

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
May 8, 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 Renee Skinner, Kenneth Clemons, Wayne Gibson, and Keith Smith and Todd Whatley. Director Vicky Dobson arrived at 6:15. Also in attendance were Jim Tucker, Melissa Powell, Sherry Floss, Shelley Pruitt, and Taylon Steele.

Mrs. Turbeville asked if there were corrections or additions to the minutes of the meetings held April 10, Discipline Hearings Held April 25 & 27 and the Special Called Meeting on May 2. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, a second by Todd Whatley, 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 Clemmons, and carried on a 6-0 vote, the minutes were approved and are on file in the superintendent's office.

Coach Kelton had a chance to brag on the Archery Team at Washington Middle School and their outstanding achievements! He stated that they placed 1st overall for elementary at regionals. The team won 1st place at the state championship with Harrison Langston was 1st Overall Elementary Boys at the State Championship with a score of 276! The team placed 2nd overall for Elementary in the Western National Championships and Abby Knighton was top score at 275! The team placed 1st overall in Salt Lake City at the Centershot Western National Championship!

Coach Perry then had a chance to brag on the Archery Team at Barton Junior High and their outstanding achievements!. He stated that they placed 1st at Regionals. They placed 1st at state with the highest score out of ALL the Divisions, including High School. They placed 3rd at the Western Nationals with their 2nd highest team score for BJH in 12 years, and finished the tournaments ranked #10 out of 267 teams nationally. He stated that Cora Conner is the #1 ranked 7th grade girl in the Western National and 10th overall nationally out of 956 7th grade girls! Sophia Clark is the #2 ranked 7th grade girl in the Western National! Justin Hammett received a \$500 scholarship to the college or university of his choice for his participation in the NASP Nationals.

Mr. Gibson then presented Yocum Primary's student of the month, Whitney Walthall. She is a first grader in Mrs. Ibert's classroom. Her teachers said Whitney is a shining example of the Yocum Bears Way! She is respectful, kind and responsible. She is always willing to lend a helping hand to her classmates and shows kindness as well as empathy towards those who may be struggling. Whitney always takes her responsibilities seriously and is always excited to participate in class lessons. She puts in great effort into her assignments and consistently exceeds expectations. I am so grateful to have Whitney in my class and the positive impact she has on our learning community at Yocum Primary.

Her principal, Kristen Thomas, said when it comes to Whitney, so many wonderful thoughts come to mind. She is smart, caring, and enthusiastic about learning. She is always willing to help a friend and has a positive attitude. Her sweet smile is contagious and she lights up any room she walks in. Whitney shows the bears way everyday and is such a great example to other students in our building. I am very proud of Whitney and so glad she is a Yocum bear.

Yocum Primary's Classified Employee of the month is Megan Thurmon. She is the school secretary and has been in the district for two years. Nominating co-workers stated that Mrs. Thurmon is the glue that holds us together at Yocum Primary. Our school would not run without her and she does a great job of juggling everything thrown her way. I appreciate everything she does and how she handles it all with grace! She always has a smile on her face and I love working with her.

Principal Kristen Thomas stated that Megan is an outstanding secretary. She goes above and beyond to handle everything that makes our school run smoothly day to day. Parents always brag about how helpful she is and she is always willing to do whatever is needed. She sets the tone for our building with her welcoming smile when you walk in the door. She wears many hats each day making sure our students are taken care of and others needs are met. I am thankful to have Mrs. Thurmon at Yocum Primary and very appreciative for everything she does.

Yocum Primary's Teacher of the Month is Gayle Norman. She is currently teaching 1st grade. She has her Masters in Education with a Reading Specialist Certificate from Southern Arkansas University. She has been teaching for 22 years and 17 of those were here in El Dorado School District. Nominating co-workers stated that Mrs. Norman is always the first one at school in the

morning and the last to leave in the afternoon. She checks in on everyone and makes a point to speak every day! She is positive, encouraging, and has such a contagious personality. She is a true joy to work with!

Principal Kirsten Thomas said I am so glad to have Mrs. Norman at Yocum Primary. She retired from education a few years ago and realized she missed it, so she applied to be a paraprofessional last summer. I quickly realized during that interview that I needed her to be in the classroom and fill my last spot as a first grade teacher. She was not looking to jump back in fully, but she accepted the position and has been a huge asset to our school. Her knowledge of reading intervention has been extremely beneficial during PLC meetings and she is a wonderful team player. Mrs. Norman's classroom is calm, inviting and engaging and she truly brings out the best in everyone. I am very thankful to work alongside her and I am so excited that she has agreed to remain part of our Yocum Primary family next year.

Mr. Gibson then presented Yocum Elementary's student of the month, Kenzi Pennington. Her parents are Kevin and Megan Pennington. She is a fourth grader in Ms. Rivas and Ms. Downen's classrooms. Her teachers stated that Kenzi is kind to all students and staff, she is a hard worker and she is an incredible representation of Yocum! She is a joy to be around and I'm so glad she's a Yocum Bear! Kenzi always works hard, has a positive attitude, and tries her best.

Kenzi is a really hard worker inside and outside of the class. She is always willing to help and be a friend for anyone who needs one. You are guaranteed a smile when she's around. I'm so thankful to have her. -Ms. Rivas

Kenzi self advocates for herself regularly when she has questions about her work, but she also ensures that all of her peers understand around her. She is a positive role model inside and outside of the classroom. She has been a joy to teach this year. -Ms. Downen

When Kenzi grows up, she wants to be a doctor so she can help people. When asked what she loves about Yocum, she said she loves that she's about to learn about many different things!

Principal Jessica Moore stated that Kenzi always has a smile on her face. When Kenzi grows up, she wants to be a doctor so she can help people. Her compassionate heart and hard work ethic will help her achieve this goal. When asked what she loves about Yocum, she said she loves that she gets to learn about many different things! We are delighted Kenzi Pennington is a Yocum Bear! We are proud to have her represent Yocum as the Student of the Month. Congratulations Kenzi!

Yocum Elementary's Classified Employee of the month is Linda Donahue. She is a paraprofessional and has been working for 28 years in the El Dorado School District. Nominating co-workers stated that She leads our group of paras and sets the bar high! I have learned so much from her and she will be greatly missed next year. Another co worker said her positive spirit is unquenchable! She works hard, is committed to students, yet never loses her joy. She is a person everyone looks up to and her leadership and guidance are an amazing resource for us! Another stated that Mrs. Donahue always has a positive attitude. She encourages our kids in the best ways and always makes them feel seen! I love listening to her send off her small group students because she ALWAYS sends them off with a mantra. She works hard and is always looking to fill in the gaps when needs arise. Yet another co workers said Mrs. Donahue is the heart of Yocum Elementary. She is one of the hardest workers I have ever had the pleasure of working alongside. She is always in motion and is focused on providing the best care, service, and education to our students. She is quick to step in or answer a call for help from any staff member. She does her absolute best at all times to meet the needs of not only our students but everyone else at Yocum as well. She is a joy to work with.

Principal Jessica Moore stated that Mrs. Donahue (or Mrs. Don-a-que as the students call her) is a principal's dream! She always greets you with a smile on her face and an upbeat attitude. Her positivity is contagious. There is never a task she can't do, four recesses in row, her response, WE'VE GOT IT!" Mrs. Donahue brings out the best in staff and students. One of my favorite things to do is watch Mrs. Donahue greets her students as they enter her classroom. She affirms them and they know she loves them! She loves Yocum School and Yocum loves her. We are thankful for her many years of service to our school, staff, students and community. Yocum is better because of her and we hope she comes to visit after retirement!

Yocum Elementary's teacher of the month is Leanne Barnett. She has her Bachelor's +12 from South Arkansas University and has been teaching in the El Dorado School District for 9 years. Nominating Teachers stated that Leanne Barnette is an exceptional teacher. She accommodates all her students and she teaches them that hard work is what works. She spends more hours at work than at home

and she is no slacker. She has been the best example to follow. Another co-worker said Mrs. Barnett always puts in the extra work with her students! It is obvious how much she wants her students to improve! She is the teacher I wish I had when I was in school!

Her Principal, Jessica Moore stated that Mrs. Barnett is a passionate and dedicated teacher. I believe Ms. Barnett's classroom is her mission field. Her vehicle is often at school early, late and on the weekend. She has taught our extended day program the last two years. Not only is her classroom her mission field but so is her home. In the six years I've worked with her she's had two to three foster children at a time in her care. Her classroom is always well managed and organized. She connects with students and has a relationship with each one. She understands not only the academic needs of students but also their social and emotional ones. She plans lessons around students' needs and often teaches in small groups to meet the diverse group of students in her class. She embraces and celebrates diversity among her students. She looks closely at student data to provide intervention immediately. She self-reflects and continues to improve her practices. I am grateful for the positive impact she has in her classroom and her home. There is no doubt that children's lives have been changed because of her.

Mrs. Thomas, Yocum Primary's principal, and Jessica Moore, Yocum Elementary's principal, stated that they were very proud of their schools and all of the wonderful things they have accomplished this year. They stated that they were so proud of their staff and students and they were excited to take a few minutes to brag on some of their accomplishments and activities!

On December 2, 2022 there was a Ribbon Cutting for their new Book Vending Machine and on June 2, 2023 there were able to distribute 330 books to students!

They shared the BEARS Way. Be responsible; Empathy' Achieve; Respectfulness; Show Citizenship. They have included the BEARS way in their expectations for students all around their campuses. They were also excited about "Camp Yocum".

Mr. Tucker recognize Mrs. Powell, she was inducted into the Southern Arkansas University's Educator Hall of fame in March. We are extremely proud of Mrs. Powell and are happy that she was recognized for her dedication and hard work.

Mrs. Lamkin, Special Education Director, stated that the board had received a copy of the Special Education Department's Title V-1B Budget for the 2023-2024 school year. After some discussion, on a motion by Todd Whatley, a second by Keith Smith and carried on a 7-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED that they board hereby approves the Special Education Title V-1B Budget for the 2023-2024 school year. The budget will be on file in the superintendent's office.

Mrs. Lamkin then stated that the board had also received a copy of the Special Education 2023-2024 Assurances and Agreement which she was presenting for their approval. After some discussion, on a motion by Todd Whatley, a second by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 7-0 vote it was,

RESOLVED that the board hereby approves the Special Education Assurances and Agreement for the 2023-2024 school year as presented.

Mrs. Lamkin next stated that the board also had a copy of the Special Education Lobbying Certification for the 2023-2024 school year. After some discussion, 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 2023-2024 Special Education Lobbying as presented.

Mrs. Lamkin stated that her final item to be discussed for the night was the Special Education Surrogate Parents. Mrs. Lamkin was approved to be the individual responsible for implementing a Surrogate Parent for the El Dorado School District. After some discussion, on a motion by Todd Whatley, a second by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 7-0 vote it was,

RESOLVED that the board hereby approves Mrs. Lamkin to be the individual responsible for implementing a Surrogate Parent for the El Dorado School District., as the Surrogate Parents for the 2023-2024 school year as presented.

Mr. Tucker stated that there was a need for a livestock trailer for the Agriculture Department at EHS. He received a bid for a 24' Aluminum gooseneck livestock trailer for \$26,899. Mr. Tucker stated that it

was his recommendation that we purchase this trailer. After some discussion, on a motion by Wayne Gibson, a second by Keneth Clemmons, and carried on a 7-0 vote it was

RESOLVED that the board hereby approves the purchase of the 24' Aluminum gooseneck livestock trailer for \$26,899

Mrs. Turbeville stated that we had received the following transfer requests.

- One student from Smackover-Norphlet School District, one student from Junction City School District, one student from Magnolia School District, and one student from Strong-Huttig School District requested to transfer to the El Dorado School District for the 23/24 school year.

Mr. Tucker recommended these legal transfers. On a motion by Renee Skinner, a second by Todd Whatley, 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:

- **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 7:04 pm. The board reconvened to an open meeting at 7:31 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 7:39 pm.