

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
April 9, 2018**

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

Mrs. Skinner asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meetings held March 12 and March 29. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 5-0 vote at 6:00 p.m., the minutes were approved.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. After some discussion and on a motion by Shaneil Yarbrough, seconded by Keith Smith, and carried on a 5-0 vote, the bills were approved for payment. A list of bills paid and monthly financial statement are on file in the business office. 6:01 p.m.

Mr. Tucker said that bids were received for the district's master account for banking business. Bids received were from BancorpSouth, First Financial, Simmons First and Southern Bancorp. Mr. Tucker said the consideration came down to the interest and recommended to the board the bid from Simmons First because of the 91 day T-bill plus 0.01%. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 5-0 vote at 6:03 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the bid from Simmons First for the district's banking business for the next three years.

Mr. Gibson stated Student of the Month from Washington Middle School is Maria Ruiz. She is the daughter of Maria Baylon and Cesar Baylon. Teachers nominating her stated that Maria is a hard-working sixth grader. Her social studies teacher, Ms. Cecilia Williams notes that she always comes to class with a pleasant and cooperative attitude. She happily helps students around her and volunteers to assist with any task that needs to be done.

Her principal, Mrs. Jody Vines added that, "Maria's beautiful smile brightens our school each day." We are so proud of Maria for being chosen for this honor. Congratulations to Maria Ruiz, student of the Month from Washington Middle School. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:04 p.m.

Mr. Gibson introduced Layla Lee, Student of the Month from Barton Jr. High School. He said that Layla is the daughter of Francie and Jesse Berglund and Chris and Miranda Lee. She has three siblings at Hugh Goodwin and an additional sibling that will be there next year. Layla is an eighth grader, an office worker, takes all Pre-AP classes, is on the engineering team, and maintains a 3.83 GPA.

Layla was nominated by one of her teachers and the office staff at Barton. Her teacher said that Layla is a hardworking student, does not settle for a "B" but strives and works hard for each "A." If she does not understand when working on content or a project in class, she will come in before school to complete the project or get help. She is well liked by her peers and is a respectful, well-behaved young lady. She is a joy to have in my class, her teacher said.

Barton's office staff stated that Layla is a second year office worker and a most efficient one. She is willing to do anything asked of her and always helps with a smile on her face. She is friendly, helpful, positive, self-motivated in her academics and just amazing. Almost every morning, Layla walks the self-contained students to class and talks to them the whole way. Whenever there has been "girl drama" in the past, she has been the one to step in and be a voice of reason and then remove herself from any further discussion. She is the true representation of what we promote as the Wild Kitten Way.

Mrs. Strickland said that Layla is a dedicated student that gives 120% in everything she does. She is driven and holds herself to the highest of expectations. She encourages fellow students, is a leader and role model. Mrs. Strickland said it has been an honor to have Layla in her class. Mr. Knapper added that it is great to have a student who is concerned about the instructions in class and assigned projects. If she notices another student that is confused with an assignment, she is one of the first to help explain it – to perfection. You can tell when she turns in her work that she has put quality time into it and gives it her best effort.

Her principal, Mrs. Sherry Hill said that Layla is a fantastic student and an even more fantastic young lady! We adore her and will miss her terribly whenever she moves on to El Dorado High School. Layla is intelligent, kind, thoughtful, feisty, funny, and just an all-around girl. We specifically scheduled her as a first period office worker this year because it is the busiest period and we knew she would handle many tasks without being reminded to do so. She has exceeded our expectations. In fact, she is reminding us of a few things now! Layla is the kind of student any teacher wishes to have and the kind of friend that anyone would want. Barton teachers picked a winner in choosing Layla Lee as Student of the Month from Barton Jr. High School. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:08 p.m.

Mr. Gibson said Classified Employee of the Month for paraprofessionals is Charlotte Charles. Mrs. Charles has been in the district for twenty-eight years. Those nominating her stated Mrs. Charles aka Mrs. Cookies to our students and staff, is very hard working and loving to all. She is continuing her education in order to make sure that she can continue to provide students with the best learning experience possible.

Mrs. Charles cares go beyond academics though. She anticipates student needs before they even arise and goes above and beyond to make sure that all of their needs are met. Whenever she has to be out for a day, her presence is missed by all, including those outside of our classroom. Students continually ask, “When is Mrs. Cookie coming back?” Mrs. Charles is very humble and would never seek recognition for anything that she does, but she deserves all the recognition in the world! Hugh Goodwin staff, students and fellow paraprofessionals nominating her are thrilled that Mrs. Charlotte Charles was chosen Classified Employee of the Month. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:11 p.m.

Teacher of the Month from Washington Middle School is John Thompson. Mr. Gibson said that Mr. Thompson received his Bachelor of Science in Education degree from Southern Arkansas University, has twenty-one additional graduate hours toward his Master’s degree and has been teaching in our district for two and one-half years.

His principal, Mrs. Jody Vines stated, “John Thompson is an extremely talented educator. He has a strong content knowledge and seems to love the middle school students that he teaches. He has a great knack for running a classroom that is focused yet fun.”

Leia Hickmott, a fellow math teacher stated, “John is such an inspirational person to both his co-workers and students. He continually strives to give his kids great, real-world connections and is always willing to help with any issue you give to him. He loves a challenge and I am honored to work with him.” Mrs. Vines said that Washington Middle School staff and students are so happy that such a deserving candidate has been named Teacher of the Month from Washington Middle School. Mr. Gibson presented Mr. Thompson a certificate from the board. 6:14 p.m.

Mr. Gibson said that Scott Bounds was chosen Teacher of the Month from Barton Jr. High School. Mr. Bounds received both his Bachelors of Science in Education and Master’s degree from Southern Arkansas University. He has additional graduate hours from the University of Arkansas and Galveston Community College. This is his thirtieth year of teaching.

The teacher nominating him said: I have nominated Mr. Bounds because he demonstrates good character and integrity. He is cordial and caring. He works before and after school in the school’s garden, planting and harvesting foods to introduce to the

students as they learn how to prepare for consumption. Mr. Bounds teaches life skills and economics through his classes. He is a great person to work with.

Mr. John Jameson said that Scott Bounds is selfless, compassionate, caring, hard-working, inspiring and a mentor. Mentor is exactly what he was and still is to me. When he was assigned as my mentor, my first year of teaching, to be honest I wasn't sure about this guy. This soft-spoken, passive guy – how could he mentor a “Coach?” In a very short time, Mr. Bounds taught me more about education and working with students than I ever dreamed I could learn. He taught me about patience, getting to know my students and building relationships with students and my peers. Mr. Bounds showed me that just a little encouragement can push a student or in my role now a fellow teacher, to exceed everyone's expectations.

Six years later, Mr. Bounds is still mentoring me, still looking out for me, feeding me lunch – when I have to work through lunch, and still showing me what the definition of work ethic looks like. He's usually one of the first at school and one of the last to leave. Teachers like Mr. Bounds make education fun, fulfilling and rewarding for all students and teachers he comes in contact with.

Mrs. Sherry Hill said, “Mr. Jameson nailed it! Mr. Bounds is a special teacher and special human being. He walks with grace and humility. His students learn way more in his class than they realize and I am grateful he is teaching our Cultivating Culinary Tools class. He is a great example of the kind of human we hope our children become someday. The teachers nailed it, too...he is a great choice for Teacher of the Month.” Mr. Gibson presented Mr. Bounds with a certificate from the board. 6:17 p.m.

Clayton Bolding, representing the E.H.S. Student Council gave a report to the board. He stated that recently they held Operation Prom where they reenact why students should not drink and drive or text and drive. He said they hope the graphics of the event help touch each student to be mindful on both cases. Also, the recent Senior Prom was a success. He informed the board that the fine arts department has High School Musical coming up on April 12 – 14 and tickets are \$10.00. Directors of the musical are Mrs. Jessica Freeman and Mr. Greg Oden. Clayton visited with the board about only 200 schools get the Advanced Placement Seminar class and E.H.S. is fortunate to be one of those schools. He added that Academic Signing will be April 18, National Honor Society induction ceremony will be April 24 and graduation will be Monday, May 14. Mr. Gibson asked Clayton's plans after graduation. He plans to attend the Savannah School of Arts and Design. Mrs. Skinner thanked Clayton for his report. 6:25 p.m.

Jody Vines gave a principal's report on Washington Middle School. Mrs. Vines had support from a large group of her teachers at the meeting and thanked them for attending. She said the school's focus on literacy had been tremendous. Literacy is novel based where each student reads seven to eight novels per year as a part of their classwork involving poetry, short stories and vocabulary. The quarterly units involve types of writing, varied genres and time periods for reading. This focus also involves independent reading with varied genres and student choice. Mrs. Vines said they are using Google Classroom where everything is paperless, typed, and filed. The literacy focus is integrated into the social studies classrooms with document based questions and keyboarding. The article summaries and targeted instructional objective interventions are for non-math and non-literacy classes.

Mrs. Vines explained the math teachers worked with junior high and high school teachers throughout the year during half day meetings for vertical alignment. She reported that Washington students competed in Math Olympiad, had a Cityscapes unit focused on math ratio and scale and their included geometry in all math focused units. Mrs. Vines said Washington has a Technology Instructional Facilitator, who works with teacher and is a full-time technology coach at the school. Every core Class is one to one with a student and a device. It doesn't matter which core class a student goes in, whether they go to math, social studies or other classes. The student is going to have a device in there. Every sixth-grade science student built a computer from scratch and then fully programmed the functioning computer. Every sixth-grader also uses android devices to code drones, too. Creative Computer Coding classes use Kindle, Fire and Dell devices

to learn computer coding in several languages including Scratch, Java, Python and various other computer languages.

Mrs. Vines said the arts are an important part of Washington. Student Stormy Baker's pen and ink drawing was selected into the Young Arkansas Artists Traveling exhibition and is on exhibit all over Arkansas. Through a partnership with South Arkansas Arts Center, Washington students created ornaments that were on the national tree in Washington, D.C. Students Kierra Dixon, Jonah Davis and LaCayla Jones earned a first division superior rating for competing in the Regional Orchestra Festival. Currently, the students are getting ready for an Alice In Wonderland musical, which will be performed May 11 – 12 at El Dorado High School. Mrs. Vines noted this is a great collaboration between the art classes and music classes. Students are creating all of their costumes and all of the backdrops as they've done in the past.

Washington's archery team placed second in the regional meet, just behind Barton Jr. High students – with a big thanks to their coach, Ethan Kelton. Mrs. Vines said Sam York finished second for the junior boys and J.T. Polk finished third. The school finished 24th in the state with J.T. Polk qualifying for nationals. Mrs. Vines said teacher, Michael Herren will take four groups to Little Rock on April 22 to attend an awards ceremony for the films they made for the Arkansas Association of Student Media - Arkansas Student Media Festival.. The groups include: *Why Does Bullying Happen* by Cooper Conner with David Valero and Sidney Johnson; *Tuck the Yellow-bellied Sliderby* by Lex Nash with Cameron Orr and Jaden Flen; *Glass Hanging Spheres* by Blake Tanner and *Mossy Oasis* by Carson Mosby. Other student competitions and events include – Future Cities regional winner at the competition in Arlington, Texas; Vex Robotics teams competed in two events this school year, student teams participated in the Underwater Robotics competition, a team of students were involved in the Science Destination Challenge and school-wide students and staff celebrated International Day of Code. In January, Washington was the FETC STEM School of Excellence Winner for 2018. Mrs. Vines summarized that it has been a big year with lots of excitement. There definitely is no district in South Arkansas that has the opportunities for students than we have – it is just absolutely amazing. 6:38 p.m.

The board approved the transfer request for one student to the Smackover-Norphlet School District, two students from Strong-Huttig district to El Dorado and one from Union Parish to the El Dorado district.

Mrs. Skinner said the E.H.S. Honors Program will be Monday, April 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the E.H.S. Fine Arts Auditorium. The 12th Annual E.H.S. Academic Signing will be Wednesday, April 18 at 1:30 p.m. in the high school's Wildcat Arena. She added that Sidney Moncrief will be the keynote speaker.

Mrs. Skinner noted the baccalaureate ceremonies for high school seniors will be Sunday, May 13 at 3:00 p.m. in the E.H.S. Wildcat Arena. El Dorado High School's graduation will be held Monday, May 14 @ 8:00 p.m. at Memorial Stadium. She added the district retirement dinner date in May is still to be determined but will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the El Dorado Golf and Country Club. The Teacher Excellence Awards will be Friday, May 25 at 3:00 p.m. in the E.H.S. Fine Arts Auditorium. 6:41 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 Keith Smith and carried on a 5-0 vote at 8:40 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the superintendent's recommendations concerning the acceptance of resignations, the employment of new personnel, and the superintendent's recommendation concerning the re-employment of classified personnel.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.