

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board**  
**August 12, 2019**

The directors of the board met on the above date at 6:03 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, Susan Turbeville, Todd Whatley and Shaneil Yarbrough. Also attending the meeting was Supt. Jim Tucker, Melissa Powell, Katie Sandifer, Shelley Pruitt, and Lou Ann Voris.

Mrs. Skinner asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting held July 15. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Susan Turbeville and carried on a 7-0 vote, the minutes were approved at 6:04 p.m.

Mrs. Pruitt reviewed the monthly bills with the board. After some discussion and on a motion by Shaneil Yarbrough, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 7-0 vote, the bills were approved for payment at 6:06 p.m. A list of bills paid and monthly financial statement are on file in the business office.

Mrs. Pruitt visited with the board about consideration of transfer of funds for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. She stated the need to transfer \$32,304,515.85 from unrestricted general fund to the operating fund, the transfer of \$2,075,272.00 from unrestricted general fund to debt service, the transfer of \$3,015,635.97 from unrestricted general fund to the 3200 building fund, and \$1,000,000.00 to the 3000 building fund. Mrs. Pruitt and Mr. Tucker explained the 3200 building fund is a new line item and state requirement. They answered board member's questions and after a time of discussion and on a motion by Vicky Dobson, seconded by Shaneil Yarbrough, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:14 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the transfer of funds, as presented for the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year.

Beth Jones gave a report on the district's gifted and talented program. She showed power-point slides of services provided to student in the program. She noted that the state required for kindergarten through first grade enrichment is 30 minutes with a GT specialist each week and required 30 minutes a month. For second through fourth grades it is 300 minutes with GT specialists each week and a required 150 minutes a month. Fifth through sixth grade is Pre-AP courses in addition to 300 minutes of pull out with GT specialists a month and a required 150 minutes a week. She added the seventh through twelfth grade services are Pre-AP/AP/Concurrent Credit with a class period a month with GT specialists and a required 150 minutes a week.

Ms. Jones said the GT program has identified and is serving the following: 2<sup>nd</sup> – 38 students; 3<sup>rd</sup> – 38 students; 4<sup>th</sup> – 59 students; 5<sup>th</sup> – 78 students; 6<sup>th</sup> – 73 students; 7<sup>th</sup> – 73 students; 8<sup>th</sup> – 68 students; 9<sup>th</sup> – 71 students; 10<sup>th</sup> – 52 students; 11<sup>th</sup> – 64 students and 12<sup>th</sup> – 70 students. For a total of 683 students served. She showed pictures of the activities the students participate in which include Medieval Times studies and field trip, natural resources study and trip to the Crater of Diamonds State Park at Murfreesboro, native American research, the study of problem solving while building creative structures, and community service projects. Ms. Jones added the junior high Quiz Bowl team place first in the state competition last semester. She showed pictures of district GT staff that were invited to present at the state-wide AGATE conference and expressed what a privilege it was to have that honor. 6:20 p.m.

Athletic Trainer, Morgan Atkins reported to the board on her position and what has taken place since she came on board. She said her role as athletic trainer involves prevention, care, and rehabilitation of athletic injuries. She worked with the coaches during the summer months on injury prevention measures and recognizing indicators. During the school year she is actively involved in the strength conditioning class and helping Coach Kris Borosvskis with those athletes coming in each period. Two areas she is currently concentrating on are football and acute care. She ordered and has started receiving the rehabilitation equipment that will be used.

Mrs. Atkins said the high school has a goal to begin a new elective in sports medicine curriculum in August 2020. In that class she will teach the foundations of sports medicine and student athletic trainers will be chosen from this class to work during district athletic events. Board members had questions about football helmet safety and Mrs. Atkins said the new helmets help to absorb shock much better and demonstrated where those improved points are located. She was also asked who has the final say on a player's return time to a game whenever they are injured and Mrs. Atkins said, "I do." 6:32 p.m.

Bonnie Haynie reported that each year she reviews with the board the Statement of Assurance for Title I and Federal Programs. She added for the district to remain in compliance, once she reviews the report with the board, it is submitted to the Arkansas Department of Education. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Shaneil Yarbrough and carried on a 7-0 vote 6:33 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the Statement of Assurance for Title I and Federal Programs for the district.

Melissa Powell presented a personnel report for the upcoming school year. She said the licensed staff is fully staffed and partly due to the fact that she and Jay Vines attended twenty-one job fairs this past spring. Mrs. Powell added since the south Louisiana teacher fairs have become so expensive, at least \$300 plus for each, she has totally focused on the colleges having career fairs in Arkansas. She said there are nineteen new hires from El Dorado or nearby, and six of those are El Dorado High School graduates. Mrs. Powell noted there are a couple of classified positions to fill and filling those positions will be completed in the next two days.

Mrs. Powell visited with the board about onboarding for new staff. She explained onboarding, for our district, is a one-day event where the new hire is given an appointment date, time, and a packet of forms to complete which includes a list of what they should bring with them. At that time, a panel of district staff visits them: Rushell Meshell explains and helps with insurance paperwork, Kathleen Perdue handles the state and federal required fingerprinting and background check, and Karen Lutman gathers needed paperwork for the new hire's personnel file. Mrs. Powell noted this has been successful in helping each new staff member in having their needed insurance paperwork, background check, and personnel paperwork out of the way prior to the start of the school year.

This year the district partnered with the New Teacher Center and trained Stephanie Lowrey to head the program for the district. New Teacher Center improves student learning by accelerating the effectiveness of teachers and school leaders. The New Teacher Center (NTC) is a national non-profit organization in the U.S. dedicated to strengthening the practice of beginning teachers. The NTC conducts research, develops and administers induction and mentoring programs for new teachers and school administrators, and consults with organizations, educational leaders, and policymakers throughout the United States on issues related to new educator support. Mrs. Lowrey's goal is to involve focus groups of teachers and patrons to help beginning teachers feel comfortable their first year here. Mrs. Powell noted that some are setting up house for the first time and the district provides a \$700 relocation bonus. Mrs. Lowrey also had a number of community and congregations that asked for a large number of new hires and provided them baskets of needed items for their desks and classrooms in the first week of school.

Mrs. Powell said only one Teach for America employee was needed this year. She explained even though the district did not hire a teacher from the Arkansas Academy at the University of Arkansas, we did have four district staff that got into the program to get their Master's degree. The program is designed to increase the effectiveness and support of early-career teachers working in hard-to-staff, high-poverty schools across the state. Mrs. Powell said that after the paraprofessionals are hired tomorrow, the district will be fully staffed. 6:32 p.m.

The board approved the petition for transfer requests for one student to transfer to Smackover-Norphlet district and eight students to transfer to Parkers Chapel district at 6:47 p.m.

Mr. Tucker visited with the board briefly about the number of meals served during the Summer Meals breakfast and lunch program. He said the first year 14,000 meals were served, the second year was 21,000 and this summer Grace George and her staff served 26,000 meals. 6:49 p.m.

The board entered executive session to discuss personnel matters, then reconvened to an open meeting. On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Shaneil Yarbrough, and carried on a 7-0 vote, at 8:05 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.