

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
September 14, 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, Bonnie Haynie, Shelley Pruitt, and Lou Ann Voris.

Mrs. Skinner asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting held August 10. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 7-0 vote, the minutes were approved at 6:00 p.m.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. After some discussion and on a motion by Chris Lutman, seconded by Keith Smith, and carried on a 7-0 vote, the bills were approved for payment. A list of bills paid and a monthly financial statement are on file in the business office. 6:01 p.m.

Shelley Pruitt presented the annual financial report for the year ending June 30, 2015. She stated the district had a beginning fund balance of \$7,978,891.52, local revenue of \$13,791,386.92, state revenue of \$18,955,159.00, categorical revenue of \$2,040,628.00, for a total revenue of \$35,276,225.63. She noted the total expenditures for the year were listed at \$34,738,369.41, with an ending balance of \$8,516,747.74. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Chris Lutman, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:09 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the end of year financial report.

Mrs. Pruitt visited with the board regarding the transfer of funds. She said that Mr. Tucker will ask for the board's consideration to transfer \$2,021,250.47 from the Operating Fund to Debt Service, \$15,796,400.99 from Operating to Teacher Salary, \$29,475,246.05 (the transfer of Foundation Funding for the 2014-15 fiscal year) from Unrestricted General to Operating, \$1,206,883.76 from Operating to Building, and \$1,500,000.00 from Operating to Building Fund (for fiscal year 2015-16). After a time of discussion and on a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:10 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the transfer of funds, as presented, for 2015-2016.

Mrs. Pruitt explained that a resolution by the board is necessary to be in compliance with Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-13-635. She noted school districts in the state, are 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. The salary increase along with 2015 – 2016 salary schedules were approved in a called meeting of the board on August 6, 2015.

*Resolution of the El Dorado School District
Board of Directors*

WHEREAS, The El Dorado School District Board of Directors met in regular, open, and properly-called meeting on September 14, 2015 at the School Administration Office;

WHEREAS, members were present, a quorum was declared by the chair;

WHEREAS, The El Dorado School Board has pursuant to Act 1120 of 2013 to be codified at Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-13-635, determined that the employees listed on the attached spreadsheet for the El Dorado School District are eligible and have been approved to receive an increase in salary of 5% or more from their current contract amount listed on the attached spreadsheet for the 2014-2015 school year in consideration of the reason stated on the spreadsheet.

NOW THEREFORE, upon due consideration and deliberation, and having reviewed the reason(s) listed, it is hereby declared to be the intent of the El Dorado School District Board of Directors to authorize the approval and adoption of the salary increase of the employees listed on the attached spreadsheet for the 2014-2015 school year.

A copy of the spreadsheet will be on file in the business office at the administration office. On a motion by Vicky Dobson, seconded by Susan Turbeville, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:14 p.m., it was

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

Student of the Month from El Dorado High School is Ben Parker. Mr. Gibson said that Ben is a ninth grader and the son of Magen and Jason Olive and Jason and Angela Parker. He is involved in four pre-AP classes, journalism, and plays on the freshman football team. Ben was nominated by his math teacher, Stacey Dicken. She stated, "I was having trouble getting a particular group of students to work together and Ben came into my class and jumped into the group. The dynamics immediately changed, and a positive, encouraging and laughing tone took over. I didn't have to ask him to assist, he just jumped in, and it was a positive change."

Other teachers and students said that everyone looks at Ben as a role model who is easy to get along with and easy to collaborate with. His outgoing, positive personality is a magnet – people are drawn to him and they want to be better because of him. His principal, Mrs. Reibe said, "As I spoke with Ben, I found out he attended Yocum and Northwest Elementary Schools, Washington Middle School, Barton Jr. High and now EHS, so he is truly the product of the El Dorado School District. He attends College Avenue Church of Christ where he is a member of the youth group. As of now, he wants to major in journalism to be a sports announcer and attend the University of Missouri. He has already researched colleges and found this university to have an outstanding journalism program." Teachers and students at EHS already love Ben and look forward to the next four years! Mr. Gibson presented him with a certificate from the board. 6:16 p.m.

Mr. Gibson introduced the Classified Employee of the Month, Stephanie Monden, L.P.N.. Mrs. Monden came to work for the district in 2013 and is currently working at Washington Middle School. Tim Zylks said that Nurse Stephanie quietly goes about her business taking care of our students and is one that you can rely on to get things taken care of in a timely manner. Angela Moore and others nominating her stated: Nurse Stephanie is a super nurse! She is kind, hard-working, polite, generous, outgoing, and takes care of all of Washington's students and staff. She is willing to go the extra mile in her job and is passionate at what she does. Washington is lucky to have her as our nurse!

Jody Vines said that Nurse Stephanie is all things a great school nurse should be – kind, compassionate, funny, organized and knowledgeable. She keeps the staff abreast of things they need to know and is always available to help when needed. She takes the initiative to make sure Washington students have proper care. Nurse Stephanie is an all-star in our minds – *Nurse Stephanie for President!* For real though – she is the greatest and students and staff love and appreciate her! Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:18 p.m.

Teacher of the Month from El Dorado High School is Johnathan Sutherland. Mr. Gibson said that Mr. Sutherland received his Bachelor of Science degree from Arkansas Tech University in health and physical education. He teaches English III, seventh grade football, and is the girls' varsity track coach. He has five years teaching experience and all of those years at El Dorado High School.

Those nominating him stated that Johnathan Sutherland has been invaluable in helping the new teachers improve our practice and has proactively shared many of his teaching strategies. One said that he has seen him build great relationships with students in the hallways. He is always willing to help a student or a teacher. Another said that Mr.

Sutherland is compassionate and wants what is best for his students. A fellow co-worker said he was great during PARCC testing last spring when he didn't know from day to day whether or not he would be testing. If he was needed at the last minute, he willingly helped. All agree that Mr. Sutherland exemplifies a motivated, caring, and effective teacher. He gets what teaching is about, tries new strategies, and techniques to reach students, and maintains a rigorous but achievable classroom. His students are priority and he is willing to go the extra mile to help them achieve their goals and on top of this Johnathan is a great coach!

Mrs. Reibe said that Mr. Sutherland is determined to win students over to this content – English and always encourages them to do their best. He is a master at creating relationships with staff and students. He has a passion for education and the teachers in the English department look forward to his input during collaborative discussions regarding best teacher practices. Mrs. Reibe added that Mr. Sutherland has one of the strongest work ethics that she has ever observed as he works tirelessly with the English and athletic departments. EHS is extremely proud of Johnathan Sutherland's accomplishments and dedication to EHS students. Mr. Gibson presented him with a certificate from the board. 6:20 p.m.

The board approved the transfer of an El Dorado student to Parkers Chapel School District.

Mr. Tucker explained that a resolution is required for the district's payment plan with Excel Energy Group. He reminded the board that this is the LED lighting that was installed in many of the district schools. The remainder of the schools will follow if the savings results are positive with the current schools. He asked for the board's consideration for the following resolution.

*Resolution of the El Dorado School District
Board of Directors*

A resolution authorizing a lease purchase agreement for the purpose of financing the acquisition and construction of lighting upgrades; designating the lease-purchase agreement as a qualified tax exempt obligation; and authorizing and prescribing other matters related thereto.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education (the "Board") of the El Dorado School District #15 ("Lessee"), has determined that it is in Lessee's best interests to undertake the financing of the acquisition and construction of lighting upgrades located on the El Dorado School District #15 campus (collectively, the "Equipment"); and

WHEREAS, Lessee is authorized under the Constitution and laws of the State of Arkansas (the "State"), particularly Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-20-402 (the "Authorizing Legislation"), to enter into financing agreements (including lease obligations) to finance the Equipment; and

WHEREAS, Lessee desires to designate the Lease Purchase Agreement as a "qualified tax exempt obligation" of Lessee for the purposes of Section 265 (b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD, as follows:

Section 1. Under the authority of the Constitution and laws of the State including particularly the Authorizing Legislation, there is hereby authorized the execution of the Lease Purchase Agreement with Excel Energy Group, Inc. substantially in the same form as that which was presented to this meeting; provided, that the principal amount financed pursuant to the Lease Purchase Agreement shall not exceed \$293,622.00 and the stated interest rate on the Lease Purchase Agreement shall not exceed 3.75% per annum. Interest on the Lease Purchase Agreement shall begin to accrue on the Effective Date (as defined in the Lease Purchase Agreement) of the Lease Purchase Agreement, which is expected to be on or about September 14, 2015.

Section 2. *Lessee hereby represents that it reasonably expects that it will not issue more than \$10,000,000 of tax-exempt obligations (not counting private-activity bonds except for qualified 501(c)(3) bonds as defined in the Code) during the calendar year 2015. Lessee hereby designates the Lease Purchase Agreement as a “qualified tax-exempt obligation” for the purposes of the Code.*

Section 3. *The Board hereby authorizes and directs the Superintendent of Lessee, for and on behalf of Lessee, to do any and all things necessary to effect the execution and delivery of the Lease Purchase Agreement and the performance of all other acts of whatever nature necessary to effect and carry out the authority conferred by this Resolution. The Superintendent of Lessee is hereby authorized and directed, for and on behalf of Lessee, to execute all papers, documents, certificates and other instruments that may be required for the carrying out of such authority or to evidence the exercise thereof.*

Section 4. *The provisions of the Resolution are hereby declared to be severable and, if any such provision shall for any reason be held illegal or invalid, such holding shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this Resolution.*

Section 5. *All resolutions and parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.*

Section 6. *This Resolution shall take effect and be enforced from and after its adoption.*

After a time of discussion and on a motion by Chris Lutman, seconded by Wayne Gibson, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:23 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the resolution authorizing the lease purchase agreement for the purpose of financing the district lighting upgrades with Excel Energy Group, Inc.

Mr. Tucker said the following bids for labor and materials were received for roof repair for a walkway at El Dorado Education Complex.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cross Roofing & Sheet Metal	\$15,405.00
El Dorado Roofing & Construction	23,830.00

On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:24 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the low bid of \$15,405.00 from Cross Roofing & Sheet Metal for roof repair to a walkway at El Dorado Education Complex.

Grace George reported that the food service program reviews - from students, teachers, cafeteria workers and parents - have been very complimentary. She has received personal visits, emails, and messages on Facebook about how good the food is, how friendly the staff is, and she added the increased numbers are exciting. For the first fifteen days of the school year, over one thousand more breakfasts and over three thousand more lunches were served to students in the district, compared to last year. Mrs. George said the students love the choices that Aramark has brought to the district. Cafeteria workers have reported that the amount of food being thrown away by students has been drastically reduced. Mrs. George explained that students have a much larger selection of food items and meals are now more nutritious – fresh fruit is cut and served, healthy pizzas are handmade by the staff, and at El Dorado High School, students are able to select from a variety of food choices. In October, a fifth line for serving will begin at E.H.S., which is a made-to-order sandwich line. 6:47 p.m.

Mr. Tucker said students are out the week of November 23 – 27 for the Thanksgiving break. He explained that licensed staff have a professional development day on

November 23 but out the remainder of that week. He introduced the chair of the district's Personnel Policies Committee, Sarah Huddleston and explained she will visit with them about the thoughts of the committee regarding that day. Mrs. Huddleston stated the committee, after visiting with the administration, is asking the board's consideration to eliminate November 23 as a professional development day and allow principals to use those hours in one-hour increments to make up that day's time throughout the school year. Mr. Tucker said principals are in favor of the proposal. He added this will need the vote of the entire district staff if the board approves the proposal. He said in order for employees to make trip arrangements, plane reservations, etc. he is asking the board to consider suspending the rules and voting tonight. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Chris Lutman, seconded by Wayne Gibson, and carried on a 7-0 vote that the board suspends the rules and then on a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:52 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves, pending the majority vote of district staff, to eliminate the professional development day on November 23, 2015 from the district calendar and give employees a five day break, November 23 – 27, 2015. The professional development time for that day will be made up in one hour increments throughout the 2015-2016 school term.

In the Annual Report to the Public, Rhonda Simmons said as of Friday school enrollment is up by seven students for the current school year. The numbers are from 4,506 in 2014 to 4,513 this year. She noted the district has not received the results of the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) test taken by students last year. She reported the ACT scores in the district were above the state norm in English – 20.2 for the district compared to 20.0 in the state; above the state in mathematics from 20.1 in the district compared to 20.0 in the state and less than the state average – 20.6 for the district compared to 20.9 in the state in reading. In science, the district students averaged more than the state norm – 20.6 compared to 20.3 – for a composite ACT score of 20.6 in the district, compared to 20.4 in the state.

Students in the district took 684 advanced placement exams last school year, according to Bonnie Haynie. The district is now on schedule to give over 800 advanced placement tests this year, Mrs. Haynie said. The El Dorado School District is the only district in south Arkansas that offers pre-AP courses to students beginning in the fifth grade, Mr. Tucker said. He added that no other district in this part of the state can compare with the number of AP courses offered at El Dorado High School. Currently, eighteen AP courses are offered at the high school and Mrs. Haynie explained that a score of five is the highest a student can achieve on an AP exam. Of the 684 AP tests last year, 14 students scored a five on the test, 51 students scored a four, 95 students scored a three, 189 students scored two and 335 scored one. She explained that the Murphy Education Program provides monetary awards to students who score five, four, or three on AP tests.

Mrs. Haynie said the Arkansas Department of Education has moved from Common Core to the Arkansas State Standards and there are two primary goals listed in the district's Annual Comprehensive School Improvement Plan. They are comprehensive literacy, science, and mathematical proficiency through the implementation of the Arkansas State Standards and student-centered technology integration and closing the achievement gap through authentic student engagement, formative assessments and quality feedback for students and staff. Shirley Billingly said the district strives to have 100% highly qualified licensed teachers on board but currently there are seven teachers in the district that do not have but are definitely working toward that status.

Mr. Tucker explained in his portion of the annual report that many projects were completed by the maintenance department this summer. El Dorado High School had touch up paint throughout, LED lighting was installed in the gym, the Commons, and on Main Street. Also, an irrigation system was installed in the grass area at the front of the school that was previously experiencing erosion. Barton Jr. High School had touch up paint throughout, a new roof was installed on the main building, over the gym, dressing rooms, and the lobby. There was upgrade to the computer writing for testing lab room 134, new wiring for the technology in the portable classrooms, and set up additional wiring for technology in the library. Washington Middle School had touch up paint

throughout and the library was painted. Thirty squares of roofing were repaired on the main building.

Hugh Goodwin Elementary School had touch up paint throughout and two portable classrooms were painted with fire retardant paint. Mr. Tucker noted that LED lighting was installed throughout, new gutters and downspouts replaced, fascia, soffit and freeze board repaired on the front of the building, and new lines were painted on the parking lot. Northwest Elementary School had touch up paint throughout and three portable classrooms were painted with fire retardant paint. Retta Brown Elementary School received touch up paint throughout and one portable classroom was painted with fire retardant paint. LED lighting was installed throughout the school. Yocum Elementary and Yocum Primary School received touch up paint and new LED lighting throughout. Mr. Tucker said the El Dorado Education Complex that houses the special education department, English language learners office, and the gifted and talented office received 40 squares of new roofing on the 400 building. The ELL office moved into the special education area and Room 200 classroom. The Service Center area that houses the food services offices received a new HVAC in the office area. The Administration Office's east flowerbed had old shrubbery pulled and new plants, shrubs, and a watering system installed.

The state requires the school board director's continuing education hours to be included in the annual report each year and all but one have met those required hours. That director only lacks 30 minutes and he will attain that time in one of the upcoming Arkansas School Boards Association's meetings before December 31, 2015. 7:14 p.m.

Mrs. Skinner said the upcoming school election is Tuesday, September 15. She reminded them the El Dorado board elections have been held through absentee and early voting. 7:15 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 Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 8:30 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.

Mr. Tucker recommended the termination of a classified employee that abandoned their job. On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Chris Lutman, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 8:32 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the superintendent's recommendation concerning the termination of a classified employee.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.