

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
December 10, 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, Wayne Gibson, Renee Skinner, Keith Smith, and Todd Whatley. Director Shaneil Yarbrough was absent. Also attending was Asst. Supt. Rhonda Simmons, Melissa Powell, Katie Sandifer, Bonnie Haynie, Shelley Pruitt, and Lou Ann Voris.

Mrs. Turbeville asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting held November 8, 12 and 15. Mr. Gibson recommended a change on the November 8 minutes, which will be corrected. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Todd Whatley and carried on a 6-0 vote, the minutes were approved at 6:00 p.m.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. After some discussion and on a motion by Keith Smith, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 6-0 vote, the bills were approved for payment at 6:01 p.m. A list of bills paid and monthly financial statement are on file in the business office. Mr. Tucker added the need for approval of the annual district audit as presented by Michael Cobb, C.P.A in the November board meeting. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Todd Whatley and carried on a 6-0 vote at 6:01, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the district's annual audit report as reported by Michael Cobb, C.P.A. of Cobb and Suskie, Ltd.

Mr. Gibson introduced the Student of the Month from Northwest Elementary School, Anna Faith Morgan. Anna Faith is the daughter of Joey and Holly Morgan and is in Mrs. Nancy Bailey's 4th grade classroom. Her principal, Mrs. Sherry Floss and those nominating her stated that Anna Faith is a dedicated student who is always striving to do her very best. She is a friend to everyone, kind-hearted, and a great example for her peers.

Anna Faith excels in all subjects and performs well on her state assessments; receiving the Murphy awards. Mrs. Floss stated that Anna Faith is very responsible and quick to help her classmates. She always wears a big smile which brightens her day, Mrs. Floss said. Northwest is proud to be represented by Anna Faith Morgan as the Student of the Month! Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:03 p.m.

Classified Employee of the Month from Northwest Elementary School is Sheila Stanton. Mr. Gibson said that Ms. Stanton is the computer lab coordinator at Northwest and has nineteen years of experience in that area.

Fellow co-workers nominating her stated she is a phenomenal asset to our school. She always goes above and beyond to help out whenever and wherever she is needed. She loves the students and treats them all with respect. Her principal, Mrs. Sherry Floss said that Ms. Stanton's positivity and great smile allow her to wear many hats while giving her absolute best. Northwest is so excited and proud that Sheila Stanton is the Classified Employee of the Month! Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate form the board. 6:03 p.m.

Mr. Gibson said the Teacher of the Month is Nancy Bailey. Mrs. Bailey received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Oklahoma Christian University and her teaching certification from Southern Arkansas University. She also has 15 additional graduate hours. She began her employment in our district in August 1993 and was at Southside Elementary for 10 years and has been at Northwest Elementary for 16 years as a third and now fourth grade teacher.

Those nominating her stated that Nancy Bailey is a wonderful and caring teacher. She takes time with each student to ensure that he or she is learning each skill. Mrs. Bailey manages her classroom with structure and care. She is a wonderful example of a calm, collected teacher.

Mrs. Sherry Floss said that Nancy Bailey is a great asset to Northwest and will be truly missed next year when she retires. Mrs. Bailey's Northwest family wishes her a great last school year and are so proud that she was chosen the Northwest Teacher of the Month. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:08 p.m.

Sherry Floss gave a Principal's Report from Northwest Elementary School. Mrs. Floss said a teacher adds color to a child's mind through art, math, literacy and science therefore, their theme for this year is You Color My World. Mrs. Floss showed power point slides where Coach Bass dressed as a red crayon and greeted students on the first day of school and throughout the semester. She noted the Road Runner Power Hour is from 8:10 – 9:15 each morning with two teachers splitting the instruction in math and literacy. She showed additional pictures and explained how the power hour has proven important but fun for students at Northwest.

Northwest is using the RISE and STAR guided reading programs in helping students and teachers meet standards. The cafeteria is set up with stations for second, third and fourth grades working on guided reading levels. Mrs. Floss said Club Day is a big hit as well as productive. Clubs include: digital media, Taekwondo, gardening, gardening, veterinarian, recycling, cooking, kindness, Lego, Maker Space, bird watching, math games and bubble club. Students and staff feel that Moby Max technology makes learning fun as they enjoy using laptop computers. She said the El Dorado Education Foundation grants have provided needed funds for Ozobots, guitars, and items needed for STEAM education. During American Education Week the school's theme was "Color Me College Bound...Thankful for my PROMISING future." Planning for the student's future following their senior year was stressed but fun activities were included. Her final power point slide was of the school's colorful Christmas tree and she wished the board and audience a Merry Christmas and a colorful New Year and reminded all, as they do the Northwest students, that life is about using the whole box of crayons. 6:22 p.m.

EHS Student Council secretary, Ethan Hammons told board members that the Mr. E.H.S. contest is coming up and students are excited and looking forward to that. He said, funds raised through this are donated to Arkansas Children's Hospital. He informed them of several things going on at the high school and board members asked if he could change anything at E.H.S., what would it be. Ethan said he has no issues, sees no changes needed, and is happy with his Advanced Placement teachers and enjoying the five A.P. classes he is taking this year. When asked where he has considered attending college, he said he has looked at the University of Arkansas, Perdue, M.I.T., and Georgia Tech. Mrs. Turbeville thanked him for visiting with the board. 6:25 p.m.

Chelsey Turner gave the board a report on the district's new podcast called The Promise Podcast. Mr. Tucker asked sent out a request to teachers about who would be interested in serving and a committee was formed which included a teacher, parent and instructional facilitators. The committee was created to gather and organize survey results of what teachers wanted to hear on a podcast. Finished episodes include: The El Dorado Promise, Student Behavior, and a two-part interview regarding Standards Based Report Cards. Mrs. Turner stated the podcasts will start airing in January 2019 and can be found on your podcast app or any other place you find podcasts. She added that upcoming education podcasts that should prove valuable to parents and patrons will focus on E.S.S.A. (Every Student Succeeds Act) and school grades. 6:30 p.m.

Holly Billings, Behavior Support Specialist, visited with the board about her job, which is a new position in the district. She noted since 2004 she has worked as a licensed social worker and has worked in the court and trauma therapy settings. Ms. Billings explained, in this district job, she meets with principals, counselors and teachers to provide support for general and individual student behavior concerns, consultation about specific students, assists in developing interventions, observes students to develop behavior plans and provides training related to specific student needs and concerns. She is available to assist with crisis situations or other needs as they arise.

Ms. Billings said she attended a conference in October that proved valuable in dealing with trauma in the school setting. In January she will be interviewed in the district's new podcast and the information she gives should prove informative for parents and staff. She noted that her overall goal is to help teachers feel supported and empowered. This position, in other districts, has been expanding and the need for more restorative practices and moving away from punitive practices across the country has been growing. She

added our district recognized that and was progressive in recruiting for this specific position. 6:35 p.m.

Lauren Cross, journalism and oral communications teacher at El Dorado High School, gave the board an update from the journalism department. She said it is her third year as adviser and they have seen significant changes to the program and the curriculum. She feels it is crucial for journalists, students or not, to have open and transparent conversations with the communities in which they work.

Ms. Cross shared their progress, products, and their future plans. She noted when she was hired in August of 2016, she walked into \$10,153.23 of yearbook debt from previous advisers. This was combined back debt of several years and the remainder of money to be paid for the 2015 – 2016 yearbooks, which were designed by the previous adviser. We were placed on a payment plan for that debt with Jostens, paying \$1,692.00 per semester toward that debt while also responsible for the money paid for the current yearbook, roughly \$25,000.00 per project. In total, walking through the door when I took the job, I was already, in total, nearly \$35,000.00 in debt. Ms. Cross noted they have successfully made our payments and this year have eliminated all the back debt, while also paying off the 2016 – 2017 yearbook project. We currently owe \$10,000 on the 2017 – 2018 book, but will be able to pay that off with funds raised this year through the yearbook program.

She noted that student designers have greatly improved over previous years, the books are more journalistically sound, and offer higher-quality content. She said the Hi-Gusher, the E.H.S. student newspaper, which began running a weekly page in the News Times in September 2016 has continued until this current time in each Newspaper in Education section since I became adviser. The student written content and student-guided design is giving the students a chance to showcase their skills and school events from a student perspective to all News Times readers. In 2017 – 2018 they kept the weekly page and added a digital version at EHShigusher.com, also updated regularly by students. This year, with the purchase of a new color printer, students have begun writing, designing, printing, and marketing a bi-weekly edition of the Hi-Gusher, in addition to the other facets of the publication.

Ms. Cross said students have begun entering photography competitions with Jostens, our yearbook company. Students regularly attend annual yearbook workshops and the yearbooks are improving each year. She added one of her main goals for this program as they progress is to become involved in state and national journalism programs to provide student the opportunity to compete with their quality products for quality recognition. She waited until she felt students had the needed skills to compete and they are fast approaching a quality level that trained professional journalists would admire. She noted it won't be long before the program can stand among some of the most recognized programs in the state. She and students will continue to improve their products. This year's yearbook theme is "Our Word, Our Promise." The yearbook is planned to be a 200 page 8 ½" x 11" book, similar to years past but this year's theme is our very own and offers a nod to the El Dorado Promise for everything that has been done within this district for our students. 6:44 p.m.

The board approved petition for transfer requests for one student to transfer from El Dorado to Smackover-Norphlet School District, one student to Parkers Chapel School District, and three students from Strong-Huttig district to El Dorado School District. 6:45 p.m.

Mr. Tucker said he received the following Petition for Transfer forms: Tameka Fields is the parent of Tykeyvis Fields, 15 years old. The family lives in the El Dorado district but requesting to transfer to Smackover-Norphlet District. Brittany Maddox is the parent of Bryson D. Green, 12 years old. The family resides in El Dorado district and requesting to transfer to Parkers Chapel. Ramona Sue Blakely is the parent of Corey Sha'Mon McKinney, Jr., 11 years old. The family resides in the Strong-Huttig district and have received a release to transfer to El Dorado. James Pool is the father of Addison Pool, six years old. The family lives in the Strong-Huttig district and has received a release from their district to El Dorado. Jessica Webb filed a Petition for Transfer for her child, Jessie Jane Webb, 4 years old. The family lives in the Strong-Huttig district to transfer to the El Dorado district. Brittany Wood is the parent of Briggs Wood, 4 years old. The family lives in the Strong Huttig district and received a release to transfer to El Dorado district.

Mr. Tucker recommended the transfer requests. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Keith Smith, and carried on a 6-0 vote at 6:45 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the Petition for Transfer requests as presented by the superintendent.

Mr. Tucker stated the upcoming Legislative Round Table Discussion will be held Wednesday, December 12 at the TAC House from noon until 2:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned to an executive session to discuss personnel matters, then reconvened to an open meeting. On a motion by Renee Skinner, seconded by Wayne Gibson, and carried on a 6-0 vote 7:46 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.