

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board  
September 8, 2014**

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 Wayne Gibson, Chris Lutman, Keith Smith, and Susan Turbeville. Director Vicky Dobson entered at 7:14 p.m. Director Todd Whatley was absent. Also attending was Supt. Jim Tucker, Shirley Billingly, Rhonda Simmons, Bonnie Haynie, Shelley Pruitt, and Lou Ann Voris.

Mrs. Skinner asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meetings held July 15 and August 12. On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Wayne Gibson, and carried on a 5-0 vote, the minutes were approved at 7:01 p.m.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. After some discussion and on a motion by Chris Lutman, seconded by Susan Turbeville, and carried on a 5-0 vote, the bills were approved for payment. A list of bills paid and a monthly financial statement are on file in the business office. 7:02 p.m.

Shelley Pruitt reviewed the end of year financial statement and transfer of funds with the board. Mrs. Pruitt reported local revenues of \$13,438,082.13, state revenue of \$19,042,014.00 and miscellaneous revenue to bring the total revenue amount to \$32,751,615.20. Total expenditures for the year were listed at \$30,684,602.40 with an ending cash balance of \$4,653,610.75. She reported ending balances in the English Language Learners fund of \$34,736.37; in the Professional Development Fund, \$20,760.92; in the NSLA Fund (National School Lunch Act), \$121,565.51; in the Debt Service Fund, \$100.03; in the Building Fund, \$1,459,630.39; in the Current Expenditure Fund, \$171,974.17, and a zero balance in the Athletic Fund. Mrs. Pruitt recommended four transfers of funds - \$1,580,977.50 from Operating to Debt Service; \$15,232,731.43 from Operating to Teacher Salary; \$505,296.26 from Operating to Building and \$28,614,711.91 from Unrestricted General to Operating. On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Chris Lutman, and carried on a 5-0 vote at 7:07 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the end of year financial statement and transfer of funds as presented.

Wayne Gibson introduced Student of the Month, DeAndre Bluford, from Hugh Goodwin Elementary School. DeAndre is a fourth grader and the son of Veronica Bluford. His teachers and principal stated he is a diligent observer with an amazing memory. His Storehouse of information is quite impressive. He is always listening to the teachers and soaking in the knowledge with which he is presented. Whether it is something he learned on a field trip in first grade, or a bit of information he acquired from the latest lesson, it is forever ingrained in his memory, and when the time arises, he knows just how to implement that information.

DeAndre is everyone's friend. He is kind, compassionate, and quick to always help others in need. DeAndre is also a hard worker, choosing to study long and hard for extra assignments, like Quiz Bowl. He is quiet, so his gifts may go unnoticed for a while but before long students and teachers alike realize what an extraordinary young man he is. Although he is quiet – when he speaks others know to listen because what follows is accurate and many times wise beyond his years. Staff and students at Hugh Goodwin are thrilled that DeAndre was chosen Student of the Month. Mr. Gibson presented DeAndre with a certificate from the board. 7:12 p.m.

Teacher of the Month is Tobie Sprawls from Hugh Goodwin Elementary School. Mr. Gibson said that Mrs. Sprawls received her B.S.E. from Southern Arkansas University. This is her twelfth year of teaching with four years in our district. She is currently teaching third grade at Hugh Goodwin.

Co-workers nominating her and her principal, Connie Reed stated she is an exceptional teacher and has an enthusiasm for teaching and student learning that just pours out of her daily. Mrs. Sprawls can take the most mundane, simple objective and turn it into a

fascinating exciting lesson. Her students are always engaged to the maximum extent. Her classroom is an exciting place that is always “rocking” with fun and motivational learning activities. She uses technology and hands on activities while presenting her lessons to ensure all different types of learners and learning styles are being reached. She is able to identify gifted students and provides challenging instruction, but also has very high expectations for her struggling students, making sure they also feel successful. Mrs. Sprawls is greatly respected and staff and students are excited that she was chosen Teacher of the Month. 7:13 p.m.

Mr. Gibson said that Barton Jr. High art teacher, Helene Lambert and her student, Diamond Love traveled to New York City this past summer on a trip that Diamond won for her art work. Diamond is now a ninth grader at El Dorado High School and the daughter of Shan Love and Demarcus Scott. Diamond designed the grand-prize winning flag for the Arkansas Art Educators Youth Art Month Contest. While in New York City the two attended an awards ceremony, toured the Metropolitan Museum of Art, had lunch at the Rockefeller Center, visited the Top of the Rock overlooking the city, visited the Museum of Modern Art, saw a Broadway show, visited the Statue of Liberty, and the World Trade Center Memorial. Diamond’s grand prize winning flag design was chosen as the flag for the organization in Arkansas. 7:15 p.m.

The board approved two transfer requests to Parkers Chapel School District and accepted two transfer request to the El Dorado School District. 7:17 p.m.

Shelley Pruitt stated the need for the board’s approval for the 2014-2015 Salary Schedules for Licensed and Classified Personnel. She said the schedules are remaining the same as last year. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Vicky Dobson at 7:18 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the 2014-2015 Salary Schedule for Licensed Personnel.

On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Chris Lutman, and carried on a 6-0 vote at 7:19 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the 2014-2015 Salary Schedule for Classified Personnel.

Mrs. Pruitt visited with the board regarding a resolution to be in compliance with A.C.A. §6-13-635. She explained the reasons required by the state for the district, along with all public school districts in the state, to approve and sign a resolution that lists a salary increase of 5% or more for a school district employee performing substantially the same job functions as the employee performed before receiving the salary increase. On a motion by Vicky Dobson, seconded by Susan Turbeville, and carried on a 6-0 vote at 7:25 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves a resolution to be in compliance with A.C.A. §6-13-635.

In the Annual Report to the Public, Rhonda Simmons gave a power point presentation regarding the district’s accreditation status and various aspects of the school district’s improvements during the past school term. Bonnie Haynie visited with the board regarding the Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (ACSIP), Title I, PARCC assessments, closing the achievement gap, Professional Development, Direct Instruction, Waiting to Excel, Response to Intervention, Advanced Placement scores, and Curriculum Development.

Jim Tucker reported that during the summer months, school district employees worked with the Ouachita River Valley Association to provide water for irrigation at the high school. The slope on Wildcat Drive was tapered, an irrigation system was added and the area was seeded for grass to prevent erosion. Wildcat Drive was repaired, a French drain was installed, and lightning protections was added at the high school. At Barton Jr. High School, areas were repainted, along with other maintenance and at Washington Middle

School, the School Based Health Center was completed and opened earlier this month; the heating, ventilation and air conditioning unit in the school's library was replaced and two portable buildings with paneling were repainted with flame retardant paint, as required by the state.

At Hugh Goodwin Elementary, a new device to prevent unwanted intrusion was added and areas were repainted. At Retta Brown, a new HVAC was installed in the library, exterior lighting was added and necessary repairs were completed. At Yocum, areas were painted and at Yocum Primary, new doors, new office, double entrance, teacher workroom, and the Hall Pass visitor management system was installed. At Murnil Alternative School, an area was remodeled to create a principal's office and a double entrance was completed. Also, in the annual report to the public, Mr. Tucker noted that each board director has met the state requirements of six continuing education hours for the 2013-2014 school term. New board members have fifteen months to attain their required nine hours of continuing education hours. 7:50 p.m.

Mrs. Skinner said the school election will be Tuesday, September 16 and the El Dorado board positions will be held through absentee and early voting at the County Clerk's office. Also, the Arkansas School Boards Association's New Board Member Institute will be held Tuesday, October 14 at the DoubleTree Hotel, in Little Rock from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 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 Keith Smith, and carried on a 6-0 vote at 8:50 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.

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