

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board  
July 15, 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 Todd Whatley. Director Susan Turbeville entered the meeting at 6:15 p.m. Director Shaneil Yarbrough was absent. Supt. Jim Tucker, Rhonda Simmons, Melissa Powell, Katie Sandifer, Shelley Pruitt and Lou Ann Voris were also in attendance.

Mrs. Skinner asked if there were corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting held June 8. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 5-0 vote, the minutes were approved at 6:01 p.m.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Todd Whatley, seconded by Keith Smith, and carried on a 5-0 vote, the bills were approved for payment at 6:04 p.m. A list of bills paid and the monthly financial statement are on file in the business office.

Mr. Tucker presented the gasoline and diesel bid received for the upcoming school year.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Gasoline</u>	<u>Diesel</u>
Sewell Oil Company, El Dorado	\$0.120	\$0.035

He explained this was the only bid received and the past working relationship with Sewell Oil Company has been positive. Mr. Tucker reminded the board that this figure represents the amount above rack price, not the actual price per gallon. He added the price quoted is the same as what the district paid for past couple of years. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 5-0 vote at 6:06 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the bid from Sewell Oil Company for gasoline at \$0.120 and diesel at \$0.035 for the upcoming 2019 – 2020 school year.

Mr. Tucker stated it is time to renew the membership to the Arkansas School Boards Association and asked for the board's consideration. On a motion by Vicky Dobson, seconded by Keith Smith and carried on a 5-0 vote at 6:08 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the renewal and membership fee of \$2,300.00 to the Arkansas School Boards Association.

Mr. Tucker reminded board members that the district became eligible last year to receive funds from the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Community Eligibility Program (CEP) for students in grades kindergarten through six to receive free breakfast and lunch. He said prior to this move, breakfast cost students 90 cents and lunch cost was \$2.00. He asked for the boards consideration to add grades seven and eight for this upcoming school year.

In past years, parents have been able to apply for their child to receive a free or reduced breakfast at a cost of 30 cents and the reduced lunch cost at 40 cents. Under the new policy, all children in these grades will be eligible without submitting an application. Mr. Tucker noted he is also excited that no paperwork is involved for the parents or staff. He added that he plans to continue applying and hopefully be able to extend the program to all grade levels. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 5-0 vote at 6:10 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the food service program to feed breakfast and lunch, free of charge, for all students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

District behavior support specialist, Holly Billings visited with the board about her work in the district this past school year. She had at least five goals for the past school year: to build relationships at each building with principals and staff; learn the culture of each school; provide professional development for each school about her role, and learn the needs of each school and provide support, consultation, and professional development based on these needs. She was able to consult, observe and/or work with students from all elementary schools, Washington Middle School, Barton Jr. High School and Murrell Educational Center. The total visited was 125. She noted that she was able to provide ongoing follow-up as needed for teachers, administrators and students.

Ms. Billings explained that she developed a working behavior plan document that is able to be used in every school, regardless of the grade. This document uses input from student, guardians, teacher and counselors. The hope is to provide a holistic approach to individual student needs. She noted that she assisted in support multiple behavior plan meetings throughout the district. This has allowed her to further build relationships with the school staff and student guardians. In the fall, she was approached by the Teacher Leaders Group at the high school to present to all the staff about self-care. This appeared to be well received. She was asked to come back in the spring to present to the entire staff about mental health and seeking treatment.

She said that she has learned about the needs in the district as she has built relationships and learned the culture of each school. In this process she has learned about the mental health process currently in our district. She has spent time with Mrs. Debbie McAdams and learned how our district manages healthcare overall. There is a growing and unmet need nationwide for mental health care for children and youth. The Arkansas Department of Education has a best practice manual for School Based Mental Health, she added. Of the students who do receive mental health care, nearly two-thirds receive the care in school only.

Ms. Billings explained that board director Renee Skinner attended a conference earlier this year and was a participant in a break out session related to school based mental health, specifically the program being implemented in Mountain Home's school district. Through this information Ms. Billings was able to connect with the mental health coordinator in Mt. Home and learn what he has done to meet his district needs and move closer to the A.D.E. Best Practice Standard. She also was able to attend the A.D.E. State Quarterly School Based Mental Health meeting to learn about current statewide needs, policies, and learn how to implement into our district. Ms. Billings said school based mental health aims to reduce barriers and increase access to mental health care. It provides an opportunity for early intervention, prevention and positive development and regular communication with guardians. School based mental health reduces time out of class, allowing for minimal interruption of learning. She has connected with representatives of local community mental health providers in hopes of increasing cooperation within the district. This is a vital relationship that needs to be fostered. Providing a multi-tiered system of support allows for all students to have access to what they need. School professionals can only provide care and support for short term, time limited issues. Community mental health providers are able to provide more extensive services and interventions for students.

She explained, currently the school and community providers have operated separately. The community providers come to the respective schools, see the assigned students and leave with very little communication. In meeting with school and community providers the consensus was that all want to increase communication and collaboration. Having a single person be the liaison for this process will help to facilitate better communication. Improving communication and contact will assist the school staff and the community providers to work collaboratively to provide for the student needs holistically. Often, one or the other may have information that is helpful for the other. She said by working together, we can create a more seamless, comprehensive delivery of services. The hope is that this will also reduce stress on the families and support their role in the process. Coming together for the best interest of the student is the goal of the school district and the community providers, she said.

Ms. Billings said her goals for 2019 – 2020 are to build on the identified needs in each individual school; provide additional professional development relating to trauma informed practice, compassionate schools, and restorative practices; move toward the Arkansas Department of Education's best practices for school based mental health; continue to be active with students as needs arise; provide support for teachers and assistance in implementing interventions for individual students; provide crisis support as needed; continue to build relationships with administrators, teachers and staff – with many changes in schools, the culture will most likely shift as well; expand services further into the middle school and junior high school; collaborate with community mental health agencies to provide for the needs of students, and continue to support the needs of the district as they arise. 6:35 p.m.

Sylvia Thompson gave a report on the El Dorado Promise program. She said in January 2007, \$50 million was pledged by the Murphy Oil Corporation for all students who graduate from the El Dorado School District. She noted that eligibility percentage is based on length of attendance in the district. As of the 2018 – 2019 school year that amount is \$9,067.50 per year. In her power point-presentation she showed charts of where students are going to college with 21% out of state and 79% attending in state. Ten percent of our graduates are in private universities and 90% are in public universities. She added that 21% are in two year programs and 79% are in four year programs.

The top five public universities attended are: South Arkansas Community College – 18%; Southern Arkansas University – 15%; University of Central Arkansas – 12%; University of Arkansas at Fayetteville – 11% and Henderson State University – 65%. Other schools with top attendance are Louisiana Tech University, University of Arkansas at Monticello and Ouachita Baptist University. She said that Promise scholars have attended 140 different colleges and universities in 32 different states. The scholars have graduated from 39 different out of state colleges. They have graduated from almost all of the four-year state colleges and many of the private. Promise scholars are currently attending 73 different colleges, she added.

The Promise outreach involves Kinderbash and first day of school events; FAFSA workshops; senior parent presentations; E.H.S. Open House and parent teacher conferences; American Education Week activities at Retta Brown Elementary; Barton Jr. High School's eighth grade classes; Chamber of Commerce ULead program; Rotary and Civitan Club meetings; Remind 101 – Text messaging; Paying it Forward and ESD Podcast. The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Academic Signing Day on April 24 had keynote speaker ABC News Anchor, T.J. Holmes. Mrs. Thompson showed the 2017 – 2018 spring retention rates with all Promise freshmen with a 2.51 grade point average and in the fall of 2018 the average G.P.A. was 2.93 - up by 17%.

Mrs. Thompson said on May 17, 2019 Murphy Oil Corporation held a Selective College Summit which was an event to enlighten approximately twenty-five high achieving students about the requirements, admission process and benefits of attending a top ranked selective college. Four former E.H.S. students, Sophia Meyers, K. C. Hall, Suzanne Skinner and John Thomas Shepard spoke with the group. Mrs. Thompson ended with the list of future events: PromiseNet 2019 presentation at University of California at Berkeley in November 2019, Paying It Forward event on January 7, 2020 and Promise Week Celebration which will be held January 21 – 24, 2020. 6:55 p.m.

Melissa Powell presented the district's 2019 – 2020 Salary Schedules for Licensed and Classified Staff and Stipend Schedule. She explained about the need in a couple of areas to meet the new minimum wage. Mrs. Powell added that she has two licensed positions that will be filled by Monday and in need of three paraprofessionals before the start of school. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Susan Turbeville and carried on a 6-0 vote at 7:00 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the 2019 – 2020 Salary Schedules for Licensed and Classified Staff and the Stipend Schedule.

The board approved petition for transfer requests for eight students to transfer to Junction City district, two students to Parkers Chapel district and one student to Smackover-Norphlet district at 7:01p.m.

Geni Smith presented the Board & District Policies Handbook and the district Student Handbook to the board. She said the district subscribes to the Arkansas School Boards Association's policy service in order to comply with current and new laws affecting school boards, district staff and students. Mrs. Smith and Mr. Tucker covered several policies with the board and Mr. Tucker asked for any questions following the board's review of the policies. He noted the board has had the policies for a while but actually has a month to review them before voting. He stated the need to go ahead and approve the Student Handbook in order to get it copied and in parent's hands at the start of school. After some discussion and on a motion by Wayne Gibson to suspend the rules, seconded by Keith Smith and on a 6-0 vote Susan Turbeville motioned to approve the Board & District Policies Handbook and the district Student Handbook, seconded by Todd Whatley and carried on a 6-0 vote at 7:04 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the 2019 – 2020 Board & District Policies Handbook and the district Student Handbook.

Mrs. Skinner said the 2019 Southern Region Leadership Conference is July 25 – 27 in New Orleans, Louisiana and our board has several directors attending. Board members from Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi are represented at this conference. She said Opening Session for Licensed Staff will be Tuesday, August 6 at 8:00 a.m. in the E.H.S. Fine Arts Auditorium. She added the New Teacher Breakfast is Tuesday, August 8 at 7:30 a.m. at the College Avenue Church of Christ. 7:06 p.m.

The meeting adjourned to an executive session to discuss personnel matters, then reconvened to an open meeting. On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 6-0 vote at 8:10 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.