always amazed at her ability to create inquisitive learners who know what is expected of them at all times. Teachers matter and Mrs. Kingery's students and Northwest are so fortunate to have her as part of our wonderful school. We sincerely thank you for dedicating your career to the betterment of our society.

The Student of the Month for Washington Middle School is Harrison Langston. He is in the 5th grade and is the son of Jason and Cindy Langston. Ashley Johnson, 5th grade Science teacher: The first day Harrison Langston entered my classroom, he informed me he would be valedictorian just like his older brother one day. His work ethic, interest in learning, and all-around great attitude about life

make him the best candidate for Student of the Month for WMS and for future valedictorian one day :) I am confident this young man can accomplish ANYTHING he sets his mind to and I am excited to see what his future holds.

Ethan Kelton, archery coach: Harrison is a great kid. One of those that makes your life as a coach and teacher a little easier. He's internally driven so much that you have to tell him to relax and take a break, you can't climb Everest in a day. He's the child that affects everyone around in the best of ways. When he does great, the first thing he does is make sure everyone else feels just as good as he does. You don't come by kids like that too often. A perfectionist and a purist. A great kid at heart.

Principal, Bethanie Hale said Harrison is an amazing young man. He is an all round student. He works hard academically and is an exceptional athlete. Harrison Langston competed in the state archery meet for WMS and he scored 276 out of 300. He placed 1st overall out of 134 in the Elementary Boys Division, 1st overall for 5th grade boys, and 15th out of 829 shooters for all Elementary to High School competitors. Harrison has such an amazing heart as well. This year he asked his friends to bring food for our school food pantry in lieu of birthday presents. It is such an honor to know this incredible young man and I can't wait to see all that he accomplishes over the next few years.

Washington Middle School Classified Employee of the Month is Merri Holt. She is our Attendance Clerk & Secretary and has been working for the El Dorado School District for five years. Amanda Brown, Counselor: Mrs. Merri is fabulous at holding down the front office. She always has a smile on her face and is willing to help in any way possible. It is truly wonderful to work with her.

Assistant Principal, Megan Saunders: Merri thinks on her feet and works very hard to do what is best for our students and their families. She gets to know students on a personal level and knows their interests. She knew that a particular student walked in almost everyday reading a book, so she would bring him books from home or buy books for this student to continue fostering his love for reading. She is a huge blessing to our students, family, and staff.

Principal, Bethanie Hale: Merri Holt has worked at WMS for the past two years. She is such a blessing to our school and to me personally. Merri is the first face you see when you visit WMS. She has such a sweet spirit and helps us welcome people on our campus. Merri goes above and beyond on a daily basis. It amazes me how she manages all the things that are going on in the front office simultaneously with a smile on her face. Merri jumps in whenever she is needed and I don't think I have ever heard her complain. I am so thankful to have Merri at WMS and it wouldn't be the same without her.

Washington Middle School's Teacher of the Month is Andrew McDaniel. Coach McDaniel received his Bachelor in General Studies from Henderson State and is finishing up his Master of Art in Teaching from the University of Monticello. He coaches 6th grade basketball, PE, and teaches the TTO class for Washington Middle School and has worked for the El Dorado School District for the last five years.

Melissa Upchurch, Literacy Facilitator: Rudy McDaniel has a heart for students! He goes above and beyond building relationships and guiding our students down a successful path. Rudy is definitely a positive role model that all of our students can follow!

Debbie Guevara, 6th grade Reading teacher: Mr. McDaniel always has a greeting and smile for teachers and students alike. He is well liked by the students and knows them by name, family and interest. His personal connection to the students and the ongoing efforts to make connections with students is amazing. Mr. McDaniel strives to continue to be a wonderful teacher. He is well deserving of this award and recognition from his coworkers.

Principal's comments: Mr. McDaniel is an amazing educator that really connects with his students. He has worked for me for the past three years. In those three years, he has really shined. He strives for excellence and motivates others to grow and develop into the best educators possible. Mr. McDaniel has the determination, drive, and dedication to advance in education. Mr. McDaniel works extremely hard and goes above and beyond the call of duty. He is always willing to lend a hand even if it doesn't fall under his job description. He seeks out opportunities to further his knowledge. He teaches our boy's basketball classes and we have seen such a vast improvement in many of his players since becoming a part of this class. He also covers our TTO (Tutoring Time Out) class for two class periods each day. When he doesn't have students, Rudy seeks out opportunities to observe other teachers in order to grow and develop as an educator. I am so thankful for Rudy and WMS wouldn't be the same without him!

Michael Odom, principal at Northwest Elementary gave the principals report. He shared all of the wonderful things happening with students at Northwest Elementary school. He also stated that he has had two future teachers at Northwest which are part of the Residency Program through SAU. He stated that they have done a wonderful job and loves that ESD is on the leading edge of the innovation pipeline

He spoke about Roadie and all the wonderful programs that they are able to implement. The students have really loved the "Roadie store". Students advocated heavily for a concession stand and were so excited when they were able to implement that as well.

They were so thankful to have a reward trip to the EHS Basketball arena to visit the Lady Cats Basketball team! The Lady Cats were able to read to the students and he was so thankful to Coach Curtis and the team for making it such a special event

He also stated that they were very thankful to One Heart Dojo for their support and fundraisers for the NW PTO. There are many other wonderful groups and volunteers who help NW to be the best.

Bethanie Hale, Principal at WMS, stated that there have been so many wonderful things happening at WMS this year. They were able to hold House elections for the first time this year. They students really loved it and it is definitely something that they will continue.

The Diva Knight Step Team placed 1st at the Martin Luther King Parade. Alex Flowers was able to participate in the Arkansas state Spelling Bee. They have been able to implement their Knights Market and the Knights Bank. They are teaching students about how to be responsible with their shillings and teaching them how to save!

She was most excited about the WMS students who were able to attend the National Amazing Shake. She had two students who participated, Avery and Kate, who were able to share about the things they learned and were allowed to experience. Avery stated that she really learned how to talk to others and bounce off of those around her, to go with the flow in conversations. Kate stated that she learned how to talk to people. They both really enjoyed their time and look forward to another opportunity.

Mrs. Hale stated that she is so proud of her students and staff at Washington Middle School

Mr. Tucker then stated that The Commissioner for Union County Board Elections requested we approve the following: At a meeting of the El Dorado School District's Board of Directors, held on April 10, 2023, understanding that the board members up for reelection are running unopposed and there being no further items on the ballot it was RESOLVED that the board hereby approves and authorizes the Union County Board of Elections to conduct the May 2023 elections by absentee ballot and early voting only, with the understanding that there will not be polling sites open on Election Day

On a motion by Renee Skinner, a second by Todd Whatley and carried on a 6+0 vote it was

RESOLVED that the board hereby approves the resolution as requested by the Commissioner for Union County Board of Elections.

Mr. Tucker stated that we put out a bit for a 1 To Crew Cab, 4 WD dually truck. We requested bids from three companies and only one responded. As there were no other bids Mr. Tucker recommended we accept the bid from Superior Dodge Chrysler Jeep for \$59,114. On a motion by Vicky Dobson a second by Wayne Gibson and carried on a 6-0 vote it was

RESOLVED that the board hereby approves the bid from Superior Dodge Chrysler Jeep for \$59,114.

Mr. Tucker presented the schedule for the 2023/2024 school year to stay in compliance with the LEARNS Act. He stated that we were going with the same plan as most of the other schools in the state. The state is providing funds to help make up the difference. After a time of discussion, on a motion by Todd Whatley, a second by Kenneth Clemons and carried on a 6-0 vote it was

RESOLVED that the board approves the salary schedule for the 2023/2024 school year as presented by the superintendent. A copy of will be on the school website.

Mr. Tucker then stated that there were several petitions for transfer.

- Five students who reside in the El Dorado School District requested to transfer to the Parkers Chapel School District. Two students who reside in the Parkers Chapel School District would like to transfer to the El Dorado School District.

As each of these are legal transfers, he is recommending these transfer requests for approval. On a motion by Renee Skinner, a second by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 6-0 vote it was

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

Mrs. Turbeville then read the following announcements:

- **Yocum Elementary School Board Lunch:** Thursday, April 20 at 12:00
- **Yocum Primary School Board Lunch:** Thursday, May 11 at 12:00
- **New Board Member Institute,** June 22, 2023 8:00 am - 3:30 pm
- **2023 Southern Region Leadership Conference,** Hot Springs Convention Center, Hot Springs, AR July 16, 2023 - July 18, 2023

The meeting recessed to an executive session to discuss personnel matters at 7:02 pm. The board reconvened to an open meeting at 8:22 pm and on a motion by Renee Skinner, a second by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 6-0 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.