

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
November 12, 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. Directors present were Vicky Dobson, Wayne Gibson, Renee Skinner, Keith Smith, and Shaneil Yarbrough. Director Todd Whatley was absent. Also attending was Supt. Jim Tucker, Rhonda Simmons, Melissa Powell, Bonnie Haynie, Katie Sandifer, Shelley Pruitt, and Lou Ann Voris.

Mrs. Turbeville asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting held October 8. On a motion by Renee Skinner, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 6-0 vote at 6:00 p.m., the minutes were approved.

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

Jim Tucker visited with the board about consideration of a one-time payment to the staff. He asked them to consider \$700.00 for licensed employees and a 1.92% payment, not to exceed \$700 for classified employees. On a motion by Vicky Dobson, seconded by Shaneil Yarbrough and carried on a 6-0 vote at 6:02 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approved a \$700.00 payment to the licensed staff and 1.92% payment, not to exceed \$700 for classified employees.

Michael Cobb, C.P.A. gave an end of year financial audit report to the board. Fellow auditor and business partner, Anne Suskie Pinyan was also in attendance. Mr. Cobb said his firm looks for compliance with state and federal rules and regulations and stated there were no surprises. In fact, you could say it was a boring audit – no drama. Each board member was given the audit report and he covered line items which included the fact the district is 5 ½ million in the black, He discussed the General Operating Fund, the transfers into Building Fund and that the district has positive numbers to transfer. He also covered projections for the next five years and disclosures. Mr. Cobb described the district's audit financially sound. As auditors, we look at financial statements to see they are accurate and the assets are there, the cash exists, things are charged as they should be, Mr. Cobb noted. He noted that it has been a good fiscal year for the district and commended the staff for being diligent about planning and budgeting. Wayne Gibson asked, "If no more money came into the district, how long could the district operate?" Mr. Cobb replied that he did not have the figures with him but remembers it to be 45 – 60 days. He reminded the board that the district is a very large sole operation and this is appropriate period of time. 6:20 p.m.

Blake Dunn of CADM Architecture reported to the board on renovations of the press box and handicapped accessible area at Memorial Stadium. He thanked the board for being a client of CADM for the past seven decades and said the district is their longest standing client. He showed the board and audience the preliminary drawings of the two level press box and renovations to the handicapped accessible area of the stadium. He said the handicapped area will have several rows carved out of the seating area to accommodate wheelchairs and special seating. The handicapped area alterations, ramps and press box expansion should only reduce the seating capacity by 300 seats.

Mr. Dunn met with the media and coaches in order to be sensitive to the needs of those working in the press box area. The first floor will host rooms for media, clock keeper and public announcer, hospitality in the center and then two additional media rooms. The upper level will have a room for the superintendent, visiting coaches, film crew, home coaches and scouts. He noted that November 30 is the issue date for bids and December 18 will be the bid date. Construction is to begin on January 3, 2019 with the completion to be May 31, 2019. The project funding will be from the City of El Dorado, Mr. Dunn said. Jim Tucker expressed his appreciation to the city, mayor, Matthew Shepherd, city council and others that worked to secure funding for this project. He noted this will make the stadium a state of the art facility and greatly improved the handicapped accessible area. 6:29 p.m.

Mayor Frank Hash read the proclamation of the 97th observance of American Education Week which will be November 12 – 16, 2018. The board expressed their appreciation to Mayor Hash for helping the district celebrate American Education Week. 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Tucker stated the school district will be honoring military veterans by providing an opportunity for those who were unable to finish high school, due to deployment in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, to receive a high school diploma. He noted that to be eligible to receive a diploma from El Dorado High School, the Arkansas Department of Education has established the following requirements. A veteran shall:

- Have been honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States of America,
- Be a resident of the State of Arkansas, and
- Have served a minimum of eighteen (18) consecutive months in active duty or been discharged with a service-connected disability during one of the following:
 - For veterans of World War II, between September 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946,
 - For veterans of the Korean War, between June 1, 1950 and January 1, 1954, or
 - For veterans of the Vietnam War, between July 3, 1965 and May 15, 1975.

A veteran will need to present to the El Dorado School District's Board of Directors a Veteran Diploma Application and any of the needed documentation of honorable discharge of eligibility. Applications may be found at www.eldoradopublicschools.org or picked up at the Administration Office, 200 West Oak Street, El Dorado. The applying veteran are not required to have attended El Dorado schools at the time of their deployment to receive this diploma. Upon review of these documents and certification of eligibility, a diploma will be granted to approved veterans at the El Dorado High School's graduation ceremony on May 20, 2019. Applications and documentation must be submitted to the Administration Office by March 15, 2019. 6:32 p.m.

Wayne Gibson introduced the Student of the Month, Haven Gathright. He noted that Haven is a third grader and the daughter of Clint and Tara Gathright. She is a genuine young lady and a true example of what we want all Gators to strive to be, her principal Connie Reed said.

One of her teachers, Mrs. Lites said that Haven goes above and beyond. She is helpful, kind, and a hard worker. She finishes her work and then asks how she can help in the classroom. She also frequently assists other students. Haven has 162 AR math points and 123 AR reading points already this school year! She also has a perfect citizenship grade in class. Mrs. Lites added that Haven is a blessing to have in her classroom.

Mrs. Riggs describes Haven as smart, organized, kind and helpful. One day her teacher had to be out and she knew that Haven could step in and help out. While the class had a substitute teacher, Haven led the small groups in her class. She is that kind of student! One you can depend on and rely on to always do the right thing.

Haven is a very well rounded student that will put a smile on your face when you see her. With her wonderful work ethic and great attitude, she is a true example of a Hugh Goodwin Gator! Congratulations Haven Gathright, Student of the Month. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:34 p.m.

Classified Employee of the Month from Hugh Goodwin is Kay Pelz. Mrs. Pelz has worked in the district for 24 years. She is married to Steve Pelz and they have two children, Trey and Amy.

What can we say about Kay Pelz...or rather what can we not say about Kay? Parents and staff rely on her daily. She is organized, loyal, hard-working, protective, and very dedicated. She is affectionately known by some parents and staff as "Sarge" or the "gatekeeper." Parents know that their children will be protected as long as she is at our front door. Any time we ask Mrs. Pelz to do extra things to help staff, such as cookie dough drive, Veteran's Day, Nutcracker, field day, and the list goes on and on, she is always willing to step in and help. She is very aware of how busy our staff is and always tries to support in every way possible.

Kay Pelz is the “Queen of Multi-Tasking.” She can pull off answering the phone, classroom intercom, and walkie-talkie while also taking a child’s temperature. Hugh Goodwin staff loves Kay Pelz for always being such a spiritual leader in our school! A staff member stated that one thing that surprised her about Mrs. Pelz is her sense of humor! Others stated: She makes me smile! She is an amazing team player and I love her having her this school! Hugh Goodwin Elementary relies on her daily! We don’t know what we would do without her and we don’t ever want to find out! Congratulations to Kay Pelz, Classified Employee of the Month! Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:36 p.m.

Mr. Gibson said Donna Fields was chosen Teacher of the Month. Mrs. Fields graduated from Abilene Christian University and received her teaching certification through Arkansas non-traditional licensure program. She has taught for 11 years in the district and is married to John Fields and they have three children, Johnathan, Haley, and Maddie.

Her principal and those nominating her stated she is one of the most hardworking, loving and dedicated teachers in our school. She works from bell to bell every single day to challenge her students. She spends time creating unique lessons every day to ensure all students are engaged and are working at the appropriate level. Students who have come to her below level have overcome many obstacles because of her. She works with small groups daily to guarantee that all students understand every concept taught. She uses data to determine the needs of her students to drive her instruction.

Mrs. Fields work does not end at 3:20 – she takes work home every night and comes in on Sunday afternoons. She does all of this while teaching classes at her church and volunteering in our community. She is a friend to all and lends a helping hand or ear to everyone. She is the ideal teacher because of her attitude of always wanting to improve. Mrs. Fields selects her Professional Growth Plan goals each year in areas she wants to improve her instruction. She is always looking for ways to grow professionally. She has attended summer workshops at Henderson State University and Southern Arkansas University to ensure she is incorporating the latest methods and strategies into her classroom. Our students and staff are so lucky to have her as part of our team. Mrs. Fields is considered a Super Gator among all! Congratulations Teacher of the Month, Donna Fields. Mrs. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:38 p.m.

Connie Reed presented the principals report from Hugh Goodwin. Mrs. Reed said each year the school has a theme and this year’s is a circus theme of Come On, Come All – which has been exciting for the students and staff. Activities this year have been a Veterans Parade and although rained out, it was held inside in the hallways and ten veterans attended. Another was a third grade trip to Crystal Bridges Art Museum, the Walmart Museum and the Amazeum. Mrs. Dewana Gober, librarian has a wonderful Enchanted Forest theme going on in her library and is hosting a Literacy Night for students and their families, tomorrow night. Each child will leave with two books. All are getting geared up for the upcoming production of the Nutcracker. Additional events have been a kindergarten Clap Out where students paraded the halls clapping out their A, B, C’s to encourage others learning, Read for the Record, they had an exceptional speaker come in to visit with the students about No to Bullying and Respecting Others, and the Coding Club was invited to Washington Middle School to visit Mrs. Tobie Sprawls class.

Mrs. Reed said presenting next will be Kathy Sixby, literacy coach and kindergarten teachers, Amy Lester, April Richard, Kelsey Smith, Amy Tucker and Natalie Vaughn. Mrs. Sixby thanked the district for paying for the Orten-Gillingham program. She said the kindergarten teachers will show examples of how that program is being implemented. Mrs. Richard asked the board to pretend they are 5 years old and Mrs. Lester and the teachers will be showing how multi-sensory is being used. She asked each to make the vowel sounds with facial expressions as she showed flash cards. Mrs. Tucker did a demonstration on hearing and used a sand board. Ms. Smith and Mrs. Vaughn worked with the board on sight words.

Mrs. Reed thanked the board for the Orten-Gillingham program and stated the school goal in intervention has identified seventy-three students that are getting extra attention four to five times a week. Fifty-one are first and second graders and noted that kindergarten scores are greatly improving. She has the help of the coach, librarian,

instructional resource teachers to pull out students for extra tutoring to bring up scores. Janice Riggs, math coach has morning tutoring session with students. She said it's been an exceptional year so far at Hugh Goodwin. 7:07 p.m.

Barbara Howell from South Arkansas Community College and students presented a proposal from the Upward Bound class. She noted the sixty-three E.H.S. students in the college's TRiO programs. The Upward Bound Program strongly encourages its students to be active members of their school community and the community they live in.

The group is proposing to adopt Wildcat Drive from Parnell Road to Timberlane Drive by keeping the area clean of debris and litter. With board approval, they will twice monthly maintain their adopted area as their community project. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Keith Smith and carried on a 6-0 vote at 7:11 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the community project of the Upward Bound students to maintain litter and debris on Wildcat Drive, between Parnell Road and Timberlane Drive.

Student Council vice president, Calvin Walker visited with the board about events at the high school. He said students are currently contributing toiletries to Operation Christmas for those students in need and a toy drive in in full gear. Mr. Gibson and Mrs. Turbeville ask Calvin about himself and his plans for the future. He is second in his senior class and plans to attend the University of Arkansas and major in biology. He is president of the National Honor Society and Young Democrats. He added he took seven advanced placement courses last year and is taking five this year. He has passed all A.P. exams except one and said it was only because he put the wrong course test down to be taken. He told the board that El Dorado High School staff and courses have greatly prepared him for his future in college career. 7:15 p.m.

Mr. Tucker visited with the board about the need for purchase of a truck for the maintenance department. Maintenance currently has two spares that are not in proper working order, these will be sold this summer, he added. He proposed that the new truck will go to the maintenance director and his truck will be passed on to the roofer and then his truck will be the working spare.

He noted the truck he is recommending is a 2019 Ford F250 SuperCab 4 x 2, 6.2L with a Knaphide service body (tool box bed), all standard features. State price is \$33,598.36 and can be purchased locally. He added the need to purchase a Knaphide service body, ladder rack and Tommy Liftgate for the truck that will be handed down. That price is \$9,945.00. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 7-0 vote at 7:18. p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the purchase of a 2019 Ford F250 SuperCab truck for the maintenance department for \$33,598.36 and a Knaphide service body, ladder rack and Tommy Liftgate for \$9,945.00 for a currently in use maintenance truck.

Mr. Tucker visited with the board about their consideration to purchase 10.76 acres south of Parnell Road and east of Highway 82 bypass for \$15,000 per acre to construct a bus shop, maintenance shop and food service facility. He would also like their approval to sell the property the district owns east of town on East Main Street. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Vicky Dobson, seconded by Shaneil Yarbrough and carried on a 6-0 vote at 7:20 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the purchase of 10.76 acres south of Parnell Road for a total of \$161,400.00 to be used for a bus shop, maintenance shop and food service facility for the district.

Mr. Tucker visited with the board about the annual school board election date and Policy 1.21 – Date of Annual School Board Election. He noted that Arkansas Act 910 of 2017 went into effect January 1, 2018. Arkansas school districts have a choice of a May or November school election. He recommended the board's consideration of the May election date for the district and board. On a motion by Renee Skinner, seconded by Todd Whatley and carried on a 6-0 vote at 7:22 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the preferential primary May election date in accordance with Policy 1.21 – Date of Annual School Board Election. A copy of the policy is on file in the minutes book, in the superintendent's office and will be filed with the Union County Clerk, Shannon Phillips and Union County Election Commission.

The board approved petition for transfer requests for four students to transfer to Parkers Chapel School District and one to Junction City School District from El Dorado. 7:23 p.m.

Mrs. Turbeville reminded board members that the A.S.B.A. Annual Conference will be December 5-7 in Little Rock at the Marriott Hotel and Statehouse Convention Center. 7:25 p.m.

The board went into an executive session to handle personnel matters and then returned to an open session. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 6-0 vote at 7:55 p.m., it was

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.