

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board  
April 11, 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 Vicky Dobson, Chris Lutman, Renee Skinner, Keith Smith, Susan Turbeville, and Todd Whatley. Also attending was Supt. Jim Tucker, Shirley Billingly, Bonnie Haynie, Shelley Pruitt, and Lou Ann Voris.

Mr. Gibson asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting held March 14. On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Chris Lutman, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:00 p.m., the minutes were approved.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. After some discussion and on a motion by Todd Whatley, seconded by Keith Smith, 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. 6:01 p.m.

Mr. Gibson introduced Wesley Tyson, Student of the Month from El Dorado High School. Wesley is the son of Walter and Dana Tyson and a senior at El Dorado High School. His principal and teachers nominating him stated that Wesley excels in everything he does. He is an outstanding student academically, making a 32 on his ACT and currently maintaining a 4.2 GPA. He plans on attending the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and majoring in chemical engineering and Spanish. In addition to academics, Wesley is a member of many clubs and organizations on the high school campus.

Outside of school, Wesley loves sports as a spectator in supporting his classmates. He also loves traveling and has traveled to Paris, Italy, and to London four times. Last summer he spent a month studying medical science and molecular medicine at Oxford University in London. Another thing about Wesley is his character. He is kind, polite, well-mannered, and respectful to everyone – students and adults alike. He is friendly and never has a bad attitude. He works in the principal's office as a student assistant and is the office "go to" person. Everyone knows they can always count on Wesley to get the job done and to do it well. Everyone at EHS loves Wesley! We wish him the best as he moves on to the next level of education! Mr. Gibson presented him with a certificate from the board. 6:04 p.m.

Teacher of the Month from El Dorado High School is Alyssa Folk. Mr. Gibson stated Miss Folk received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburg. This is her third year of teaching in our district and she teaches ninth grade Algebra I.

Fellow co-workers nominating her stated that Miss Folk is full of energy and love for her students. She works hard to meet her student's needs and give them the best education possible. Students often talk about how Miss Folk is never mad or sad and they love her smile. She goes above and beyond for her students, fellow teachers, and the school. She embodies a growth mindset and constantly works to better herself as an educator, leader, co-worker, and individual. Miss Folk loves to find and create resources that benefit the students, giving of her own personal time. She also makes herself available for tutoring several times throughout the week – which is of her own free time.

Her principal, Mrs. Reibe said that Alyssa Folk is the epitome of positivity. She greets all her co-workers and students with a beaming smile and positive attitude each day! She even told Mrs. Reibe that she loves her students immensely. Miss Folk explained she loves that teaching provides an opportunity for a new adventure every day. She treasures seeing her students succeed, especially after they have struggled and then seeing their confidence and pride in their work.

Mrs. Reibe said Miss Folk will be a teacher leader for the next school year, working with secondary math teachers new to the district. She was chosen for this position because of her positive attitude, her love of teaching, and her effective instructional strategies. She has an active involvement in the math Professional Learning Community, the New Tech

PLC, and the El Dorado Math Collaborative. She constantly shares resources, effective instruction strategies, and new ideas for improving the teaching of math with her co-workers who all love and respect her greatly. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:07 p.m.

Mr. Gibson introduced Shannon Ellison, Teacher of the Month from Murril Educational Center. Mr. Ellison received his Bachelors of Arts degree from Southern Arkansas University and teaches grades 7 – 12 social studies at Murril.

Co-workers nominating Mr. Ellison stated his consistency and caring demeanor are an always positive influence on students and colleagues. He is calm and level-headed in all situations. His principal, Mr. Jerry Langston said that Mr. Ellison is a very good novice teacher who cares for his students. He is dependable and always has a smile and kind work for all he comes in contact with. It is a pleasure to have him teach at Murril Educational Center. 6:09 p.m.

Gabie Gauthier gave a report from the El Dorado High School Student Council. She stated that Student Council elections were held recently at the school and April 21 has been designated as National Honor Society induction day – students with grade point averages of 3.5 are eligible to become N.H.S. members. She said seniors have three weeks of school remaining before graduation and they recently received their caps and gowns. Ms. Gauthier also stated that she plans to attend the University of Arkansas and major in biochemistry. 6:12 p.m.

Alva Reibe gave a report on happenings at El Dorado High School. Mrs. Reibe said that over eight hundred Advanced Placement tests will be taken this year by EHS students enrolled in 15 AP courses. This year, with a theme “The Wildcat Way,” students will begin testing next week at the high school with the ACT Aspire exam. EHS students took PSAT tests last fall and last May the ACT test was administered to all juniors. An online writing program for students and a Sunday course for “struggling readers,” are being offered to students. A new Career Technical Education class provides leadership and learning and students are required to give back to the community by volunteering to assist with a number of non-profit organizations in the area.

Due to a new state mandate that requires school districts to offer one digital class, Mrs. Reibe told board members that the health and physical education course has been adapted to digital. Mrs. Reibe said high school students can enter art contests, act in plays, perform in concerts, and are provided opportunities through field trips to travel and visit colleges and also historical sites in Arkansas. 6:34 p.m.

Mr. Tucker stated the district is in partnership with the Early Childhood Center for Experiences in Learning program for their use of the Union School campus to house their school’s program. He introduced Grady Tracy, administrator of the ECCEL program. Mr. Tracy reported there are one hundred thirty students enrolled at the ECCEL program now housed at the Union School property. The program serves children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families. He said the partnership between the district and ECCEL has been great and has provided them room for growth. He introduced Branai McDonald, a teacher in the program that helped explain as Mr. Tracy showed slides of improvements, changes, and use of the classrooms and campus property at the school.

Mr. Tracy said in June 2015, South Arkansas Developmental Center for Children and Families officials announced they had been given three months to move from the building located near the corner of Faulkner and Jackson Streets that had housed ECCEL for the past twenty years. He presented a proposal to the board to lease the property in June and in July board members approved the request, granting the SADCCF the use of the Union School property – five of the seven buildings, the baseball fields, and playground area. He noted several classrooms at the school have been renovated and the library has been transformed into a “Therapy Cottage.” Children at the school receive occupational, physical, and speech therapy. Two classrooms are designed to serve children with special needs and the teachers and administrators at ECCEL develop Individualized Education Programs for their students. There are sixty students at ECCEL

who are enrolled in the Arkansas Better Chance program – designed to target and serve children in an identified “high need/underserved community” and children ages birth to five years with a variety of risk factors.

Mr. Tracy said several local businesses and individuals have assisted ECCEL in their efforts to renovate classrooms and other areas at the school for the program. He stated that El Dorado Chemical Company employees were a tremendous help in their preparations to move within the short time period. Mr. Tracy reported that currently, fencing is being completed and work is continuing to set up three playgrounds at the school. Until that is done the gym has been a special source for physical activity time. Mr. Tracy said, “I believe in early intervention.” Noting the program proves that point, last school year sixty students graduated from ECCEL and of that number, thirty-five graduated without delays after attending the school. 6:55 p.m.

Katie Sandifer, digital media and marketing manager provided an update on the district’s newest promotional campaign, “The Promising Choice.” She distributed two new brochures designed to encourage students and teachers to attend the district. One brochure is an overview of schools in the district and highlights unique qualities such as the El Dorado School Based Health Center and the El Dorado Promise, a \$50 million scholarship gift from Murphy Oil Corporation to graduates of El Dorado High School. The second brochure is geared toward teacher recruitment and includes lists of “Promising Resources,” “Promising Faculty,” “Promising Opportunity,” and “Promising City.”

Mrs. Sandifer said two videos have also been created – one showing students engaged in hands-on learning at various campuses, that includes interviews with students and Jim Tucker, who said students are the number one focus in the district and are encouraged to “make the Promising Choice.” The other video features teachers in the district, explains why schools in the district are unique and provide a “Promising Career” for teachers. 7:05 p.m.

Mr. Tucker reported on the two bids received for the district-wide lawn care services. He stated one lawn care service did not meet the bid specifications at the time of bid opening. Mr. Tucker recommended the bid from Diversified Services for \$69,954.88. This recommendation is for a three year contract. On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Renee Skinner, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 7:06 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the district’s lawn care bid from Diversified Services for \$69,954.88. This is for a three year contract.

Mr. Gibson announced that El Dorado High School’s baccalaureate service will be Sunday, May 15 at Municipal Auditorium and graduation on Monday, May 16 at Memorial Stadium with both events starting at 8:00 p.m. He also announced the board visits the school locations throughout the school year, they have lunch with staff and students, and then tour the schools. The last school visit this year will be Murrill Educational Center on Thursday, April 21 at noon. 7:07 p.m.

The meeting adjourned to an executive session to discuss personnel matters, then reconvened to an open meeting. Mrs. Turbeville left prior to the board going back into open session. On a motion by Renee Skinner, seconded by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 6-0 vote 7:35 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the superintendent’s recommendations concerning the acceptance of resignation, the employment of new personnel, and the superintendent’s recommendation concerning the re-employment of classified personnel.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.