

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board  
December 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 Vicky Dobson, Chris Lutman, Renee Skinner, Keith Smith, Susan Turbeville and Todd Whatley. Also attending was Supt. Jim Tucker, Melissa Powell, Katie Sandifer, 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 November 14. On a motion by Chris Lutman, 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 Keith Smith, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 7-0 vote, the bills were approved for payment at 6:01 p.m. A list of bills paid and monthly financial statement are on file in the business office.

Shelley Pruitt visited with the board regarding a need to increase by one cent the district's contribution of the employee insurance. She noted that presently the district contributes \$178.23 to each employee's monthly insurance premium. For the semi-monthly payroll, splitting that penny is difficult for the accounting system to process correctly. Mrs. Pruitt stated by increasing the contribution by one penny per employee each month, we streamline the process and spend no more than an extra \$60.00 annually. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Chris Lutman, seconded by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:03 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the one cent increase of the district's contribution to the employee's monthly insurance premium.

Mr. Gibson stated that Student of the Month from Hugh Goodwin Elementary School is Kennedy Nixon. She is the daughter of Robert and Brandy Nixon and in the fourth grade. Kennedy is a kind-hearted student who is always ready to lend a hand to others. She is very patient with other students and does not let what others are doing interfere with her work or behavior.

Kennedy is one of the student helpers in the guidance office and has a great work ethic. She is a well-rounded student and begins each day with a genuine, sweet smile and good attitude that she keeps all day long. She is helpful, kind and always helps other students who are in need of assistance. With her wonderful work ethic and great attitude, Kennedy is one that is truly a Great Gator Leader!!! Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:04 p.m.

Mr. Gibson said Teacher of the Month from Hugh Goodwin Elementary School is Missy Inman. Mrs. Inman received her Bachelor of Science in Education degree from Henderson State University with certification in elementary and secondary physical education, elementary grades 1-6 and has twelve additional graduate hours.

Those nominating her and Connie Reed, her principal stated her first grade classroom is a welcoming place where students are eager to get in the door every morning. She makes her students aware of the world around them through extensive classroom activities. Mrs. Inman sets a very active and accurate example of what a total teacher should be. She attends workshops on her own time, writes grants to aid her students, and always has time for parents in their partnership to ensure the success of her students. Her energy and smiling attitude are contagious to all that meet her!

Mrs. Inman has taught for thirty-one years with twenty-eight of those in El Dorado School District. She is also a two time finalist for the El Dorado Education Foundation's "Teacher of the Year." Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:07 p.m.

Connie Reed gave a school report on Hugh Goodwin Elementary starting with the first day of school, when students were welcomed to the new school year with the theme, “Building on The Promise.” As students arrived that first day, they saw construction equipment on the school grounds and learned Hugh Goodwin is “under construction to build on The Promise.”

She reported that for the first time, students took the 2016 ACT Aspire test and even though the test is new, students at Hugh Goodwin scored above the state and national averages in several core areas. During this school year, staff have implemented the COW “Constructing Our Writing” program with awards given to students who achieve certain points and complete rubrics. Students are also awarded keyboarding and reading awards and monthly Bookworm awards for the class that has an 85% or higher average with the most points per grade level in the AR reading program. Mrs. Reed said students who achieve that goal will be invited to the “Santa Sock Hop.”

A “Mystery Science” program has also been implemented at the school this year and Mrs. Reed noted that students investigate and collect evidence to come to independent conclusions. “Constitution Day” was observed at the school on September 16 and on Veterans Day, a parade was held in front of the school on November 11. The school held a book fair and participated in “Read for the Record” and read “The Bear Ate Your Sandwich.” Hugh Goodwin students participated in the collection of items for shoebox gifts through the Operation Christmas Child initiative and held a food drive to provide food for local families and the Agape House. At 6:00 p.m. today, Hugh Goodwin students will perform “The Nutcracker” at the El Dorado High School Auditorium.

Donna Fields, a math and science teacher at the school, brought four students who talked about their computer coding class and have formed an After School Computer Coding Club. She said students use Ozobots – smart toy robots that empower learners to code, play, create and connect physical and digital worlds – the Spirobot – which allows students to extend programs beyond the confines of a computer screen. The Spirobot is an educational robotics system that draws circles, spirals and other designs onto a variety of materials using a felt tip permanent marker or similar writing utensil and connects computer programming to mathematics. 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Gibson introduced Evan Chandler from El Dorado High School. Evan stated he is in the eleventh grade and treasurer for the student council. He explained that he is taking Advanced Placement courses and concurrent credit classes, a program that allows high school students to earn college credit by enrolling in classes offered by a nearby college or university. He reported that students are taking exams this week at the high school. He is also involved in the high school’s baseball and football teams. Evan said the curriculum at E. H. S. is preparing him for college and he plans to attend Louisiana Tech University in Ruston and major in biomedical engineering and then possibly medical school. 6:35 p.m.

Sylvia Thompson reported on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the El Dorado Promise. She noted that ten years ago when the scholarship program was announced during an assembly at El Dorado High School that students were crying and shouting in jubilation when they realized their dreams of attending college could come true and their parents were overjoyed and speechless when they heard that announcement. She reminded the audience this happened on January 22, 2007, when Murphy Oil Corporation and officials with the school district announced to the E.H.S. student body, their parents, teachers and members of the community that the company had established the El Dorado Promise – a \$50 million scholarship gift to E.H.S. graduates; that pays tuition and mandatory fees.

In 2017 the school district and Murphy Oil have plans to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary during the week of January 17 – 20. Mrs. Thompson said Tuesday, January 17 will be Honor the District Day. All district employees: teachers, administrators, secretaries, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, etc. will be honored for making our district the “Promising Choice.” This day will also be the kickoff/culmination of the “Promise Writing/Art Showcase – I love the Promise because...” She noted that Wednesday, January 18 will be College Day. College representatives will be at El Dorado High School. Students and staff will wear a college t-shirt that day. Career Day – Dress Like Your Career after

College will be on Thursday, January 19, when students are asked to dress in their future career clothes. In addition, community members, parents, etc. will come into classrooms and speak about their college experiences and their careers. Mrs. Thompson said Friday, January 20 will be Purple Promise Day. Staff and students are asked to wear purple and attend the El Dorado Promise Pep Rally at 4:00 p.m. that will be held at the downtown square, on the Court House lawn. The E.H.S. band and Barton cheerleaders will perform. There will be a recap of the week and recognition of the writing/art showcase participants. The El Dorado Promise anniversary celebrations will culminate from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on February 2 with a special speaker at the El Dorado Conference Center. 6:43 p.m.

Jim Tucker visited with the board regarding a needed vote on ethics resolutions. He said the state requires whenever the district enters into contracts with local businesses there is a need for full disclosure by any district employee that has a relationship with or interest in the business that might submit bids or perform work within the district. Contracts with businesses must have approval – if required – from the Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Chris Lutman, seconded by Susan Turbeville, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:45 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the ethics resolutions submitted by employees that have a relationship with or interest in the local businesses that might submit bids or perform work within the district.

Wayne Gibson reported on the ASBA Annual Conference held December 7-9 in Little Rock at the State House Convention Center. He explained that some of the topics discussed were the hiring of the district superintendent, evaluation of the superintendent and adoption of district policies. He reminded the audience that the school board meeting is not a public meeting but a meeting held in public. Mr. Gibson said that director Chris Lutman was recognized as having fifty hours of continuing education hours. He noted that is commendable when only six hours are required annually for each school board member. 6:49 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 Chris Lutman, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 7:19 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.