

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board  
November 11, 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. Directors present were Vicky Dobson, Wayne Gibson, Keith Smith, Susan Turbeville, and Shaneil Yarbrough. Director Todd Whatley was absent. Also attending was Supt. Jim Tucker, Rhonda Simmons, Melissa Powell, 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 meeting held October 14. On a motion by Vicky Dobson, seconded by Keith Smith, and carried on a 6-0 vote at 6:00 p.m., the minutes were approved.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Shaneil Yarbrough, and carried on a 6-0 vote at 6:00 p.m., the bills were approved for payment. A list of bills paid and monthly financial statement are on file in the business office.

Jim Tucker visited with the board about consideration of a one-time payment to the staff. He asked them to consider \$600.00 for licensed employees. With approval the checks will go to employees on November 20<sup>th</sup>. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Shaneil Yarbrough, and carried on a 6-0 vote at 6:02 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approved a \$600.00 payment to the licensed staff and 1.64% payment, not to exceed \$600 for classified employees. Payment to be made November 20<sup>th</sup>.

The 98th observance of American Education Week will be November 12 – 16, 2019.

Mr. Gibson introduced the Student of the Month from Northwest Elementary School, Autumn Kingery. He said Autumn is the fourth grade daughter of Josh and Mandy Kingery and in Mrs. Fulco's homeroom. Her teachers describe Autumn as responsible, quiet, willing to help others, caring and kind-hearted.

Mrs. Thomas, her assistant principal loves that Autumn always has a smile on her face and gives the best morning hugs each day. Her principal, Mrs. Floss said, "Autumn is the model student. She works hard every day and is so respectful to everyone she meets." Northwest staff and students are excited that Autumn Kingery has been chosen Student of the Month. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:04 p.m.

Classified Employee of the Month from Northwest Elementary School is Cherisa McGhee. Mr. Gibson said Ms. McGhee is a special education paraprofessional with twenty-three years of experience in the El Dorado School District. Her co-workers say that Ms. McGhee goes the extra mile every day helping wherever and whenever she is needed. She just sees a need, steps in and does whatever is necessary.

Mrs. Floss, her principal describes Mrs. McGhee as the epitome of a hard worker. She treats every child as if they are her own and truly believes that relationships are the key to success. Northwest is such a better place with Cherisa McGhee there and we are thrilled that she is the district's Classified Employee of the Month. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:06 p.m.

Mr. Gibson said Teacher of the Month from Northwest Elementary School is Roddie Calloway. Mrs. Calloway received her Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Southern Arkansas University and has nine additional graduate hours. Mrs. Calloway is a first grade teacher in her eighteenth year of teaching, eleven of those years in our district and at Northwest! She is married to Stan and has a son, Jake who is a junior at El Dorado High School.

Mrs. Calloway's assistant principal, Mrs. Thomas describes her as the true definition of a team player. She goes above and beyond to ensure her students are successful in their

learning. Her co-workers say that she is hare working, encouraging and always positive. Mrs. Calloway is amazing, says Mrs. Floss, her principal. She is great with classroom management and uses awesome teaching strategies that keep every student engaged. Mrs. Floss added the best part is that Mrs. Calloway excitingly shares anything and everything with others because she wants everyone to succeed! Northwest is very proud that Roddie Calloway was chosen Teacher of the Month. 6:08 p.m.

Sherry Floss, principal at Northwest Elementary School gave a report to the board. The theme of this school year is: Northwest...A World Where You Can BE Anything! Throughout the school year a few of the areas they encourage is to BE a Roadrunner, BE a Wildcat, BE the Promise, BE \_\_\_\_\_, and BE YOURSELF! She showed pictures of the staff and said they have some of the best people working at Northwest, which exemplifies...BE Amazing. She explained and showed pictures of the schools Data Wall for literacy and math, which helps students BE Accountable. The Data Wall is used to help students to see where they are going following testing.

Mrs. Floss explained about RISE (Reading Intervention for Students to Excel) and RTI (Respond to Intervention) that pull students that need extra help in reading skills. The AR program (Accelerated Reader) encourages students to read independently, at their level, and their own pace. Students take short quizzes on what they read and earn points. AR helps teachers track students' independent practice and progress with reading. AR students reaching a recent goal were treated to a field trip to the City Park. Regarding BE Engaged, Mrs. Floss explained about Moby Max's adaptive curriculum which creates an individualized education plan for each student and can be accessed at home. The personalized learning finds and fixes learning gaps while allowing students to progress as quickly as they like while ensuring that students that need extra instruction receive needed help.

BE Thankful covered Read for the Record week with the book, *Thank You, Omu!* The story is about Omu, who cooks a stew and shares it with her neighbors; the neighbors show their gratitude by bringing her food. Clint Knighton, vice president of Hope Landing was one reader that came to the school to read the book to students. Other community patrons and district staff readers included Police Officer: Eric Meadows; Athletes: Jordan Tubbs, Jamalzia Thompson, Brendan Simmons and G'Savion Livingston; School Nurse: Amy Reep; Dance Instructor: Amber Michael; Hot Dog Vendor: Don Guthrie; Singer: Jonathan Holland; Baker: Jessica Davis; Director of Transportation: John Thompson, and School Superintendent: Jim Tucker. Jeannie Strother and staff of the El Dorado Education Foundation, Alice Mahony and Lila Phillips worked with students during the Read for the Record week to BE Creative. Mrs. Floss expressed her appreciation to all, including her teachers, that helped to make this a successful week.

Mrs. Floss' presentation finished with pictures of student activities and clubs that represented BE Yourself. Coach Bass dresses as a super hero and encourages students on a regular basis, the Northwest first – fourth grade choir recently sang at the Union County Court House to kick off Red Ribbon Week, the Gentleman's Club recently met and learned how to tie a necktie, classes have cupcakes during student's birthday month to celebrate those with birthdays, and the school had a decorated float in the recent Homecoming Parade! She said staff and students are excited about upcoming events and studies and are encouraged - In a World Where You Can Be Anything, BE YOURSELF! 6:25 p.m.

Emme Landes, with the El Dorado High School Student Council, reported on the recent Homecoming activities and said they were fun. She said student council cut ribbons for teacher's cars for Homecoming. Emme explained she recently suffered a broken arm but wanted to express her appreciation to the high school staff that offered homework help while she was out of school. 6:27 p.m.

Katie Sandifer said this is the second year the district has participated in the Veteran's Diploma program. The program was created by the Arkansas State Department of Education to recognize the service of military veterans by giving them the opportunity to

receive a high school diploma. Veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War are eligible for the program.

A veteran must also meet the following qualifications: have been honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces; be a resident of the state of Arkansas; and have served a minimum of eighteen consecutive months in active duty or have been discharged with a service-connected disability during one of the wars mentioned above. Mrs. Sandifer said last school year, two veterans were awarded diplomas and their families bought them class rings. Mrs. Sandifer said, “I think for everybody it was a very moving experience. They were very excited and we were so excited to be able to do that and we still hear from them.” Those wishing to participate should contact Katie Sandifer at the school administration office.

Mrs. Sandifer asked the board’s consideration to continue the program. On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Shaneil Yarbrough and carried on a 6-0 vote at 6:30 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the continuation of the district’s veteran’s diploma program.

Mr. Tucker visited with the board concerning construction bids on a new transportation, maintenance and food services facility. He reminded them that architect Blake Dunn visited with them in March about the facility.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Coker Building Company, Inc., Texarkana	\$3,753,841.00
Shields & Associates, Inc., Little Rock	3,730,000.00
ERC General Contractors, LLC, El Dorado	3,650,000.00
Diversified Construction & Design, El Dorado	3,387,000.00
Ideal Construction Company, Crossett	3,224,800.00
Moser Construction, LLC, Bryant	2,987,575.00

Mr. Tucker recommended the bid from Moser Construction, LLC at the negotiated price of \$2,718,868.00. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Wayne Gibson and carried on a 6-0 vote at 6:34 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the bid from Moser Construction, LLC, Bryant, Arkansas of \$2,718,868.00 for the new transportation, maintenance and food services facility.

The board approved the transfer request for one student that lives in Parkers Chapel to attend school in El Dorado School District.

Mrs. Skinner reminded board members that the A.S.B.A. Annual Conference will be December 11–13 in Little Rock at the Marriott Hotel and Statehouse Convention Center. She also noted the need for a board representative to the Delegate Assembly. On a motion by Wayne Gibson to nominate Renee Skinner, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on 6-0 vote at 6:35 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves Renee Skinner as the board representative to the Delegate Assembly at the A.S.B.A. Annual Conference, December 11-13.

The board went into an executive session to handle personnel matters and then returned to an open session. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 6-0 vote at 7:20 p.m., it was

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.