

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
October 14, 2019

The directors of the board met on the above date at 6:00 p.m., in the Board Room, School Administration Office, 200 West Oak Street with Renee Skinner presiding. Other 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, Katie Sandifer, Bonnie Haynie, Shelley Pruitt, and Lou Ann Voris.

Mrs. Skinner opened the meeting and invited the board and audience to go to the front of the administration building to hear the El Dorado High School Band perform. The band wore their new uniforms and thanked the administration and board for them. Following the performance Mikayla Young, Brice Dolden and Hunter Cunningham talked with the board and audience about what the band meant to them and thanked the board for their new uniforms. 6:13 p.m.

The directors and audience returned to the board room. Mrs. Skinner said, "On September 26, El Dorado lost a warrior for education in the passing of Knox White. As a board, we would like to acknowledge the investment Knox made in the City of El Dorado by supporting education. He was instrumental in developing the El Dorado Promise and was involved in forming the El Dorado Education Foundation, which provides substantial grants to teachers in the El Dorado School District.

His good will and belief in community has influenced the way people in our community work together for the greater good of the students in our district. This board is very appreciative for his contribution to education." 6:15 p.m.

Mrs. Skinner asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meetings held September 9 and 24. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 6-0 vote, the minutes were approved at 6:15 p.m.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. After some discussion and on a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Susan Turbeville, and carried on a 6-0 vote at 6:16 p.m. the bills were approved for payment. A list of bills paid and monthly financial statement are on file in the business office.

Wayne Gibson introduced Luke Vinson Student of the Month from Hugh Goodwin Elementary School. Luke is a third grader, the son of Eli and Amie Vinson and has one brother, Canaan. His teacher Mrs. Lites said, "Luke asks questions because he wants to not only learn the process, but also understand the math behind the concepts. He participates and motivates his peers as well. He is helpful in class and has a good attitude. Luke goes above and beyond what is asked and required of him. He has also reached 144 AR math points already this year. He has excelled at concepts that haven't even been taught yet."

His principal, Mrs. Jessica Collins said Luke's sweet disposition and motivational focus is a joy and blessing to have at Hugh Goodwin. He wants to be a professional baseball player when he grows up and his favorite team is the Razorbacks! Luke is truly a Great Gator Leader and we are all so proud of him! Mr. Gibson presented Luke with a certificate from the board. 6:19 p.m.

Classified Employee of the Month from Hugh Goodwin Elementary is Patti VanSickle. Mr. Gibson said Mrs. VanSickle has had many roles at Hugh Goodwin over the years but her most recent role is in the special education department as a paraprofessional. She has been at Hugh Goodwin for eleven years. She is hard working, patient, kind and intelligent. Mrs. VanSickle will always lend a helping hand and is a great sounding board for fellow educators. She listens to comments and concerns and tries to help by offering great solutions.

Mrs. Koonce the lead teacher for special education at Hugh Goodwin said, "Mrs. VanSickle is compassionate, hardworking and dependable. She is a go-getter and is always on the run making sure each student has exactly what they need. Patti works

endlessly to make her intervention times effective and efficient. She will find inventive ways to make learning fun for the students she is servicing and she isn't just a support for students but her fellow teachers. Many of us couldn't do our jobs to the standard we do without her support and hard work." Her principal, Mrs. Jesica Collins said that Mrs. VanSickle models leadership skills to her students by being an outstanding leader in our school. She works diligently to help each student do his or her best. She pushes them gently, but firmly to get the absolute most out of them. Hugh Goodwin applauds Patti VanSickle for her dedication and effort to go "above and beyond" each and every day! Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:21 p.m.

Hugh Goodwin's Joely Jackson was chosen Teacher of the Month. Mr. Gibson said Mrs. Jackson received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Arkansas at Monticello. This is her twenty-first year of teaching and she is currently teaching second grade math and science.

Fellow co-workers said: Mrs. Jackson goes above and beyond doing things for our school. She is truly fabulous and so deserving. Another said, her classroom is an exciting place that is always "beaming" with fun and motivational learning activities. Her principal, Mrs. Jesica Collins said: Joely Jackson is an exceptional second grade teacher. Enthusiasm for teaching and student learning just pours out of her daily. She can take the most mundane and simple objective and turn it into a fascinating and exciting lesson. Her students are always engaged to the maximum extent.

This year Mrs. Jackson received an El Dorado Education Foundation grant for a Farm to School program to begin at Hugh Goodwin. In fact, some students have started calling her the "Chicken Lady." She has been working hard to transform the courtyard. She knows the value of real world learning and experiences by teaching her students more about science and captivating their interest beyond the classroom. The quality of her teaching is exemplified by the success of her students. Her reputation shows that she teaches the "whole" child and feels a deep responsibility to help each student succeed.

Joely Jackson works to reach each student by providing challenging instruction and setting high expectations for her struggling students, while making sure everyone feels successful. She is an outstanding leader at our school and Hugh Goodwin is proud that she was chosen Teacher of the Month! Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:23 p.m.

Jesica Collins gave a principal's report from Hugh Goodwin Elementary School. She stated Hugh Goodwin's faculty is awesome. The theme at the school this year is "We are on the right trail...Camping at Hugh Goodwin! From little seeds grow mighty trees." The vision is: Hugh Goodwin students are our first priority. We believe every child can learn, wants to learn, and deserves to learn. We will do whatever it takes to achieve academic excellence while providing each student a safe and loving environment. The core concepts of reading, writing, math and science will remain the focus of our curriculum, Mrs. Colling said. She added the district mission statement is: By focusing on student engagement, implementing Common Core State Standards and teaching 21st Century Skills, all students in El Dorado School District will become college and/or career ready in a safe learning environment.

Hugh Goodwin faculty has pulled together to make an exciting year while working on school improvement plan goals and getting students at level and ACT ready. She explained in Response to Intervention (RTI), a process used by educators to help students who are struggling with a skill or lesson; every teacher will use interventions (a set of teaching procedures) with any student to help them succeed in the classroom—it's not just for children with special needs or a learning disability. In her power point presentation, she showed the new phonological awareness approach. Phonological awareness is the foundation for learning to read. It's the ability to recognize and work with sounds in spoken language and some students pick it up naturally, but others need more help. Reading actually starts with students tuning in to the sounds of spoken words. Phonemic awareness includes the ability to separate a word into the sounds that make it up and blend single sounds into words. It also involves the ability to add, subtract, or substitute new sounds in words. Literacy facilitator, Kathy Sixbey and teachers, Leah Barbarotto and Brooklyn Nesbitt worked with the board on several

examples of how these lessons happen in the classrooms. The lessons are designed to deliver Tier 1 phonemic awareness instruction in a whole group setting and only takes 10 to 12 minutes. Math and literacy goals are to use student assessment results as part of the data-driven decision making process to develop specific intervention strategies for individual students and revise instruction for entire classes. Hugh Goodwin will make every effort to ensure that all students have an opportunity to be recognized and praised for their hard work and improvement.

Mrs. Collins covered the monthly events at Hugh Goodwin. A few of those include U. S. Constitution Day and Celebrate Freedom Week in September; Movie Under the Stars, Read for the Record and Fire Prevention Week in October; November will see a Veteran's Day Parade, trip to the Amazeum in Bentonville for third graders and Hugh Goodwin's Family Night; Nutcracker performances in December; Promise Week and 100th Day of School in January; February will have a History Parade and Magnet Fair; Dr. Seuss/Read Across America event and Spelling Bee will be in March; Talent Show and ACT Aspire will take place in April, and May will see the Annual Field Day, trip to Sea World for 4th graders and Kindergarten Opera. Mrs. Collins said some new areas at the school include Makerspace, Lego Table, Reading Nook, flexible seating and the Hugh-Morning Announcements where students will get an introduction to working with green screen TV production. Librarian Sara Bullard has been instrumental in many of these projects. The school has also incorporated Theme Days –Motivational Mystery Monday; Tune it up Tuesday; Writer's Wednesday; Thankful/Think Outside the Box Thursday and Flashlight Fridays. This year they have continued the Clap Out Parade within the school for kindergarten students when they reach their daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and year end reading goals. When they have their parade the older students clap out the kindergarten students reading success.

Joely Jackson received grant money for several projects that included a chicken coop and improvement to the school's courtyard. The Union County Extension Office personnel came to the school to help her get the correct soil for the coop and workers will come in next week to get twenty-one beds right for the chickens. Mrs. Jackson's chickens won first and second place at the recent Union County Fair. A group of volunteers from the Master Gardner's will help with the courtyard and flowerbeds. Mrs. Collins said Hugh Goodwin teachers attended professional development regarding healthy meals and recently visited Forest Park Elementary School to learn their approach to academics and visit their sensory gardens. Mrs. Collins noted that school health coordinator for the district, Debbie McAdams held a Take Your Parents to P.E. Day and the event was successful with many parents attending. She stated it's been a successful start to the school year and all the upcoming events, projects and instructional achievements will continue to make it a wonderful year. 6:44 p.m.

Erinn Roblee, vice president of student council at El Dorado High School, gave an update to the board. She said the new strength and conditioning class is great as far as preparing student athletes for college. Erinn noted a few problems and made suggestions for improvements to this new class. Once these are worked out this class should be awesome. Erinn said Ms. Antoon, Mrs. Forbess, and Mrs. Mobbs are some of her teachers that she has noticed greatly use the knowledge they have obtained from their many trips to staff development. They have helped her feel prepared for her future college career. She said El Dorado High School has been a great place for her to grow in her education due to the many clubs and AP classes that she is involved in. She greatly appreciates all the school board does to make El Dorado School District the best it can be. 6:48 p.m.

Shawn Lamkin presented the special education budgets and surrogate parent program for the board's consideration. She noted the special education budgets were voted on by the board in the spring but a requirement is to review again in the fall for state and local equalization, Medicaid, catastrophic and ARMAC. Those budgets were included in the board member's packets to study and Ms. Lamkin gave a detailed description of each. The budgets are on file in the special education department and school administration office. She also visited with them about the surrogate parent representatives for 2019 – 2020 school year and reminded them this area was voted on in the May board meeting and reviewed with them the representatives: Gwen Williams, Linda Coleman and Don

Thompson. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Shaneil Yarbrough and carried on a 6-0 vote at 6:57 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the budgets for Title VI-B, State and Local, Catastrophic, ARMAC, Medicaid and the surrogate parent representatives.

Mr. Tucker presented the resolution for board support of the 2020 six-year master plan of facilities. He discussed this is a requirement of the state, will be forwarded to the facilities division following the board's vote and approval of the resolution.

RESOLUTION FOR LOCAL SUPPORT OF 2020 6-YEAR MASTER PLAN & PARTNERSHIP PROJECT APPLICATIONS 2021/2023 BIENNIUM

WHEREAS the El Dorado School Board has reviewed and voted yes to fully support the School District's 2020, 6-Year Master Plan and 2021-2023 Partnership Project Applications; and

WHEREAS the El Dorado School Board understands that the Arkansas Division of Public School Academic Facilities & Transportation must approve said masterplans and project applications; and

WHEREAS the El Dorado School Board understands that when partnership applications and masterplans are approved the Academic Facilities Division through the legislative appropriations may participate in the construction of academic facilities at the state computed wealth index as funding permits,

BE IT RESOLVED

that the El Dorado School Board has voted to dedicate local resources to meet the school district's share of financial participation in approved new construction projects listed on the 6-Year Master Plan and applied for within the 2021/2023 Partnership funding biennium.

On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Keith Smith and carried on a 6-0 vote, at 7:00 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the resolution for board support of the 2020 Six-Year Master Plan of Facilities.

Mr. Tucker noted that director Wayne Gibson serves on the board of the Medical Center of South Arkansas and recently received the Distinguished Service Award from the Arkansas Hospital Association. Mr. Tucker said the school board wanted to congratulate him on this honor. 7:01 p.m.

Mrs. Skinner stated each year the directors visit the district schools at lunch. She explained the visits will begin Thursday, November 21 and each board member has been given a list of schools and dates of those visits. She reminded the board of the A.S.B.A. Region 13 Annual Meeting that will be Tuesday, Oct. 22 at Magnolia High School. She said the A.S.B.A. Fall Leadership Institute will be held Friday, November 1 at the Chancellor Hotel in Fayetteville. Mrs. Skinner also reminded them that the A.S.B.A. Annual Conference is December 11 – 13 at the Marriott Hotel and Statehouse Convention Center. 7:03 p.m.

The meeting adjourned to an executive session to discuss personnel matters, then reconvened to an open meeting. On a motion Susan Turbeville, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 6-0 vote at 7:42 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.

