

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
July 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 Susan Turbeville presiding. Other directors present were Vicky Dobson, Renee Skinner, Keith Smith, Todd Whatley and Shaneil Yarbrough. Director Wayne Gibson was absent. Supt. Jim Tucker, Rhonda Simmons, Melissa Powell, Katie Sandifer, Shelley Pruitt and Lou Ann Voris were also in attendance.

Mrs. Turbeville said since the school election was moved from September to May there is a need for board reorganization, as required by law. She and Renee Skinner are available and honored to continue their two year terms, if the board so desires. On a motion by Keith Smith, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 6-0 vote at 6:01 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves continuance of the two year terms for president, Susan Turbeville and vice president, Renee Skinner. The board treasurer, Shelley Pruitt and secretary, Lou Ann Voris will continue in their positions.

Once the officers are established a designated disbursing officer and alternate disbursing officer are to be elected, Mrs. Turbeville said. On a motion by Vicky Dobson, seconded by Todd Whatley and carried on a 6-0 vote at 6:01, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves Susan Turbeville and Renee Skinner to continue serving as the district's disbursing officer and alternate disbursing officer.

Mrs. Turbeville said, as in years past, that the Arkansas School Boards Association has requested a board director to serve as a legislative liaison. While the legislature is in session the A.S.B.A. will relay information to all Arkansas school boards information to pass along through each local liaison. Mrs. Turbeville added Wayne Gibson has served in that position in the past and has agreed to do that again, if the board so desires. On a motion by Shaneil Yarbrough, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 6-0 vote, at 6:02 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board approves Wayne Gibson to serve as the A.S.B.A.'s legislative liaison for the El Dorado School Board.

Mrs. Turbeville asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting held June 11. On a motion by Renee Skinner, seconded by Shaneil Yarbrough, and carried on a 56-0 vote, the minutes were approved at 6:04 p.m.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Renee Skinner, seconded by Keith Smith, and carried on a 6-0 vote, the bills were approved for payment at 6:04 p.m. A list of bills paid and the monthly financial statement are on file in the business office.

Mr. Tucker presented the gasoline and diesel bid received for the upcoming school year.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Gasoline</u>	<u>Diesel</u>
Sewell Oil Company, El Dorado	\$0.120	\$0.035

He explained this was the only bid received and the past working relationship with Sewell Oil Company has been positive and favorable. Mr. Tucker reminded the board that this figure represents the amount above rack price, not the actual price per gallon. He added the price quoted is the same as what the district paid for the 2017-2018 school year. On a motion by Todd Whatley, seconded by Shaneil Yarbrough, and carried on a 6-0 vote at 6:06 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the bid from Sewell Oil Company for gasoline at \$0.120 and diesel at \$0.035 for the upcoming 2018 – 2019 school year.

Mr. Tucker visited with the board about changes to the food services program. He explained the district has been applying for funding, for the last four years, through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Community Eligibility Program (CEP). The district has not been eligible until this year and received funds for all kindergarten through sixth grade students to receive a free breakfast and lunch. He said this will be for *all* children in those grades beginning with the 2018 – 2019 school year. Prior to this move, breakfast cost 90 cents and the lunch cost was \$2.00.

In past years, parents have been able to apply for their child to receive a free or reduced breakfast at a cost of 30 cents and the reduced lunch cost at 40 cents. Under the new policy, all children will be eligible without submitting an application. Mr. Tucker said he is also excited that no paperwork is involved for the parents or staff. Mrs. Yarbrough asked about the quality of the food and Mr. Tucker assured her it will be the same high level, same quality U.S.D.A. approved meals that have been served to students. He added he plans to continue applying and hopefully be able to extend the program to all grade levels. On a motion by Todd Whatley, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 6-0 vote at 6:08 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the food service program to feed breakfast and lunch, free of charge, for all students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

Geni Smith explained this is the time of year for updates, changes and additions to policies for board, staff and student handbooks. She said the district subscribes to the Arkansas School Boards Association's policy service in order to comply with current and new laws affecting school boards, district staff and students. Days prior to the meeting the board was given copies of the Board and District Policies Handbook and Student Handbook. Mr. Tucker stated they can vote this evening or wait until the August board meeting. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Shaneil Yarbrough, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 6-0 vote at 6:06 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the Board and District Policies Handbook and the Student Handbook for 2018 – 2019 school year.

Mr. Tucker said test scores have been very steady and explained the Arkansas Department of Education made some changes in March and schools will now be given a letter grade under the new accounting system over the next two years. Each principal has developed a School Improvement Plan for their school. Each plan has been developed to use and follow in guiding their staff to improve test scores and student learning. Mr. Tucker added The Response to Intervention (RTI) program will be very aggressive and the Standards Based Reporting will help understand where our students are. The instructional facilitators in each school are putting in new approaches. An Elbow 2 Elbow consultant will be working with staff and next year we have planned a strong induction program with the New Teacher Center. He noted these are not bandaids but long term implementations to get students there. Mr. Tucker said test scores came out last week, all of the implements he mentioned are long term plans for success and will be posted on the district's website on August 1.

He said the board members have had time to review the principal's plan and if they have questions, there is a representative present from each school. Board president, Susan Turbeville asked the representatives what changes have taken place and what each is most excited about with the additions or changes.

- Yocum Elementary School principal, Michelle Henry said their strong Response To Intervention (RTI) approach is really exciting. She added the instructional facilitator at the primary school will help staff do a lot of good in bringing students along. They are very excited about the Elbow 2 Elbow approach and saw tremendous growth last year at Yocum.

- Bethanie Hale, principal at Retta Brown Elementary School added they are excited to continue RTI. Retta Brown's kindergarten received a grant from Murphy Oil which will help tremendously. Mrs. Hale said the staff saw a lot of growth this past year with their RTI plan and are looking forward to growing even more this upcoming school year with the Elbow 2 Elbow approach.
- Hugh Goodwin Elementary School's principal, Connie Reed said their RTI was really intentional last year and will be continued this year. Staff members are working with students in the guided reading program and the Orton Gillingham approach. Hugh Goodwin will also incorporate another Orton Gillingham approach with additional strategies.
- Cynthia Chisholm, math instructional facilitator at Northwest Elementary School said the school had a Read Out program that proved helpful as well as fun and are excited to expand on RTI this fall. For the Love of Math was a hands-on day of math and reading that was exciting for the students and staff.
- Washington Middle School principal, Jody Vines explained in their Response to Intervention (RTI) intent is to focus on reading. Teachers at Washington will spend time during the summer focusing on reading strategies. The number of students being tutored before school will increase, as well. Incentives will be developed to encourage students to read independently, which will increase comprehension and vocabulary skills. Two teachers have been trained in the Orton-Gillingham instructional approach to better help students with reading, writing and spelling. The key for Washington staff is to get students reading, Mrs. Vines said.
- Principal Sherry Hill from Barton Jr. High School said she is excited about two new nine-week classes this coming school year. Seventh graders will have a problem based class incorporating reading skills, math oriented, technology and STEM. Eighth graders will have a Wild Kitten Way class that keys in on social skills, empathy, social and emotional learning and handling conflict. Plans are to also work on reading in this class and use of the chicken coop will be incorporated.

Mrs. Hill added she had wonderful instructional facilitators and their results were tremendous but both retired this past May. She now has two full time IF's which will give students more one-on-one time with those teachers.

- El Dorado High School's school improvement specialist, Karen Silmon stated along with the improvement plan presented to the board, she is most excited about the HUB Program where they saw homeless students receive their diplomas this past year. She said it is heart-warming to see these students with previous high absenteeism, for one reason or another, to excel in the HUB program. The flexible schedules are focused on individual students to help them catch up and achieve graduation. Mrs. Silmon said another exciting area is this coming school year they will be able to offer two new classes – critical reading and restructured math.

After some discussion and on a motion by Vicky Dobson, seconded by Renee Skinner and carried on a 6-0 vote at 6:37 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves each district school's improvement plan for the 2018 – 2019 school year.

The board approved transfer requests for three students to attend Parkers Chapel School District. 6:39 p.m.

Mrs. Turbeville said the Opening Session for Licensed Staff will be Monday, August 6 at 8:00 a.m. in the E.H.S. Fine Arts Auditorium. She added the New Teacher Breakfast is Friday, August 10 at 7:30 a.m. at the El Dorado Conference Center. 6:39 p.m.

The meeting adjourned to an executive session to discuss personnel matters, then reconvened to an open meeting. On a motion by Keith Smith, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 6-0 vote at 7:20 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.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.