

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
January 20, 2015**

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, Chris Lutman, Keith Smith, Susan Turbeville, and Todd Whatley. Also attending was Supt. Jim Tucker, Shirley Billingly, Rhonda Simmons, Shelley Pruitt, and Lou Ann Voris.

Mrs. Skinner asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meetings held December 8 and January 13. On a motion by Vicky Dobson, seconded by Susan Turbeville, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:01 p.m., the minutes were approved.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. After some discussion and on a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Todd Whatley, 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. 6:02 p.m.

Wayne Gibson read the resolution from the State Board of Education proclaiming January as Arkansas School Board Member Recognition Month.

ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, more than 474,000 students attend public and charter schools in Arkansas, and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Board of Education acknowledges the importance of public education and the impact on our communities today and in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Board of Education recognizes the vital role of more than 1,450 elected local school board members who establish the mission and direction for their local districts and approve policies to guide their school systems; and

WHEREAS, school board members contribute countless hours of their time fulfilling their state-mandated roles and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, school board members must make key decisions regarding the curriculum, instruction, finance and facilities of our public schools; and

WHEREAS, school board members employ and evaluate the superintendent, who has the daily responsibility for the operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, school board members must participate in professional development every year in order to enhance their knowledge and skills related to their responsibilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Arkansas State Board of Education recognizes and salutes the members of local boards of education by proclaiming the month of January 2015, as Arkansas School Board Member Recognition Month.

*Signed: Sam Ledbetter, Chair of the State Board of Education
Dated: December 11, 2014*

Mr. Tucker stated that staff, students, and patrons greatly appreciate the board's time, commitment, and energy to the students of the district. 6:06 p.m.

Mr. Tucker recognized Wayne Gibson as one of a handful of board members across the state to receive the Platinum Award and the President's Award at the Arkansas School Boards Association's Annual Conference in December. The Platinum Award is for 400 hours or more of continuing education hours and the President's Award is for 500 hours or more. He noted that Mr. Gibson has served for twenty-five years as a member of the board and held various positions throughout the years. Mr. Tucker said that Mr. Gibson

has also served in several leadership positions with the Arkansas School Boards Association, including vice president and president.

Mr. Gibson introduced the Student of the Month, Jessica Carroll. Jessica is in the seventh grade at Barton Jr. High School and the daughter of Robin and Leslie Carroll. Jessica has an older brother, Pete, who attends El Dorado High School. She was nominated by Barton's librarian, Mrs. McCoy who said Jessica is quiet, kind, studious, excels in reading, and most recently began donating any book that she buys to our school library. She is a pre-AP student and in the advanced art class. Her teachers commented that she sets her own expectations. Whenever she feels a task is easy, she sets an even higher expectation for herself. Jessica is hard working and bright. She walks into class with a smile and ready to work. She demonstrates excellent citizenship skills in interactions with peers and responsibility in her attention to assignments. Another said she loves to reads and always has a book in her hand.

Her principal, Mrs. Hill said that Jessica is very serious about her studies, is kind to her peers, respectful to her teachers, and conducts herself in a mature and confident manner. She is not held to the standards set by other, she sets her own. Her appetite for reading has afforded her a vocabulary and understanding of the larger world greater than most of her peers. I believe it is that passion for reading that will open doors and lead Jessica to an unbelievable future. The sky is the limit for this young lady! Staff and students at Barton are thrilled that Jessica was chosen as Student of the Month. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:11 p.m.

Classified Employee of the Month is Emma Wofford. Mr. Gibson said that Mrs. Wofford has driven a bus for the district for six years. Fellow co-workers nominating Mrs. Wofford stated that she always has a smile for the students and is dependable in her job. She is friendly, cheerful, and a pleasure to work with.

Her supervisor, Tim Zylks said Mrs. Wofford is a conscientious hard-working employee, prepared for her route, and completes all paperwork in a timely manner. She is well-liked and respected by the students on her bus. He noted that she has the gift of total control without having to raise her voice! Mr. Zylks said when he needs drivers to help with extra duty Mrs. Wofford always is willing to help out. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:12 p.m.

Mr. Gibson presented Teacher of the Month, Tonya Sims. Ms. Sims received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and her Master's degree from southern Arkansas University in language arts, social studies, math, and science. She is an eighth grade math teacher at Barton Jr. High School.

Fellow co-workers that nominated Ms. Sims stated she is hard working and loves her students. She is the epitome of a caring teacher. She loves each of her students as though they were her own. She creates activities that engage all students in the learning process. Not only does she give 100% during school hours, she goes home and calls at least a dozen parents each night. Ms. Sims will travel to student's homes to tutor and discuss issues with parents.

Mrs. Hill said, "What I appreciate about Tonya Sims is that she never gives up on a student. She will repeatedly go back to the drawing board to try to reach each student. She volunteers to tutor after school and in the summer. She believes in sharing her time, ideas, and strategies with her peers yet she would never present herself as an expert and she always seeks new ways to improve her own practice. She understands the importance of planning on student achievement and puts in the time to make her classes successful. Ms. Sims has a kind heart and students and staff are the better for it." Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:15 p.m.

Mr. Tucker introduced Scotty Caroom, president of Excel Energy Group. Mr. Caroom's company conducted a free lighting survey earlier in the year in the district facilities. He told board members this is an energy-efficient LED lighting upgrade designed to cut lighting costs by up to sixty-five percent and upgrade or replace approximately 5,800 lighting fixtures in the district schools. If the board chooses the upgrades, the district

would put up no money for the project, which he said will pay for itself through reduction of utility bills and an incentive from the electric company, Entergy. Mr. Tucker said he would like to see the district participate in the project in some of the school buildings to first determine the cost savings. With the board's consideration, he would like for him and Rick Arnold, maintenance supervisor, to decide which buildings would be first to participate in the project.

Mr. Caroom said that Excel guarantees this project will generate enough savings to make the district's payment for the project. He noted the estimated initial cost of the project at \$800,697, with an energy company incentive of \$114,666, for a net cost of \$686,031. He also estimated energy and demand savings of \$104,602, maintenance savings of \$13,625, for total savings of \$118,227. The company will arrange financing and the estimated rate for Excel customers is 3.75% over nine years. With semi-annual payments of \$45,259, \$90,517 annually, the payment for the project is actually less than the project annual savings by \$27,711, resulting in positive cash flow over the life of the project.

Mr. Caroom noted the project for better lighting with no maintenance for many years could be completed in six to eight weeks and workers would install the lights on nights and weekends. He also said it would probably be summer before the workers could start on the district project. After some discussion and on a motion by Chris Lutman, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:30 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the upgrade lighting project with Excel Energy Group for the schools specified by the superintendent and maintenance supervisor to begin upgrades during the summer of 2015.

Two students living in another school district were approved to attend El Dorado schools that had filed Petitions for Transfer Request.

Tim Zylks said bids were received on a 2015 cargo van for the food services department.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Trotter Auto, El Dorado	\$24,371.00
Teague Ford, El Dorado	23,529.28
Teague Chevrolet, El Dorado	22,181.16
Performance Chevrolet, Camden	20,907.00

Mr. Zylks stated that Mr. Tucker is recommending the low bid from Performance Chevrolet. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Chris Lutman, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:32 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the bid of \$20,907.00 from Performance Chevrolet of Camden for a 2015 cargo van for the food services department.

Shelley Pruitt presented the bid received for the school leader's errors and omissions insurance. Mrs. Pruitt stated that one bid of \$12,661.00 was received from the same company the district currently has the policy with, First Arkansas Insurance Company. She noted the bid is the same as the current one with all coverage and deductibles remaining the same. The policy will run from February 1, 2015 to February 1, 2016.

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

On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Chris Lutman, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:32 p.m., it was

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

Shelley Pruitt told board members that the district will now offer MyPaymentsPlus. This is a state-of-the-art online service that provides parents the convenience and information they need to manage their student's meal account. She said a letter was sent home with elementary students on Tuesday, explaining to parents that the new system, which doesn't cost the district, speeds up serving lines in the cafeteria, eliminates the need to send checks to school or worry about lost or forgotten lunch money and ensures the child will receive a nutritious meal.

MyPaymentsPlus allows any family to create a free, secured account to manage all of their student's accounts and check their student's account balance at any time online or via a smartphone, monitor the items purchased by the student in the cafeteria and create settings to receive email notifications when the account reaches a low balance. The mobile app is free for iPhone, iPad, and Android. Parents pay 4.75% for the service – if \$10 is added to the student's account, \$.48 is charged. Mrs. Pruitt said money placed in the student's account can be submitted with debit, credit, and electronic checks, and funds deposited through MyPaymentsPlus are usually available for student use within a matter of minutes. Mr. Tucker added that creating a MyPaymentsPlus account is not a requirement, but is being offered as a convenience for parents and students. 6:41 p.m.

Shirley Billingly presented the district's new application process, TalentEd Recruit and Hire. She said candidates – both licensed and classified – for employment with the El Dorado School District will now be afforded the opportunity to fill out application forms and submit resumes online. Principals in the district and the science, math, and literacy chairs will be able to look at candidates' applications and resumes and set up interviews with potential candidates. She explained that with the new system, when the district posts available jobs, applicants from all over the United States can see what the district has available and complete applications and resumes online. 6:50 p.m.

Bonnie Haynie and Brecken Perry gave an update on the district's social media sites – Instagram, Vine, Twitter, Facebook, and the district's website. Mrs. Haynie explained that the district's webpage includes all kinds of information about the district, including activities, the school calendar, lunch menus and links to the district's Facebook page, the El Dorado Promise, state requirements, board minutes and everything a person would want to know about the district. Mrs. Perry showed a newsletter she creates that includes information about all the schools in the district, photos of students and events noting positive information about the district. She posts information on both Twitter and Instagram and updates the information weekly for the newsletter. 7:04 p.m.

Mr. Tucker visited with the board about the district's steps in flu prevention. He explained that all students had the opportunity to receive a flu shot or the nasal mist. He noted it was recently learned that the vaccination is only about 23% effective however students are being reminded to wash their hands often, cover their nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing, and to not eat or drink from the same utensils as their friends. The students are also cautioned to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth. Custodians are cleaning and disinfecting areas where students sit and frequently touched areas “every night” in hopes to combat the spread of the flu virus in the schools. 7:08 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 7-0 vote at 7:28 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.

On a motion by Wayne Gibson seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 7:30 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the contract of Superintendent Jim Tucker for 3 years effective January 2015 at a salary of \$136,000.00. The salary amount includes travel allotment.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.