

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
April 8, 2019

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 meeting held March 11. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Keith Smith, and carried on a 5-0 vote at 6:01 p.m., the minutes were approved.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. After some discussion and on a motion by Shaneil Yarbrough, seconded by Vicky Dobson, 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. 6:02 p.m.

Mr. Tucker presented the bids received on copy paper for the district. He noted the bids were for 1,680 cases of 8 ½” x 11” copy papers:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Per Case</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Contract Paper Group, Uniontown, OH	\$29.12	\$48,921.60
BNB Solutions, El Dorado, AR	29.50	49,560.00

He recommended the boards consideration of the local bid from BNB Solutions for \$49,560.00. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Shaneil Yarbrough and carried on a 5-0 vote at 6:03 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the bid of \$49,560.00 from BNB Solutions for 1,680 cases of 8 ½” x 11” copy paper for the district.

Student of the Month from Washington Middle School is David Valero. Mr. Gibson said David is a fifth grader and son of Juan and Maria Valero. According to his principal, Mrs. Jody Vines, David is kind to others and a real asset to our school. He works very hard in his classes and is always looking for ways to improve.

According to Michael Herren, David’s cinematography teacher, “David always tries his best and does a great job with his work. He is extremely polite and friendly. In our cinematography class, he consistently sets an example for other students in his willingness to provide answers and to go above and beyond to improve his projects!” Mrs. Vines said Washington Middle School is elated for David and his family. What an honor to be recognized as El Dorado School District’s Student of the Month. Mr. Gibson presented David with a certificate from the board. 6:07 p.m.

Mr. Gibson said Nicole McPhate is the Teacher of the Month from Washington Middle School. Miss McPhate received her Bachelor of Arts degree in graphic design and communications from Ouachita Baptist University. She received her Master of Arts in teaching from Southern Arkansas University. In December, she will complete a Master of Education degree in educational administration and supervision from Southern Arkansas University. Miss McPhate began her teaching career in our district in 2016 and currently teaches fifth grade English language arts at Washington.

According to her co-workers, Nicole goes above and beyond to meet her students where they are and to build relationships with them. Her upbeat personality and infectious smile will brighten anyone’s day! She is always willing to help students and colleagues. Her principals, Mrs. Jody Vines said, “Miss McPhate is a great asset to our school. She has a great rapport with her students. You can just tell that she loves kids. Her friendly nature makes her very approachable for students but yet she has developed that delicate balance that keeps her classroom running like a well-oiled machine.” Mrs. Vines said Washington is so pleased that Nicole McPhate was selected as El Dorado School

District's Teacher of the Month. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:08 p.m.

Mrs. Vines recognized the Washington Middle School archery team and cinematography class. She explained the archery team qualified for state by placing third at regional competition. She introduced Coach Ethan Kelton and he said the team qualified for state by placing third at regional competition with a score of 2,920. They increased their overall score at state competition to a 2,928. The student hit their goal for the year with each archer averaging a 40-point score per round. Mrs. Vines and Coach Kelton noted they are very proud of their student's accomplishments.

Mrs. Vines said the cinematography students have done it again! Representatives from the Arkansas Department of Education came to Washington Middle School recently to present awards to two different student video teams from Mr. Michael Herren's cinematography classes. Both teams submitted videos to the Arkansas Digital Learning Day 2019 video competition. The purpose of Digital Learning Day is to celebrate and highlight the use of technology to strengthen a student's learning experience. The theme for Arkansas' Digital Learning Day is "Students Creating Media for Online Learning." Those students winning first place for their video about the life of Leonardo da Vinci are: Cooper Conner, David Valero, Leeann Ramey, and Richard Diaz. She added their video can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/h1juJPFsjTE>. Mrs. Vines said Brisa Reyes and Canaan Kingery won second place for their video highlighting the Washington Middle School underwater robotics team, the Eldo shARks. She noted their video can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/cE7iy5jxFjw>.

Jody Vines said before she gives the board a report from her school, music teacher Angula Davis asked that she announce Washington Middle School's musical, *Madagascar* will be May 21 – 23 at the El Dorado High School's Fine Arts Auditorium and all are invited to attend. Mrs. Vines then stated in her principal's report that Washington's building level team of literacy teachers have a major focus to improve reading scores. They are investigating what might be the problem in students not wanting to read and then working to find ways to motivate them to enjoy reading more.

Mrs. Vines noted they often find there is no one in charge at home to inspire or lack of control therefore; staff has organized another Magical Mystery Tour to encourage a desire in students to read and then be rewarded. Last year's trip was to the Great Wolf Lodge and proved a success in the number of books read and test scores improved. This year's trip will be to Silver Dollar City and thirty-two students will be going. She said that news spread among the students of how much fun they had last year and the numbers in Accelerated Reader participants increased this year. In her power point presentation, she showed Accelerated Reader points to date are 8,447.6 for fifth grade, 21,139 for sixth grade. She said 99% of the students are participating in AR are quizzed on a regular basis.; district as a whole doing well – 94%; Average Grade 5-6 books = 5 points, 5th grade – 1,689 books, 6th grade – 4,228 books

Mrs. Vines said the STAR (Standardized Test for the Assessment of Reading) data from third quarter testing indicates growth in Grade 5 by + 0.7 and Grade 6 by +0.8. STAR has also created assessments for skills in domains other than reading. The Washington staff has started Hooked on a Book series where portions of an audio book are played over the cafeteria speaker each morning during the student's breakfast time. Since this has been a success, Mrs. Vines showed the board more audio books that the school plans to order. She said that teachers have taken on two to three mentees to work with in bringing up test scores. Mrs. Vines said the mentors make a little contract with each regarding twenty minutes each day and help them with study skills so they won't wait until the night before a test to start studying. The school had a Slide Into Success parent's meeting where large inflatable slides were secured for students to have a fun time, while staff worked with parents to help them learn ways to help their student with reading. She said staff and students have helped to make this a successful year at Washington. 6:25 p.m.

El Dorado High School's 2019 – 2020 Student Council officers were introduced to the board: Emme Landes, President; Erinn Roblee, Vice President; Autumn Parker, Secretary; Camille Terry, Treasurer and Reaves Robinson, Reporter. 6:26 p.m.

Alyssa Rynders visited with the board about The Amazing Shake Competition class at Washington Middle School. The goal of the class is to prepare students so they are able to present themselves professionally for opportunities today as well as those that will come in the future. She noted that students will have the option to take the class next school year which covers life skills such as manners, dining etiquette, respect, proper handshake, social skills, communication skills, and others. Students will also learn how to give a successful interview, debate, professional speech writing and how to give a speech, how to work a room, how to remain composed under pressure, keys to success and a unit on financial literacy. The class is based off a national competition that students participate in. Mrs. Rynders has been working to put the class together based on a program by Ron Clark and put into practice at the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Clark was the Disney American Educator of the Year in 2000 and has written several books on education, she said. As part of the Academy, Mr. Clark started a competition called The Amazing Shake, which went national with a competition in 2018. She got the idea of starting The Amazing Shake class at Washington when she saw videos on social media announcing the national competition, but she was already familiar with the school from her trip there.

Mrs. Rynders said during her first year with the district she received the opportunity to visit the Ron Clark Academy and observe how teaching is done at the school. Mrs. Vines added that Washington has sent probably five groups of teachers to the Academy over the years and has another group going in May. Mrs. Rynders loves the positive approaches used at the Ron Clark Academy and that has changed a lot of things she does in her classroom now. The students at the academy are so like the students she teaches, she said. Mrs. Vines explained Mr. Clark's classroom is set up with cinema type seating behind the students and people bring teachers by the bus load to watch how he and a couple of other Disney Teachers of the Year teach. Their style and techniques of working with the students are pretty incredible, she added. If a student does something right, all of a sudden he has a disco ball come down and start spinning. They all get up and dance, music starts playing for about 30 seconds, then shuts off, they sit down and he starts right back with the Algebra lesson again.

Mrs. Rynders plans to have professionals from the community come speak to the Washington students about their area of expertise. Future plans for students are to participate in mock interviews, tour the state capital and visit with the governor about speech giving. While in class they will write and give professional speeches, participate in classroom debates, and then will attend a mock city council meeting and other community meetings. The class will finish with a financial literacy unit which will include ways to create and stick to a budget. Mrs. Vines added they will use a program from Economics Arkansas, a statewide non-profit that provides resources for teaching finances. Mrs. Rynders also visited with the board about the budget for this class next school term and how excited she is to help students gain confidence in themselves in their everyday lives and for upcoming professional opportunities and events in their future. 6:35 p.m.

Katie Sandifer said it was announced in the November 12, 2018 board meeting, which was also Veteran's Day, that 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. Requirements, as established by the district and the Arkansas Department of Education, were established that must be met to receive the diploma. Mrs. Sandifer stated she was happy to announce that two applicants, Roy L. Harbour and Rudolph E. Nelson have met the state and district requirements and with the school board's vote of approval will receive their high school diploma at the 2019 El Dorado High School graduation ceremony on Monday, May 20. She added that Roy Harbour is a U. S. Air Force veteran and 92 year old Rudolph Nelson is a veteran of the U. S. Coast Guard. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Keith Smith, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 5-0 vote at 6:39 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves veterans Roy L. Harbour and Rudolph E. Nelson to receive their high school diploma at the 2019 El Dorado

High School graduation on Monday, May 20, 2019. They will be the first of the graduates to be recognized that evening.

Phillip Lansdell visited with the board in the April board meeting about the conditioning class at the high school. He said that any questions that have arisen about the class have been answered such as student athletes that have A.P. classes that keep them from attending the conditioning class. Mr. Lansdell said they will have a 0 hour class at 7:00 a.m. the students can attend. Mr. Tucker said he and Mr. Landell met with all the coaches last week and all are supportive and looking forward to the program. He added with the board's approval of the conditioning class, the long term goal is to have a strength coach leading the program. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 5-0 vote at 6:44 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the conditional class for athletes in grades 9 – 12 to begin with the 2019 – 2020 school year.

Mr. Tucker received a Petition for Transfer Request form for one student to transfer to Parkers Chapel and one to transfer to Smackover-Norphlet School Districts. He had one to transfer to El Dorado from Strong-Huttig School District and one to transfer from Claiborne Parish, Louisiana School District. On a motion by Vicky Dobson, seconded by Shaneil Yarbrough and carried on a 5-0 vote at 6:45 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the Petitions for Transfer Requests as presented by the superintendent.

Mrs. Skinner said the E.H.S. Honors Program will be Monday, April 29 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 24 at 1:00 p.m. in the high school's Wildcat Arena. Baccalaureate for El Dorado High School graduating seniors will be Sunday, May 19 @ 4:00 p.m. at Wildcat Arena. Graduation will be Monday, May 20 at 8:00 p.m. at Memorial Stadium. She added the Teacher Excellence Awards will be Friday, May 31 at 3:30 p.m. in the El Dorado High School's Fine Arts Auditorium. The District Retirement Dinner will be at the El Dorado Golf and Country Club at 6:30 p.m. with a date to be announced soon. 6:48 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 5-0 vote at 8:10 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.

President

Secretary