

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
February 8, 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, 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 meeting held January 11. On a motion by Chris Lutman, seconded by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 7-0 vote, 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 7-0 vote, the bills were approved for payment at 6:03 p.m. A list of bills paid and monthly financial statement are on file in the business office.

Mr. Gibson introduced the Teacher of the Month, Jean Boerwinkle. Mrs. Boerwinkle received her Bachelor of Science degree in education from St. Petersburg College in Florida. She has three years teaching experience prior to coming to our district in August 2012 and teaches second grade STEM at Retta Brown Elementary School.

Fellow co-workers nominating Mrs. Boerwinkle said that she is dedicated and committed to making learning fun for all. She is always eager and excited to facilitate hands-on projects for the students. Her classes explore, create, and work to discover new educational interests. Mrs. Boerwinkle constantly looks for creative ways to keep her students actively involved in every lesson. She tutors students before school and is willing to work with them after school anytime they have a special project.

Mrs. Boerwinkle is not only concerned about her students education, she is currently participating in Saturday and summer training at Southern Arkansas University to advance her knowledge about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. She is excited about every lesson and her excitement provides the positive energy necessary to keep her second grade students engaged. Staff and students at Retta Brown are thrilled that Mrs. Jean Boerwinkle was chosen Teacher of the Month. 6:06 p.m.

Mr. Gibson stated that Margaret Cupp, fourth grade teacher at Hugh Goodwin Elementary School, had several state winners in the recent 2nd – 8th grades *Project Prevent* competition. Mrs. Cupp explained that *Project Prevent* is a youth prevention media and public relations educational campaign of the Arkansas Department of Health's Tobacco Prevention Program. *Project Prevent*, the youth arm of **Stamp Out Smoking** is a program that educates Arkansas youth about the dangers of tobacco. A part of *Project Prevent* involves a statewide competition that had 1,219 entries in this year's **My Reason to Write** project with twenty six of those from Hugh Goodwin's fourth graders. Mrs. Cupp had two of her three students in attendance that placed in the competition. She introduced Mattie Nash, the first place winner in the 4th – 5th grade essay portion of the competition. Mattie presented her essay to the board:

*My Reason to Write: Creation for Elimination
Mattie Nash, Fourth Grade
Hugh Goodwin Academy for the Arts*

The tobacco industry is trying to persuade kids and teenagers to use their products. Why? They know tobacco is killing their current customers. The tobacco industry targets kids by putting up signs in different places that say tobacco is cool and will make you look glamorous. Also, people in movies smoke or use chewing tobacco so kids will think it is cool. Finally, the tobacco industry makes it look like e-cigarettes are safer than regular cigarettes, but they are not. They also make e-cigarettes that are flavored to attract more people – especially young people.

The tobacco industry makes me feel frustrated because they know that tobacco is hurting people, but they still make it. Also, people know the risk they take when they smoke or chew tobacco, but they do it anyway. Some people never stop even though they are in a hospital dying. Others smoke around kids even though it is illegal. I hate how the tobacco industry tries to trick people into using tobacco. People like my friends and me are the ones that they are trying to trick. The tobacco industry is selfish and greedy. They don't care about anything but money. They don't care how many people they hurt with their products.

The tobacco industry lies and no one should trust them. Back in old times, people didn't know tobacco was bad for them. Now they do know, but people still take that risk. I like risks, but not that kind of risk! I am glad that schools teach kids at an early age not to use tobacco. Tobacco contains the drug nicotine, which makes people not want to stop using it. Nicotine makes it very hard to stop. Cigarettes also contain a chemical that is in bug spray and a chemical that is in nail polish remover. I hope that no one else will start smoking and that people who do smoke will stop.

Mrs. Cupp introduced Reid Gathright and said that Reid placed second in the lyrics and poetry portion for 4th – 5th grades in the statewide competition.

*My Reason to Write: Creation for Elimination
Reid Gathright, Fourth Grade
Hugh Goodwin Academy for the Arts*

*Smoking is crazy and I'll tell you why
every day over 1,300 people die.*

*Big Tobacco wants you to think it's cool
the truth is, you look like a fool.*

*They draw you in with tasty flavors and bright colors in the ad
all their sly tricks just make me mad.*

*Do they think we are crazy and don't have any sense?
This is an issue that you can't just sit on the fence.*

*We need to take a stand and do what we know is right
and that is destroy the tobacco companies with all our might.*

*The best thing we can do is never start smoking
that will show them that we aren't joking.*

*Join with me to take a pledge to never start toking
and between all of us we can STAMP OUT SMOKING.*

Mrs. Cupp said that Kiera Dixon was not able to attend but placed third in the lyrics and poetry portion of the statewide competition. She added that winners received gifts ranging from Chrome books to tablets and gift cards. Mr. Gibson congratulated the students and Mrs. Cupp. 6:13 p.m.

Mr. Gibson said K. C. McBride and Kaci Travis from Barton Jr. High School had regional winners in the recent Economics Arkansas Stock Market Game. Mrs. McBride said their students competed in the Region 3 junior high division that was held at Southern Arkansas University. She noted this was the first time they have entered the competition and noted that it was stressed to students this was not for a grade. She and Ms. Travis were surprised how many students wanted to do this on their own. In the competition student teams take \$100,000 of virtual cash and grow it through investments in stocks, bonds, and mutual funds during a ten week period. At the same time, they are learning strategies for long term investing. The teams made their decisions based on the "buy what you know" strategy, by analyzing current events and market news, and through researching companies, industries, and sectors. Ms. Travis said the competition was tough but two Barton teams emerged as winners. First place honors went to Mrs.

McBride and her team – Jordan Risinger, Trey Chisholm, Logan Mason, and Brendan Jones. Second place winners were students on Ms. Travis' team – Dorrian Dawkins, Deundra Crew, Vin Le, and Daniela Merales. Mr. Gibson congratulated the students and their teachers. 6:18 p.m.

Mr. Gibson said Student of the Month is NaKaylei Snowden. NaKaylei is the daughter of Cassandra Rucks and a third grader at Retta Brown Elementary school. Her homeroom teacher, Mrs. Green said that NaKaylei is a very respectful young lady. She is responsible and caring. NaKaylei is eager to learn with a positive attitude. One of her rotation teachers, Mrs. Matthews said that NaKaylei is always so helpful and likes to help teachers and other students. She works hard in class and is eager to learn new things. NaKaylei is a pleasure to teach. She brightens the day, no matter how difficult it is. All teachers should have a NaKaylei as a light to shine and to keep them as a ray of hope. Retta Brown students and teachers are excited that NaKaylei was chosen Student of the Month. Mrs. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:20 p.m.

Kimberly Thomas, principal at Retta Brown Elementary School, brought a report to the board about current events at the school. She said that Retta Brown adopted the A+ model for their school this year. A+ model is a three year initiative that incorporates eight essentials for school achievement: arts, curriculum, experiential learning, multiple learning pathways, enriched assessment, collaboration, climate and infrastructure. Mrs. Thomas explained that Retta Brown's goal through the A+ initiative is to provide rich learning experiences for their students and change the culture of their school by including more arts related opportunities.

One of the things the school has done this year to enhance learning through the A+ model includes adding a Club Day to the schedule. One Friday of each month, students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of clubs such as Cooking Club, Dance Club, Garden Club, or Technology Club. Community members with expertise in these topics volunteer their time to teach students valuable life skills in fun and creative ways. Another club opportunity for students is Guys with Ties and Girls with Pearls, where community business people teach students skills for their future careers like how to tie a tie, dress for work, or be interviewed.

The A+ initiative puts special emphasis on utilizing the arts as a tool for deeper learning. Retta Brown has taken advantage of the South Arkansas Arts Center's Artists in Education program to bring in local artists to teach students about theater, photography, and visual arts. This partnership has allowed students greater opportunities for experiential, hands-on learning as they use various forms of art to learn critical skills in core subjects like math, science, and literacy. Mrs. Thomas shared other experiences the students have had to broaden their knowledge of the world and make practical applications of the lessons learned in the classroom. Students have taken local and virtual field trips, hosted a gentleman from Crystal Bridges Museum, gone to a ballet, had a STEM festival, Christmas Around the World - where thirteen countries are researched for the event, and toured nearby colleges. Mrs. Thomas said it takes three years to fully implement the A+ model. The staff attended a five day training session in the summer and have received additional training throughout the year to build their confidence in integrating the arts into education. 6:28 p.m.

The board approved three student transfers to El Dorado School District and five to the Parkers Chapel School District. 6:30 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 Renee Skinner, and carried on a 7-0 vote at 8:00 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the superintendent's recommendations concerning the acceptance of resignations, the employment of new personnel, and the re-employment of the administrative staff and the literacy, math, and science chairs.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.