

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board  
September 12, 2016**

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. Other directors present were Chris Lutman, Keith Smith, Susan Turbeville, and Todd Whatley. Directors Vicky Dobson and Renee Skinner were absent. Also attending was Supt. Jim Tucker, Rhonda Simmons, Melissa Powell, 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 August 8, 12, and 22. On a motion by Chris Lutman, seconded by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 5-0 vote, the minutes were approved at 6:00 p.m.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. After some discussion and on a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Chris Lutman, 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. 6:02 p.m.

Shelley Pruitt presented the annual financial report for the year ending June 30, 2016. She stated the district had a beginning fund balance of \$8,463,773.71, local revenue of \$13,714,484.21, state revenue of \$19,125,212.00, categorical revenue of \$2,255,009.36, for a total revenue of \$35,489,174.94. She noted the total expenditures for the year were listed at \$36,802,119.01, with an ending balance of \$7,150,829.64. Ending balance in the Professional Development Fund was \$6,391.63; Alternative Fund, \$109,731.08; English Language, \$72,770.65 and National School Lunch Act, \$92,743.22. Ending balances in other funds include: Building Fund, \$5,148,101.25; Current Expenditure Fund, \$172,877.56; Athletic Fund, \$15.35 and \$605,523 in other activity funds. The ending cash balance in the Federal Funds budget was \$467,745.09 and in the Cafeteria Fund, \$291,834.20.

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 \$2,074,224.50 from the Operating Fund to Debt Service, \$16,434,946.79 from Operating to Teacher Salary, and \$29,609,894.00 (the transfer of Foundation Funding for the 2015-16 fiscal year) from Unrestricted General to Operating. 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 financial report for the year ending June 30, 2016 and transfer of funds.

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 12, 2016 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 2015-2016 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 2015-2016 school year.*

A copy of the spreadsheet will be on file in the business office at the administration office. On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 5-0 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 Barton Jr. High School is Anzel Preston. Mrs. Hill said the staff at Barton is very excited that she has been selected student of the month. Anzel is the daughter of Johnathan and Tabitha Preston. She has a brother, Maddox, who is a student at Washington Middle School and a sister, Aspen, a student at Northwest Elementary School.

The teacher nominating her said: Anzel strives to succeed in all of her classes. Her definition of success does not stop when she has mastered a standard however, in my classroom last year she would push herself beyond the expectations of an assignment by putting in extra work, seeking extension activities, and helping other classmates. This willingness to go “above and beyond” was evident in her success in the schoolwide Poetry Slam last spring, where she made it to the “final four.” Mrs. Hill said, as a seventh grader last year Anzel maintained a 4.0 grade point average for the year and almost had perfect attendance. She was also a main character in our school production of *Annie*. This year, Anzel is a member of PawPower, FBLA, and the MP3 class preparing for this year’s school musical. While Anzel has a very fine voice, she also loves to read. Anzel exhibits a calmness and a kindness that is an example to others. She has a very strong work ethic and desire to do well. Those two qualities alone should serve her very well in the future. I definitely would not turn down a school full of students like Anzel Preston! We are thrilled at Barton that she was chosen Student of the Month. 6:18 p.m.

Teacher of the Month from Barton Jr. High School is Rachel Smith. Mrs. Smith received her bachelor’s degree in middle school math and English from Southern Arkansas University and is working toward her Master of Arts in teaching degree. Several co-workers nominating Mrs. Smith said she never lets a challenge get in her way. She walked into a challenge when she took her position last year but never seemed to let it faze her. She respects each and every one of her students and goes out of her way to serve them. Her work with cheer has been as phenomenal as her work in the classroom. I am proud to work in the same school as such a talented educator.

Another teacher stated Rachel Smith strives to do her best each day for her students. She began her teaching career as a Title I interventionist where she immediately showed empathy for her students as she worked to bring the up to grade level in both math and English. Students are able to grow mathematically due to her interest in them as an individual and where they fail in the learning progression. She is eager to learn new strategies to improve her lessons and never afraid to ask for advice of seasoned educators on her way to professional growth. Challenges are readily accepted by Mrs. Smith and she is helpful to fellow teachers. She communicates with parents and is prompt in completing all duties as an educator. Our cheerleaders benefit from the work Mrs. Smith does as cheer coach to instill school spirit at Barton as well as at football and basketball games.

Mrs. Hill said Mrs. Smith teaches Pre-AP eighth grade math and serves as cheer coach. Last year she took over the eighth grade regular math classes after a teacher left. If you did not know it was her first year to teach, you would not have known. That is probably the highest compliment I can give a young teacher. She just has that “it” factor. Making

sure the needs of her students are met is very important to Mrs. Smith. We are very happy Mrs. Smith chose teaching as her profession and Barton as the place to touch student's lives. 6:20 p.m.

Jay Vines introduced Noah Moses and Jerry Langston from Murril Educational Center and stated they had a program proposal to present to the board. They asked the board's consideration of a problem-based learning program designed specifically for ninth through twelfth grades. The plan is to construct a low-cost exterior classroom to house a woodworking shop and a green house at Murril Educational Center. Mr. Langston said that students will learn skills associated with construction as they build this unique skill-based classroom. He and Mr. Moses explained in the wood-working shop students will learn skills associated with construction as they build the skill-based classroom. Once the working classroom is complete, it will serve as a special classroom where learning will become hands-on and project-based. Students will be taught to use various construction and woodworking tools. These tools will be used for project-based learning endeavors that will promote self-esteem and teach team work. Students will learn what it takes to manufacture goods and provide services by learning safety and construction skills and then developing those skills in order to provide community service projects.

Students will also develop skills needed for life as they brainstorm, design and determine costs for different projects ranging from repurposing wooden pallets to be used for tables and plant beds inside the greenhouse, to building picnic tables and chairs. They will also design drafting tables to be used as student desks and learn refinishing skills by repurposing used stools and furniture to be utilized in the classroom learning environment. The greenhouse part of the classroom will be used by all Murril K-12 students and the main focus will be on science but classes will incorporate math, English and history into the curriculum. Students will learn about plants, food production, healthy eating and all aspects of gardening. Students will grow a wide variety of vegetables, fruits and flowering plants that will be sold. All profits earned at Murril from year one will provide the revenue needed to maintain the program for the next year. Students will learn marketing, advertising design, management and salesmanship. Plans for a community garden plus school and community beautification projects where students will be asked to design the layouts and write papers justifying their reasoning will be incorporated. Mr. Tucker asked for the board's vote in the October board meeting. 6:26 p.m.

Sherry Hill presented a report to the board from Barton Jr. High School. Mrs. Hill said that math and literacy test scores have continued to improve at Barton as students strive to do their best. A variety of happenings at the school, besides the usually curriculum, include plans to present "Mary Poppins," growing butterbeans, raising chickens and making salsa from items raised in the school's garden. She noted that Barton was recognized by the University of Arkansas College of Education as having some of the "Best Test Scores" in math, science and literacy with hands-on learning.

Mrs. Hill said as a way to teach students to persevere, was when students were taken to the Stars Cinema to see the movie "Greater" – a story about Brandon Burlsworth, an offensive lineman for the Arkansas Razorbacks football team from 1995-1998. He joined the team as a walk-on and eventually became an All-American. Burlsworth overcame many obstacles to play college football and was then drafted to the National Football League – after he was told repeatedly that he would never play and wasn't good enough.

In addition to core subjects, students are taught organizational, communicative and social skills – along with perseverance and are taught that if they "work hard, they will get to where they need to be." Mrs. Hill said the theme this year at the school is "Going for the Glory," and a new class, Imagine Zone, has been added to teach coding, how to use a 3D printer and robotics. "We've had robotics for over ten years and coding for several years but the new class will expand on those subjects," Mrs. Hill said. 6:35 p.m.

Shawn Lamkin, special education director visited with the board about district's designated surrogate parent program. Representatives that help her in the surrogate program are patrons – Emma Jackson, Jackie Jackson, Don Thompson and Bruce Turner. She explained that surrogate parents assist homeless and children in foster care and help

with IEP meetings by attending the student's conference. Mr. Tucker said to be in compliance with state requirements, the board is to approve the director and representatives each year. On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Chris Lutman, and carried on a 5-0 vote at 6:37 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves Shawn Lamkin as director of the surrogate parent program and representatives – Emma Jackson, Jackie Jackson, Don Thompson and Bruce Turner.

Miss Lamkin presented the district's special education amended budgets for State Equalization, Title VI-B, Medicaid, Catastrophic and ARMAC. She explained the Special Education Title VI-B budget of \$1,068,223.01 is used to help pay salaries, benefits, occupational and physical therapists, paraprofessionals, speech therapists, travel expenses, bus repairs, purchase of a special education bus and other expense. The Catastrophic budget total is \$52,498.22 and those funds are used to pay paraprofessionals and expenses associated with a self-contained classroom, supplies including special chairs and a company in Little Rock that completes paperwork billing for Medicaid.

Miss Lamkin explained that the Medicaid budget is \$325,871.19 and funds are used to help pay salaries of pathologists and benefits, along with OT and PT therapists, nurses, travel expenses and supplies. The amount of the Arkansas Medicaid Administrative Claiming budget is \$139,259.58 and includes funds for certified salaries, a portion of the El Dorado School-Based Health Center administration, a portion of the salaries for school nurses and benefits, a school-based health center mental health counselor, medical fees and glasses and supplies including weighted vests, weighted animals and blankets for special education students. On a motion by Chris Lutman, seconded by Todd Whatley, and carried on 5-0 vote at 7:00 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the Special Education Budgets for State Equalization, Title VI-B, Medicaid, Catastrophic and ARMAC.

Rhonda Simmons, assistant superintendent of curriculum and technology and Bonnie Haynie, director of professional development and special projects, along with Jim Tucker, superintendent presented the Annual Report to the Public. Mrs. Haynie explained that the district's Annual Comprehensive School Improvement Plan includes literacy, science and mathematical proficiency through the implementation of Arkansas State Standards and student-centered technology integration. The district will also focus on "closing the achievement gap" through authentic student engagement, formative assessments and quality feedback for students and staff. The Arkansas Consolidated School Improvement Plan budget for the district includes professional development, direct instruction, Waiting to Excel program, summer school at elementary, middle-level and secondary schools and curriculum development.

Mrs. Simmons reported that the district is down ninety-seven students in enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year – stating there are fewer kindergarten students in the district this year. The total enrollment for the district in grades kindergarten through twelfth grade on September 12, 2015, was 4,513 and this year's student count on September 12 was 4,416. Last year's students in the first grade scored 53 in math and 49 in English language arts on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills and second graders scored 49 on math and 48 in English. Students in grades three through 10 on the ITBS scored 27 in reading. Students in grade four scored 39 – above the national average of 37 – in reading; fifth graders in the district scored 28, compared to 33 nationally; sixth graders scored 41 – 42 percent nationally; seventh graders scored above the national average 37 – compared to 35; eighth graders scored above the national average – 51 compared to 45; ninth graders scored 37 compared to the national average of 38 and 10<sup>th</sup> graders scored above the national average in reading, 38 compared to 34.

During the last school year in math on the ITBS, students scored – 42 compared to national average of 50 in third grade; 43 compared to national average of 45 in fourth grade; 41 compared to national average of 40 in fifth grade; 47 compared to national average of 43 in sixth grade; 37 compared to 34 in seventh grade; 28 compared to 31 in eighth grade; 24 compared to 35 in ninth grade and 18 compared to 32 in 10 grade. In

science, students scored 30 compared to a national average of 29 in third grade; 34 compared to 35 in fourth grade; 29 compared to 37 in fifth grade; 37 compared to 38 in sixth grade; 34 compared to 33 in seventh grade; 28 compared to 31 in eighth grade; 24 compared to 35 in ninth grade and 22 compared to a national average of 31 in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. In English, students scored 71 compared to a national average of 66 in third grade; 63 compared to 69 in fourth grade; 69 compared to 68 in fifth grade; 67 compared to 68 in sixth grade; 72 compared to 71 in seventh grade; 67 compared to 72 in eighth grade; 48 compared to 60 in ninth grade and 53 compared in a national average of 63 in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. In writing comparison, third graders scored 11 compared to a national average of 16; fourth graders scored 4 compared to 19; fifth graders scored 25 compared to 26; sixth graders scored 40 compared to 42; seventh graders scored 29 compared to a national average of 26; eighth graders scored 25 compared to 26; ninth graders scored 43 compared to 35 and 10<sup>th</sup> graders scored 51 compared to a national average of 45.

American College Testing scores for district students in the school year 2015-2016 were 17.2 in the district compared to a state average of 18.1 in math; 18.6 compared to 19 in reading; 19 compared to 19.1 in the state in science; with composite scores in 18.4 in the district compared to 18.8 in the state. Mrs. Haynie reported that 760 students took Advanced Placement tests last year – up over 600 students in 2010. The credit goes to the pre-AP and AP teachers, she noted. Eight students scored a five (the highest score possible) on various AP tests; 51 scored four; 151 scored three; 243 scored 2 and 307 scored 1.

Mr. Tucker said through the summer months, touch-up painting was completed at all schools in the district; Barton Jr. High and Washington Middle School were both rewired for technology; many facilities were power-washed and the principal's office at Hugh Goodwin Elementary was remodeled, along with the teacher's lounge. He added that Northwest Elementary had two air conditioning units replaced in the special education classrooms.

Mr. Tucker noted 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. Mr. Tucker noted that director has until the middle of December to turn in the needed hours from Arkansas School Boards Association workshops, conferences, or online courses before December 31, 2016. 7:14 p.m.

The board approved petition for transfer requests for one student to Junction City School District, two students to Parkers Chapel, and one student from Strong-Huttig to the El Dorado School District.

Mr. Gibson explained the upcoming school election is Tuesday, September 20 however, since the three board members running for re-election are uncontested the El Dorado board elections are being held through early and absentee voting. Early voting begins Tuesday, September 13 at the Union County Court House, County Clerk's office from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mr. Gibson said early voting will run from through Monday, September 19. He encouraged those running to go vote for themselves. Mr. Gibson also reminded the board of an A.S.B.A. workshop "Staying Within the Lines" to be held in Camden at the South Central Service Cooperative on October 3 beginning at 4:45 p.m. He noted the A.S.B.A. New Board Member Institute will be Monday, October 17 at the Double Tree Hotel from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. 7:18 p.m.

The meeting adjourned to an executive session to discuss personnel matters, then reconvened to an open meeting. On a motion by Chris Lutman, seconded by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 5-0 vote at 8:05 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.