

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
November 9, 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 Wayne Gibson presiding. Directors present were Vicky Dobson, Chris Lutman, Renee Skinner, Keith Smith, and Todd Whatley. Director Susan Turbeville entered during the third item on the agenda. Also attending was Supt. Jim Tucker, Shirley Billingly, Rhonda Simmons, Bonnie Haynie, Shelley Pruitt, and Lou Ann Voris.

Mr. Gibson asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meetings held October 12 and November 2. On a motion by Vicky Dobson, seconded by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 6-0 vote at 6:00 p.m., the minutes were approved.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. After some discussion and on a motion by Chris Lutman, seconded by Renee Skinner and carried on a 6-0 vote at 6:01 p.m., the bills were approved for payment. A list of bills paid and monthly financial statement are on file in the business office.

Mike Cobb, C.P.A. gave an end of year financial report to the board. He listed the school district's total revenue at \$35 million and said property tax revenue exceeded \$13 million during the school district's financial year. The district is currently "operating in the black" and with the current supply of money, the district could operate for 77 days – with estimated expenditures of \$3 million a month. "That's a very prudent thing to be able to operate for 77 days with no cash coming in," Mr. Cobb told board members that he encourages most school districts to establish a cash balance to enable a district to survive for at least 30 to 35 days if revenues were discontinued. "This is a financially sound district," Mr. Cobb said, noting that no letters of internal control were listed and he "did not see any weaknesses or violations" with federally funded programs. "I commend you. You are doing things right and doing things well," Mr. Cobb told the board members. 6:13 p.m.

The board approved a transfer request for a student to transfer to the Parkers Chapel School District. 6:14 p.m.

Mayor Frank Hash read the proclamation of the 94th observance of American Education Week which will be November 16 – 20. The board expressed their appreciation to the Mayor for attending the board meeting. 6:16 p.m.

Mr. Gibson introduced Grace Reed, Student of the Month. Grace is the daughter of Patti and Jason Reed and a sixth grader at Washington Middle School. She has two older brothers in the district, Gage and Griffin. Teachers nominating her and her principal, Mrs. Vines stated Grace is an amazing student. She pays close attention and works diligently in class to meet her objectives. She is very conscious of the fact that she is a role model for younger students at Washington and makes sure her behavior reflects that.

Grace is a hard working volunteer in our library every single morning. She works with students to help find books in which might be of interest to them, she helps them log into Accelerated Reader, and also shelves books. Our library wouldn't run as smoothly without her! Grace is always amongst the highest achieving students in her class. Washington is privileged to have Grace Reed as a student and knows that she will go far! Washington Middle School staff and students are excited that Grace Reed was chosen as Student of the Month. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:17 p.m.

Classified Employee of the Month is Rushell Stover. Mr. Gibson said that Mrs. Stover came to work for the district in September 2008 as the secretary at Washington Middle School. She served there three years before taking on the responsibilities as employee benefits clerk at the administration office. Those nominating Mrs. Stover stated she is always confidential, friendly, and helpful. She cares about and patiently listens to employee's needs while helping them with their insurance paperwork. Another said

Rushell Stover has such an uplifting spirit. She is inspirational and faces any challenge with such a positive outlook.

Her supervisor, Shelley Pruitt said Rushell has been our benefits clerk since before I began working at the district. From day one she has been asking how she can help. She is always willing to take on a new challenge and I have never heard her say, "That's not my job." Her position is unique in that she is the single person who must meet with every new person the district hires. My favorite quality of Rushell's is her great attitude. It is probably what makes her so good at what she does. She is always positive, always looking at the bright side. I feel that attitude helps her to be kind-hearted and compassionate when dealing with employee's sensitive and stressful medical or health insurance issues. Her love for what she does shows in her confidence in dealing with our staff but she maintains enough humility to say "I don't know" when she doesn't know...then she finds the answer! I am grateful to have Rushell Stover on my staff. She has taught me so much about how to treat others. I and other classified staff congratulate her on this well-deserved award. Mr. Gibson presented Mrs. Stover with a certificate from the board. 6:20 p.m.

Mr. Gibson said Teacher of the Month from Washington Middle School is Karla Long. Mrs. Long received her Bachelor of Science in Education degree from Southern Arkansas University in elementary and early childhood education. In 2010 she obtained her Master's degree, with honors, in educational leadership from Harding University. Mrs. Long had one year of teaching experience prior to coming to El Dorado School District. Early on she taught at Yocum for two years and this is her fourteenth year of teaching English and currently social studies at Washington Middle School.

Those nominating her stated Karla Long is very deserving of this recognition. She is conscientious about having her lesson meet the needs of the students. She is vigilant about monitoring the students during transitions – both before and after school. Mrs. Long speaks to the students respectfully and gives them clear direction and feedback for any behavior connections. She is consistently early and stays late daily. With recent changes in sixth grade world history standards, Mrs. Long hasn't missed a beat. She spends countless hours studying and preparing her lessons to meet, not only the standards, but the learning styles of her students. She is an asset to our school!

Her principal, Jody Vines said that Mrs. Long is always willing to help others, heads our staff's bereavement committee, and focuses on taking care of fellow staff and students. It is most helpful to a principal when staff is dependable and Karla Long is that. Her motto must be, "How can I help others!" Washington staff and students are thrilled that Karla Long was chosen as Teacher of the Month. Mr. Gibson presented Mrs. Long with a certificate from the board. 6:23 p.m.

Julia Daniels, E.H.S. Student Council President explained to the board that this year at the high school the Student Council sent students to Boys and Girls State, decorated the hallways and assisted with freshmen orientation. They also participated in "sportsmanship exchange" with cheerleaders from visiting football teams and donated profits from fundraisers to Arkansas Children's Hospital. The Student Council is currently preparing for the upcoming "Mr. EHS" pageant. Miss Daniels noted that she is currently enrolled in several advanced placement courses at the high school, including AP psychology, AP calculus, and AP literature. She expressed gratitude for the Murphy Oil scholarship, the El Dorado Promise. As a senior, she plans to attend Ole Miss or the University of Alabama. 6:31 p.m.

Mr. Tucker reminded the board that he has asked each principal to report to the board about their school. Jody Vines, principal of Washington Middle School said she brought three of her students, Grace Reed, Ava Williams, and Tommy Khou, to help with the presentation. Mrs. Vines started with a slide show to let the board and audience experience their two-week study of tectonics, which started off with a parade and included visits and talks by local consultants, table-top tsunamis, and erupting volcanoes. The week ended with a virtual simulator roller coaster ride through a volcano. Tectonics is the study of the processes which control the structure and properties of the Earth's

crust. The study included volcanoes, tsunamis, earthquakes, and the continental drift – the movement of the earth’s continents relative to each other.

Mrs. Vines noted that students created earthquake proof structures and designed and purchased items from a school store set up during the study. The formations had to withstand a seven second earthquake and comply with building codes, Mrs. Vines said. Students also had to create a Pangaea model – a super-continent comprising all the continental crusts of the earth – which has been suggested may have existed in late Paleozoic and Mesozoic times before it broke into Gondwan and Laurasi. Grace George showed members of the board her cardboard Pagaea during the presentation. Mrs. Vines commended Chelsey Turner for holding workshops to train each homeroom on how to make a video of their project. At the beginning of the project, homeroom classes were divided into teams to research tectonics, Mrs. Vines explained. She also noted the school sponsored fundraisers to pay for a portion of the tectonic study and received some money from the district for the program – which was a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) project. 6:48 p.m.

Mr. Gibson stated that each year the board elects a member to the delegate assembly at the Arkansas School Boards Association’s Annual Conference. This year the conference is December 9 – 11. After some discussion and on a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Keith Smith, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:50 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That board approves school board president, Wayne Gibson to the delegate assembly of the Arkansas School Boards Association’s Annual Conference which will be held December 9 – 11, 2015.

The board went into an executive session to Susan Turbeville, seconded by Chris Lutman, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 7:35 p.m., it was

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.