

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board  
February 11, 2019**

The directors of the board met on the above date at 6:02 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, and Keith Smit. Directors Susan Turbeville, Todd Whatley, and Shaneil Yarbrough were absent. Also attending was Supt. Jim Tucker, Rhonda Simmons, Bonnie Haynie, Katie Sandifer, Shelley Pruitt, and Lou Ann Voris.

Mrs. Skinner asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meetings held January 14 and 29. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 4-0 vote, the minutes were approved at 6:03 p.m.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. After some discussion and on a motion by Keith Smith, seconded by Wayne Gibson, and carried on a 4-0 vote, the bills were approved for payment at 6:02 p.m. A list of bills paid and monthly financial statement are on file in the business office.

Shelley Pruitt visited with the board about the required proposed budget of expenditures for 2020 – 2021. She reminded the board that this is a projected budget required by law each year. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 4-0 vote at 6:05 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the 2020 – 2021 proposed budget of expenditures as presented.

John Thompson reported that he requested bids for three new trip buses. He asked each company to submit bids for gas and diesel powered buses for a comparison. The bids received are as follows:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Each</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Gas powered trip buses</u>		
Central States Bus Sales, North Little Rock	\$88,180.00	\$264,540.00
Summit Bus Company, North Little Rock	88,520.00	265,560.00
<u>Diesel powered trip buses</u>		
Summit Bus Company, North Little Rock	89,200.00	267,600.00
Central States Bus Sales, North Little Rock	94,170.00	282,510.00
Midwest Bus Sales, Van Buren	94,534.00	283,602.00

Mr. Thompson and Mr. Tucker visited about the advantage of the gas powered buses and are recommending the purchase from Summit Bus Company. After some discussion and on a motion by Vicky Dobson, seconded by Keith Smith and carried on a 4-0 vote at 6:09 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board approves the purchase of three new gas powered trip buses from Summit Bus Company at \$88,520.00 each for a total of \$265,560.00.

Mr. Gibson introduced Rebekah Ibert, Student of the Month from Yocum Elementary School. He said Rebekah is the daughter of Kim and Jeremy Ibert and a third grader in Mrs. Jennifer Duncan's classroom.

Mrs. Duncan said Bekah Ibert is always a hard worker and gets along with everyone. She is organized, kind and gives her very best effort. Her principal, Mrs. Michelle Henry commented that students like Bekah are such a joy to have in your school. She is a great helper to teachers and other students. She is a model for kindness to everyone she is around. Her kindness, hard work, and organization will get her very far in life. We cannot wait to watch her learn, grow, and progress through El Dorado School District. It is a pleasure to have Bekah Ibert as a Yocum student. Yocum is proud for Bekah to represent our school as the Student of the Month. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:12 p.m.

Mr. Gibson said that Yocum Primary School student, Cody Barker was ill and would be recognized at a later date.

He introduced Linda Donahue, Classified Employee of the Month from Yocum Elementary School. Mrs. Donahue worked as a substitute teacher for three years and has twenty-one years as a paraprofessional in the district. She has been married to Ricky Donahue for over thirty-five years, has one son, one daughter and seven grandchildren.

Fellow co-workers nominating her stated Mrs. Donahue goes above and beyond every day and is willing to step in to help wherever needed. She will do any task that you ask of her and never complains. Once she is done, she will ask you if there is anything else she can do! Another co-worker said, "Linda Donahue has been here way before I came to Yocum and I am beginning my tenth year here. She still wants to make a difference in students' lives for the better. It is evident that her care for the students and teachers is what brings her to work each day."

Her principal, Michelle Henry said: Mrs. Donahue (or Mrs. Don-a-que or Bar-b-que, as the students call her) is one of those workers that you wish you had more of! She does her work each and every day. I can depend on her to do everything that is asked of her to the best of her ability with a positive attitude. She needs little guidance. All you have to do is give her a task and off she goes. If she has questions, she will ask.

This year she has been part of our RISE team that provides intensive reading intervention to students all day. She has assisted in bringing more than fifty third and fourth grade students up to grade level in reading. Mrs. Donahue is proud of these students and their team helps these students to learn to celebrate themselves which in turn boosts the students' confidence and self-esteem. No matter the task given, Mrs. Donahue does it with diligence and keeps the students as her top priority. She loves Yocum School and Yocum loves her! Yocum is proud that Linda Donahue was chosen Classified Employee of the Month. 6:14 p.m.

Mr. Gibson introduced Amy Fulton, Teacher of the Month from Yocum Elementary School. Miss Fulton received her Bachelor of Science in Education degree in elementary education from Arkansas State University. This is her second year of teaching and she currently teaches fourth grade literacy at Yocum. Her parents are Kathy and Carl Fulton and she has a sister Kaitlyn.

Fellow co-workers nominating her stated that Amy Fulton is eager to learn and is constantly seeking ways to improve her instruction. Although she is only in her second year of teaching, her knowledge of content reflects that of a seasoned teacher. Her consistency and high expectations challenge students to be their best and they rise to that challenge within her classroom. Another stated that Miss Fulton always has a positive attitude and smile. She is very smart and puts a lot of effort into her work. She is always thinking of the children first and that also reflects outside of her classroom. She has a big heart for her students and does a fabulous job of teaching them daily in a fun and exciting way.

Her principal, Mrs. Michelle Henry explained: When I interviewed Amy Fulton I knew she would be a hard worker. What I have been so proud to see from her is her positive attitude. Amy is very professional, intelligent, dedicated, driven and a conscientious person. Her attitude stays positive even in the midst of struggles and even when she is presented with tasks that may be extremely challenging. This year, Miss Fulton was asked to change grade levels and subject areas at semester. When presented with this, she maintained professionalism and kept the best interest of the students at the forefront. Miss Fulton has done amazing with the transition, as I knew she would. Her attitude has remained positive and determined. Amy Fulton is an exceptional teacher and person and we are proud to have her as part of our team at Yocum. Congratulations Amy Fulton, Teacher of the Month! Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:17 p.m.

Teacher of the Month from Yocum Primary is Leanne Barnett. First grade teacher, Mrs. Barnett received her Bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Southern Arkansas University. She also has twelve hours toward her Master's degree in TESOL. She is married to Grand Barnett, has twin sons in high school, one son in his sophomore year of college and a daughter who just graduated from Central Baptist College in Conway. The daughter that recently graduated from college is preparing to leave for the mission field in Romania this summer. Mr. and Mrs. Barnett are also foster parents for Union County.

Mrs. Barnett has five years of teaching experience at Yocum. Fellow co-workers nominating her stated: Leanne Barnett should be recognized for going above and beyond in and out of the classroom at Yocum. She is very dedicated to meeting the needs of her students by analyzing where they truly are academically. She then plans instruction at the right level of difficulty and sets high expectations for all of her students. Mrs. Barnett has a way of getting students' attention using a calming voice. She keeps her students engaged in meaningful centers as she works with her small groups. It is evident that she teaches her rules, procedures, and expectations because her students smoothly transition in the classroom and hallway. Mrs. Barnett is professional while working with her students, co-workers and parents. She keeps parents informed about progress of her students by calling, sending home information, and meeting with the parents. She is eager to support and help with school events that occur beyond the school day. Not only is Mrs. Barnett a caring and kind teacher, she also opens her home and shares her love with foster children.

Her principal, Mrs. Michelle Henry said: Leanne Barnett is nothing less than a super woman! She comes to work each day, she works on the weekend, she has a big family, and she even invites more children into her home by being a foster parent. Mrs. Barnett works hard to plan effective lessons for her students and ensures that she meets their needs in the classroom each day. The dedication in the classroom to student learning shows through Mrs. Barnett's student success. She truly works until all students succeed. She loves our Yocum students, teachers, support staff, and our school. Her willingness to help with new teachers, projects, or whatever is asked, is so appreciated. Leanne Barnett is an exceptional teacher and we are proud to have her as part of our Yocum team. Congratulations Leanne Barnette, Teacher of the Month! Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:20 p.m.

Monica Barker, Cody Barker's mother asked if she might take his Student of the Month certificate to him since he is ill. Mr. Gibson told her, "Of course and we'll also recognize him whenever he is better." He asked her to remain and hear what his teachers and principal had to say about her son. He read: Cody is the son of Monica Barker and in Miss Valencia's kindergarten class. Several of his teachers stated: Cody is a respectful and polite individual. He works hard in all of his classwork. He is always eager to learn and participate in class activities.

Mrs. Jessica Moore, assistant principal at the primary school, said Cody is a joy to have at Yocum. He always greets you with a smile and a hug when passing through the hall. He is thoughtful of his fellow students and very respectful to every adult he encounters during the day. He has a quiet, gentle nature that makes him well liked by his classmates. Cody uses the words please and thank you and is well-mannered. He follows school rules and is a great model for other students. He works hard and give his best effort at school. Yocum staff and students are delighted to have Cody in kindergarten and proud to have him represent us at Student of the Month! 6:22 p.m.

In giving a report on Yocum Elementary and Primary School, Michelle Henry first showed a video of what staff and students have done this year. She explained about the school's RISE (Reading Intervention for Students to Excel program) pull-out program. Currently they have sixty-eight students involved and this includes eight – second graders. The first thirty minutes the students have ten minutes at each station which includes word study, guided writing, and guided reading. Mrs. Henry added they have had thirty-one students graduate from the RISE program. She noted these students were more than one grade level behind at the beginning of the school year and are now at grade level and they consider this a success. Each morning from 7:30 – 7:50 they have morning Math tutoring for second, third and fourth graders. She has four teachers that have groups of twenty – second graders, thirty – third graders, and thirty-five – fourth graders. These students were chosen from those in need of support or close in conjunction with the Star math test. The data shows the second graders had a forty-point increase in scores, the third grade showed a sixty-two point increase, and the fourth grade saw a sixty point increase in scores. Staff was very happy with these results.

In the Response to Intervention (RTI) program the elementary and primary schools have dedicated times each afternoon to pull students. The focus for second through fourth graders is essential standards while the phonics skills are the focus for kindergarten through first grade. She and teachers saw a rise in K skills proficiency from 37% in September to 85% in January for first graders and a 63% proficiency for kindergarteners by January. Ms. Jennifer Aguilar works during each time to intervene with the English

Language Learner students. Mrs. Henry said math and literacy standards are taught in a two-week cycle – two weeks for math and two weeks for literacy. Also, custom assessments are used to assess mastery. She holds weekly meetings to discuss student data and identify student's mastery and where needed to regroup students. She elaborated on identifiers and showed the board charts for guided reading levels and Star early literacy, reading and math data for all grades.

Mrs. Henry noted that Yocum has exciting additions, too. Thanks to community helpers - Simmons Bank gave them \$2,500.00 for a greenhouse; Delek donated \$250 for Science Big Books; the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission provided \$4,000 for an outdoor classroom for the primary school, and the Master Gardeners provided raised garden beds at the school. The students planted and harvested radishes, turnip greens, carrots, potatoes and English peas to take home. 6:41 p.m.

Mr. Tucker reminded the board of the School Improvement Plan for each district school which is posted on the district website. He asked each principal to submit a progress report of the S.I.P. to the board and noted the reports were included in their board packets. He said if they have questions, principals are in attendance to give answers. Mr. Gibson said the reports are commendable and Mrs. Skinner added that a lot of extra time and work went into each report and she appreciated that. 6:42 p.m.

Emme Landes, treasurer for the El Dorado High School Student Council updated the board on activities at the school. She said the MISSter E.H.S. pageant ticket sales sold out quickly with a total of 435 tickets sold and \$2,500 of the proceeds will go to the Arkansas Children's Hospital. She had the privilege of escorting one of the contestants onstage which was fun. Board members asked Emme if E.H.S. has prepared her for her college career. She said yes, her A.P. classes have helped, with her A.P. art class being her favorite. When asked if there is anything she would change about E.H.S, she said, - only one thing. She did not feel ready for the A.C.T. test the first time she took it, did better later, and would like to see more preparation for students. The board thanked her for her report. 6:45 p.m.

Chair of the Personnel Policies Committee and District Calendar Committee, Chelsey Turner presented the proposed 2019 – 2020 District Calendar to the board. She noted the two calendars that are in front of the board are very similar and explained the differences. Calendar A is exactly like the 2018 – 2019 calendar, she said. Mr. Tucker recommended Calendar A to the board and explained the board can wait until the March board meeting to vote or may choose to vote this evening. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Keith Smith and carried on a 4-0 vote at 6:50 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the 2019 – 2020 District Calendar.

The board approved a petition for transfer request for a student to transfer to Parkers Chapel School District from El Dorado. 6:51 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 Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 4-0 vote at 8:09 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the superintendent's recommendations concerning the acceptance of resignations, job abandonment of one employee, the employment of new personnel, and the re-employment of the administrative and certified staff.

On a motion by Vicky Dobson, seconded Keith Smith, and carried on a 4-0 vote at 8:10 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the contract extension to 245 days for athletic director, Phillip Lansdell, beginning July 1, 2019.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

