

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board  
May 13, 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 Wayne Gibson presiding. Other directors present were Vicky Dobson, Keith Smith, and Shaneil Yarbrough. Directors Susan Turbeville, Renee Skinner and Todd Whatley were absent. Also attending was Supt. Jim Tucker, Rhonda Simmons, Melissa Powell, Bonnie Haynie, Shelley Pruitt, and Lou Ann Voris.

Mr. Gibson asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meetings held April 8, 16, 18 and May 7. On a motion by Vicky Dobson, seconded by Shaneil Yarbrough, and carried on a 4-0 vote at 6:01 p.m., the minutes were approved.

The board reviewed the monthly bills with Shelley Pruitt. Mr. Gibson added the board is giving the district staff a bonus of \$700 for licensed employees and 1.92% up to \$700 to classified employees. On a motion by Shaneil Yarbrough, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 4-0 vote the bills and employee bonuses were approved for payment. The list of bills paid and monthly financial statement are on file in the business office. 6:02 p.m.

Mr. Tucker said bids were received for work at Retta Brown and Yocum Elementary Schools. Work at Retta Brown is to correct and improve some acoustic problems throughout the entire school, he said. This work will help with noise levels that are created by hard surfaces in the halls, cafeteria and classrooms.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Arstate Construction Company	\$20,908.00
C & K Mitchell Service Contractors, Inc.	37,000.00
ERC General Contractors, LLC	39,000.00

On a motion by Shaneil Yarbrough, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 4-0 vote at 6:04 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the low bid of \$20,908.00 from Arstate Construction Company for acoustic work at Retta Brown Elementary School.

The work at Yocum Elementary is fairly extensive, Mr. Tucker added. It is to redo all stairs in the building. The stairs have been worn down over the last 90 years from having feet going up and down the school's stairwells.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Arstate Construction	\$ 95,037.00
ERC General Contractors, LLC	150,800.00
C & K Mitchell Service Contractors, Inc.	175,000.00

On a motion by Vicky Dobson, seconded by Keith Smith and carried on a 4-0 vote at 6:05 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the low bid of \$95,037.00 from Arstate Construction Company for stairwell work at Yocum Elementary School.

Mr. Gibson asked for a construction update on current projects within the district. Mr. Tucker said the construction of the press box at the stadium is going well and appears will be completed by the June 1 timeline. Since purple seating was requested, it will be delivered June 7. He said the E.H.S. multi-purpose facility is behind schedule because of rain but at this time is going well but slow. He had hoped district schools would be able to have field days and end-of-school events in the facility but the weather has slowed progress. Mr. Tucker stated he also hoped the band would be able to practice in the facility this summer and the football team to start their practices there but the construction will not be finished until the end of August.

Mr. Gibson stated two veterans, that had to leave high school early due to deployment in World War II, will receive their diplomas on May 20 at the E.H.S. graduation ceremony at Memorial Stadium.

Jazmin Zapata, Student of the Month from Barton Jr. High School was recognized. Mr. Gibson said that Jazmin is the daughter of Celia and Francisco Zapata. Staff nominating Jazmin stated she is a phenomenal role model. She works hard and does what she needs to do to get the grades she wants. She always tries to reach her full potential. More importantly, she willingly helps others without being asked. One teacher said: I have several non-English speakers in the same class as Jazmin. From day one, she has gone out of her way to first complete her classroom work and then help with peer tutoring especially in helping students with language barriers. She doesn't want attention for helping others, she does it out of the kindness of her heart. Even while taking time to help the other students, she always makes sure she finishes what is necessary. I wish I had more students like her.

Her principal, Mrs. Sherry Hill said: I am so excited that Jazmin Zapata was selected the district's Student of the Month. She is a very sweet, hard-working young lady. She is in the seventh grade, a member of Barton's Extreme group, a member of Barton's select choir, and has a 3.5 G.P.A. She is very helpful to teachers and other students as well. Junior high students often get a bad rap for having tunnel vision and thinking only of themselves. Jazmin proves that stereotype wrong every day! While it is very important to us to develop students who are strong academically, developing students who have a kind spirit is just as important. Jazmin certainly has that! We couldn't be happier to recognize Jazmin at the Student of the Month! Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:11 p.m.

Mr. Gibson recognized Teacher of the Month from Barton Jr. High School, Ashlee Curtis. He said Mrs. Curtis graduated from the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith with a degree in Criminal Justice and beginning in June will start working on her Master's degree at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. She teaches eighth grade Career Development at Barton.

Fellow co-workers nominating her stated: Ashlee Curtis goes above and beyond for her students, creating relationships and pushing them to break the mold. She is willing to step in wherever she is needed, from answering phones in the office, taking classes, or walking around the cafeteria monitoring students during her lunch break. No, is not a word in Mrs. Curtis' vocabulary, especially when it's something that may make a student better. Being a first year teacher is a difficult challenge, but Ashlee makes it look easy. She is warm, enthusiastic, and caring. When there are challenges, she meets them head on. The students in her classes know that she has high expectations for them and they rise up because they believe she sincerely cares for them. A fellow staff member said: The day of our last pep rally, Mrs. Curtis had a shirt made to honor her students. One student was so surprised to find that it didn't just include the student athletes, but every student from band, orchestra, robotics, student council, etc. In all my years at Barton, I have never seen anyone do something that made ALL of their students feels so special. She isn't just a great first year teacher – she is simply a great teacher!

Her principal, Mrs. Sherry Hill said: Ashlee Curtis is married to another Barton teacher and coach, DeAnthony Curtis and she has two precious little girls, Karsyn and "Scoops"! Mrs. Hill said Mrs. Curtis blew into Barton Junior High like a hurricane! A few of the many examples are, she works very hard with her students and fellow teachers in her eighth grade Career Development classes. She has stepped up and taken the lead for Kitten's Conferences. She has participated in school activities like pep rallies, Mr. BJHS, and the Joe Black Memorial 3-on-3 Tournament. When someone is out and we don't have a sub, she always volunteers to help in any way she can. BUT the most important thing she does is love our kids and hold them to high expectations. Observing in her class is a joy as she has an amazing rapport with her students. She has been able to reach some of our kids that few others have. We are thrilled that Ashlee Curtis was selected Teacher of the Month! Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:16 p.m.

Mr. Tucker said, before the Barton Jr. High School student recognitions, he would like to announce two new positions: Current principal at Barton, Sherry Hill will become the principal at El Dorado High School and assistant principal, Mark Smith will take over as principal at Barton Jr. High School. 6:16 p.m.

Mrs. Hill said student groups from Barton Jr. High's Quiz Bowl, Engineering, Archery, Stock Market Game and You Be the Chemist groups would be recognized. Mrs. Hill introduced Barton's state Quiz Bowl champions: Vicky Zhu, Robert Boerwinkle, Kieran Obiozo, J.R. Stipp-Bethune, Deandre Bluford, Jade Hack, Diana Obiozo, Hannah Garson, Vincent Zhu and noted that Mrs. Adrienne Carey coached these Quiz Bowl students to victory. She added that Barton students became state champions by beating out ninth grade teams from school districts across the state.

In March, Barton's Engineering Team won the overall trophy at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's Engineering Olympics competition. The engineering team includes: Aubree Ezell, Bradon Major, Chandler Pagan, Diana Obiozo, Patricia Burris, Robert Boerwinkle, Kieron Obiozo and Alyssa Thomas. The students were coached by Tammy McCloy and Joshua Kingery.

Ava Clark, a student from Barton's archery team, said the team is the 2019 Arkansas State Archery Champions. The team include: Emily Chisholm, Catelynn Connor, Justin Dumas, Riley Dumas, Jon Brooks Elia, Becca Hooks Peyton Howard, Hunter Lawrence, Maggie McDaniel, Caroline Meadows, Keaton Michael, Ramya Miller, Millie Mobley, J.T. Polk, Lynley Smith, Ben Wilson, Sam York and are coached by Brecken and Scott Perry. The archery team won the regional tournament with a score of 3,249 and the state tournament with a score of 3,294. She noted J.T. Polk holds the fifth place spot out of all 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade boys in the state of Arkansas. She added they just returned from the National Tournament in Louisville, Kentucky where they finished 15<sup>th</sup> with a score of 3,328, beating out 275 qualifying teams that competed. Barton has qualified for the Open World Tournament in Nashville, Tennessee this summer. Millie Mobley holds the 4<sup>th</sup> place spot out of all 8<sup>th</sup> grade females in the nation.

Mrs. Hill said Ashlee Curtis and Kaci Travis worked with Barton students in the Stock Market Game competition. The teachers explained that it is a virtual competition where students are very engaged in exploring and researching companies in the virtual buying, selling and trading of stocks. One teacher noted they bought and traded stock at the beginning of the school year. After that, they decided to play it safe and not sell or buy for the rest of the year. That worked in their favor and their money made steady gains! Haley Simpson placed second out of 1,500 competitors in individual awards. Ms. Travis' team of Angelica Nguyen, Lily Thomas and Bailey Waller placed first. Mrs. Curtis' team of Miriam Hatley, Ellie Jenkins, Haley Simpson and Vicky Zhu were second place finishers in the state competition.

In the 'You Be the Chemist' competition, Robert Boerwinkle took first place in the state competition and Kieran Obiozo placed second. Mrs. Hill noted that all Barton students in this competition did well. Robert will represent Arkansas in the National Challenge in Washington, D.C. in June. 6:28 p.m.

Jody Vines said Washington Middle School teachers Michael Herren, Alissa Rynders and Tobie Sprawls classes recently received the following awards in the state Destination Science Challenge: Video 1<sup>st</sup> place – Will Oliver, Cooper Conner, Leeann Ramey, 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Canaan Kingery, Kayla Harvey, Katelyn Orr, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Ava Seymour, Jasmine Miller, Richard Diaz. First place in Web Presence went to Johntay McAlphin and Matthew Langston. Innovative Use (podcast): 1<sup>st</sup> place (tie) – Abbey Geist, Sarah Thompson – Keylei Howard and Laken Osgood. Jarett Baker received a 3<sup>rd</sup> place award in Catapult and the 2<sup>nd</sup> place award in Electric Car went to Miles Moreland. In the Paper Rollercoaster division, John Pugh and Samantha Huddleston received the 3<sup>rd</sup> place award. Mrs. Vines said the winning placements in Video division were: 1<sup>st</sup> place – How Guitars Work, 2<sup>nd</sup> place – All About Energy, 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Bath Fizz Changes in Matter. In the Podcast division: 1<sup>st</sup> place (tie) – Wind Energy and 1<sup>st</sup> place (tie) – The Water Cycle. She gave the board and audience the address for the student's YouTube video where the videos and podcasts can be found.

Mrs. Vines said, at the recent 2019 Arkansas Association of Instructional Media (AAIM) Student Media Festival, Washington Middle School students won third place in the live action video division for fourth and fifth graders. The winning video “Making Spirograph Art” was created by a team from Mr. Herren’s 5<sup>th</sup> grade cinematography class. The team consisted of Abbey Geist, Katelyn Orr, Rekayla Hicks, and Gabby Potts. Mrs. Vines stated she is proud of the hard work by students and staff that was put into these competitions. 6:34 p.m.

El Dorado High School’s EAST lab teacher, Tyronza Bibby said her student’s projects pretty much make for a self-directed and a community-minded class. She explained EAST lab is a program in which students are challenged to find a problem in their community and solve it through the use of technology. EAST students Laura Fairris, Jacobi Robinson, William Harrell, Kaden Jones and Austin Scott visited with the board about some of the projects they have completed this year. Among those were Blessing Boxes as a community service; Music My Motivation to introduce different styles and generations of music played over the high school’s public address system between classes; a project helping students learn to speak before a large crowd, and a computer and simulator project to help E.H.S. seniors with drinking and driving awareness, especially around prom and graduation time. The difference in this project and previous simulators is it is built like a race car cockpit and three monitors rather than headphones are used. One of the creators, Austin Scott said they received a \$3,000 grant to build the computer and simulator and hope to expand the use of the project for students with driving in general and to not text while driving. 6:41 p.m.

Special Education Director, Shawn Lamkin explained the state requires special education directors to report to the school board by June on the Title VII-B preliminary budget for 2019 – 2020, special education assurances and agreements, certification requiring lobbying and surrogate parent representative program. She covered all areas of salaries and benefits, contract services, and other expenses with the board. A copy of the Title VIB budget will be attached to the minutes on file in the administration office. She acknowledged that all presented documents before the board show determination that all funds for special education are used in accordance with laws, such as data is reported in a timely manner, transition services are provided for students, an extended school year is offered employees are highly certified and regarding certification for lobbying - no federal funds are used. In the past the board has approved her as the surrogate parent representative and in her fall report to the board will have the names of her team of representatives. After some discussion and on a motion by Shaneil Yarbrough, seconded by Keith Smith and carried on a 4 – 0 vote at 6:46 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, that the board hereby approves, as presented, the Special Education Title VI-B Preliminary Budget, Assurances and Agreements for School Age Services, Certification regarding Lobbying and Surrogate Parent Representatives.

Mr. Tucker received Petition for Transfer Request forms from the following: One student to transfer to Parkers Chapel, two to Smackover-Norphlet, two to Junction City and one to El Dorado from Strong-Huttig School District. He recommended the legal transfers to the board. On a motion by Shaneil Yarbrough, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 4-0 vote at 6:48 p.m., it was

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

Mr. Gibson said South Central Service Cooperative needs approval each year of a district representative to their board of directors. On a motion by Shaneil Yarbrough, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 4-0 vote at 6:49 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves Supt. Jim Tucker as the district’s representative to the South Central Service Cooperative’s board of directors.

Mr. Tucker stated the state now requires record of the board’s vote on the district’s membership with the Career Technical Education consortia at South Central Service

Cooperative. He explained that by using the cooperative services this frees up a district teacher and better utilizes state funding. On a motion by Shaneil Yarbrough, 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 district's membership with the South Central Service Cooperative's Career Technical Education consortia.

Mr. Gibson informed the board of several upcoming events: Baccalaureate will be Sunday, May 19 at 4:00 p.m. at Wildcat Arena. This is an El Dorado ministerial alliance program. Graduation for E.H.S. seniors will be Monday, May 20 at 8:00 p.m. at Memorial Stadium. The District Retirement Dinner will be Thursday, May 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the El Dorado Golf and Country Club. 7:04 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 Todd Whatley, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:50 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 Shaneil Yarbrough and carried on a 4-0 vote at 8:00 p.m., it was

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.