

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
January 14, 2013**

The directors of the board met on the above date at 7:00 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, Susan Turbeville, Will Vance, and Todd Whatley. Also attending was Supt. Bob Watson, Jim Tucker, Rhonda Simmons, Shirley Billingly, Shelley Pruitt, and Lou Ann Voris.

Mrs. Skinner asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting held December 9. On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 7:00 p.m., the minutes were approved.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. After some discussion and on a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 7-0 vote, the bills were approved for payment. A list of bills paid and monthly financial statement are on file in the business office. 7:01 p.m.

Shelley Pruitt presented the bid received for the school leader's errors and omissions insurance. Mrs. Pruitt stated that one bid was received from the same company the district currently has the policy with and the bid is actually down by \$329.00. Western World Insurance Company writes the policy; all coverage and deductibles remain the same. The coverage will run from February 1, 2014 to February 1, 2015.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>
First Arkansas Insurance, Pine Bluff	\$12,661.00

On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Keith Smith, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 7:02 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the bid \$12,661.00 from First Arkansas Insurance for the school leaders errors and omissions insurance policy.

Mr. Watson stated that Governor Mike Beebe has proclaimed January as Arkansas School Board Member Recognition Month. Wayne Gibson read the proclamation from the governor. Mr. Watson stated that staff, students, and patrons greatly appreciate the board's time, commitment, and energy to the students of the district. 7:05 p.m.

Student of the month from Northwest Elementary School is Karina Castanon. She is a fourth grader and the daughter of Hermelina and Felipe Castanon. Karina has been a student at Northwest since kindergarten. Her teachers, Miss Faulkner and Mrs. Griffin stated she has had perfect attendance, been on the All A Honor Roll, and participates in all classroom activities with a respectable attitude. Karina is a wonderful, dedicated, and modest student in and out of the classroom. She is exceptionally patient and helps her peers work through the most confusing and complicated tasks.

Karina is a skillful writer and thorough mathematician. She continuously works hard every day and exhibits an intense drive to learn, grow, and improve. She is a leader and good example for other Northwest students. Her principal, Mrs. Henry said that Northwest appreciates students, like Karina, that are hard workers both in and out of the classroom. She is one of the most pleasant, all-around good students I have had the honor to be around. She always has a smile on her face when meeting me in the hallway. While maintaining her academic performance at an advanced level, she attends to school rules and is a willing helper to other students as well as teachers. Mrs. Skinner presented Karina with a certificate from the board. 7:09 p.m.

Classified employee of the month is Cherisa McGhee. Ms. McGhee is a paraprofessional in the special education department at Northwest Elementary school. She has been with the district for seventeen years. Co-workers nominating Ms. McGhee stated she grew up with a great role model in her beloved mother, Billie Jean Jones, who taught math and was the math coordinator at EHS until her retirement. Her mother was well respected

and admired by all who knew her as is Ms. McGhee. Ms. McGhee has placed education at the top of her life beginning with college in elementary education.

Ms. McGhee has been a paraprofessional in Mrs. Nunnally's self-contained classroom for the past eleven years, working with special needs children. She has a true love for these students, showing love, compassion, instruction, and self-discipline. She can reach children that others have difficulty reaching. Over and over again she has proved to be an exceptional leader, co-worker, friend, and inspiration to all she meets. Any of the parents of the children she has worked with will tell you that she has made a difference and lasting impression in their child's life. Her principal, Michelle Henry stated that Ms. McGhee is a joy to have as part of our Northwest family. She is always friendly and a hard worker. She takes her job seriously and instruction from her supervisor respectfully. The students are definitely her top priority. Mrs. Skinner presented her with a certificate from the board. 7:11 p.m.

Teacher of the month from is Gay Bechtelheimer. Mrs. Bechtelheimer received her Bachelors of Science degree in Art Education K-12 from Louisiana Tech University, graduating cum laude. Mrs. Bechtelheimer's twenty-seven years of teaching have all been in our district and she is the art teacher at Northwest Elementary School.

Fellow co-workers nominating Mrs. Bechtelheimer stated she brightens our school with her smile and artistic way. She provides a positive learning environment for our students in intervention groups and the difference can be seen in the students with which she works. They noted that it is an honor to have a co-worker that has been nominated by Governor Beebe to represent District 7 on the Arkansas Arts Council, re-appointed, and is the incoming Chair of the Council.

Her principal, Mrs. Henry stated Mrs. Bechtelheimer is such an asset to Northwest. She makes our building warm and inviting with her artistic ability. She shows the students her appreciation by consistently filling our halls with their artwork. She has a gentle spirit and a kindness that is evident when working with students. She also has a way to get students in literacy intervention to perform. Her willingness to help out fellow teachers with projects, no matter how busy she is, makes her loved among her co-workers. She is a team player and always has a positive attitude. Mrs. Skinner presented Mrs. Bechtelheimer with a certificate from the board. 7:13 p.m.

Mr. Watson stated that a Petition for Transfer Request had been filed by a parent for the board's consideration. He said that Linda Miller stated she plans to remain living in El Dorado but wishes for her son, Dementrias C. Miller, age 15 years old to transfer to Parkers Chapel. Mr. Watson stated he is recommending the legal transfer. On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 7:14 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the transfer of Dementrias C. Miller to transfer to Parkers Chapel School District.

Sherry Hill asked the boards consideration for Barton Jr. High School to pursue establishing a chapter in the National Junior Honor Society. Schools pursuing the National Junior Honor Society must contact the national office, complete a charter application and following approval, establish and maintain the chapter on campus. A faculty member must serve as an adviser. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 7:17 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves Barton Jr. High School to pursue establishing a National Junior Honor Society Chapter.

Sherry Hill spoke with board members about her desire for use of a therapy dog in the self-contained classroom and also in another classroom. She introduced Karen Millican, a part-time teacher at Barton. Mrs. Millican and her husband, Gary own the certified and trained therapy dog, Wilson, a hypoallergenic Labradoodle. Mrs. Millican told members about the improvements seen in students at ECCEL and HOPE Landing, facilities for special needs children in Union County. She also said that trained therapy dogs have

positive effects on children and oftentimes reduce student stress and improve problems with discipline. She showed a brief video filmed at Vilonia Middle School about a certified therapy dog there, Bella, also a Labradoodle. The video highlighted the positive results expressed by students in the classes with Bella. After some discussion and on a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Keith Smith, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 7:24 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the use of a certified therapy dog by handlers, Karen and Gary Millican to be used at Barton Jr. High School.

Mr. Watson stated in the December board meeting Alva Reibe presented a request for the board's consideration for students to be allowed to use their cell phones and ear buds before school in the Commons and Main Street areas only, in addition to using their phones during lunch periods. On a motion by Keith Smith, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 7-0 vote 7:28 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves allowance of student use of their cell phones and ear buds before school in the Commons and Main Street areas only, in addition to using their phones during lunch periods.

Mr. Watson stated the Arkansas School Boards Association has asked for one board representative from each school district to serve as its legislative liaison. The liaisons are a vital part of ASBA's Advocacy Network. The liaisons' major role will be to share information they receive from ASBA with their fellow board members. The Fiscal Session starts soon and there is a need to be prepared for vital communications, according to the ASBA. Mr. Watson said that Wayne Gibson has agreed to be the El Dorado legislative liaison to the ASBA. 7:30 p.m.

During the meeting Will Vance announced his resignation from the school board. He explained his decision was based on the fact his boys had graduated in 2012 and stated this board meeting would be his last. Mr. Vance thanked former and present board members and area patrons and stated he has enjoyed his time on the board. He noted that he will stay involved in the school district and community. Board members thanked Mr. Vance for his service on the board. 7:43 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 Keith Smith, and carried on a 7-0 vote 8:10 p.m. it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the superintendent's recommendations concerning the acceptance of a resignation of a paraprofessional. The board accepts the resignation of Superintendent Bob Watson, effective June 30, 2014 and will pay for any unused vacation time he has accrued.

On a motion by Wayne Gibson seconded by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 8:23, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby hires Jim Tucker as superintendent, effective July 1, 2014 at a salary of \$136,000.00. The salary amount includes travel allotment.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.