

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board  
March 14, 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, and Susan Turbeville. Directors Renee Skinner, Keith Smith, and Todd Whatley were absent. Also attending was Supt. Jim Tucker, Shirley Billingly, Rhonda Simmons, Tim Zylks, 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 February 8. On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Chris Lutman, and carried on a 4-0 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 Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 4-0 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.

Wayne Gibson introduced Landon Russell, Student of the Month from Yocum Primary School. Landon is the son of Megan Russell and in Mrs. Kim Ibert's first grade classroom. Mrs. Ibert described him as a good student and caring friend who is F U N! He models excellent behavior and is so respectful. His assistant principal, Mrs. Floss said Landon is a sweet, hardworking student with an amazing personality. He can always put a smile on the face of anyone he encounters. Yocum staff and students are beyond excited that Landon Russell was chosen Student of the Month. Mr. Gibson presented him with a certificate from the board. 6:03 p.m.

Victoria Sanchez was introduced as the Student of the Month from Yocum Elementary School. Mr. Gibson said Victoria is the daughter of Maria Sanchez and in Mrs. Jane Johnson's fourth grade classroom. Her math teacher, Mrs. Danielle King said that Victoria is a delight to be around. She is motivated and takes responsibility for her academic success. In addition, she works well with others and is eager to help anyone at any time. Her positive attitude is refreshing to teachers and students alike. Her principal, Mrs. Melissa Powell said that Victoria is a brave young lady who has proven to have strength to overcome obstacles. Mrs. Diane O'Nale, her music teacher said that Victoria is a sweet, kind, and beautiful young lady. She works very hard in my music class. She is helpful to others and I love her beautiful voice when she sings. I am proud to be one of her teachers. I expect wonderful things from her someday because I see wonderful things from her now! Yocum Elementary staff and students are proud that Victoria Sanchez was chosen Student of the Month. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:05 p.m.

Foster Poindexter was recognized as Classified Employee of the Month for Maintenance but was unable to attend the meeting. 6:05 p.m.

Mr. Gibson recognized Amy Beasley as Teacher of the Month from Yocum Primary School. Mrs. Beasley received her Bachelor of Science in Education degree from Ouachita Baptist University. She worked one year in another district and came to El Dorado School District in the fall of 2004 and is teaching kindergarten at the primary school.

Mrs. Beasley's co-workers describe her as dedicated, creative, kind, organized, amazing, and hardworking. She always goes above and beyond to meet the needs of each of her students. Her assistant principal, Mrs. Sherry Floss said that she feels fortunate to have such an awesome kindergarten teacher that was chosen Teacher of the Month. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:07 p.m.

Danielle King was introduced as Teacher of the Month from Yocum Elementary School. Mrs. King received her Bachelor and Master of Arts in Education from Louisiana Tech University. This is her fifth year of teaching in our district and currently teaches fourth grade math at Yocum.

Co-workers stated that Mrs. King is dedicated not only to giving her students the best possible education but to building quality and meaningful relationships with each student. Mrs. King's students are aware of the high expectations she has for them and they feel confident, encouraged, and safe in the learning environment she creates each day. According to one of her fourth grade students, Tamara Mosely, "Mrs. King is nice and always finds fun ways to let us learn." Melissa Powell, principal at Yocum said, "Danielle King is a student centered teacher who will do whatever it takes to meet the needs of her students. She is a compassionate teacher who develops positive relationships with her students." Staff and students are proud that Mrs. Danielle King was chosen Teacher of the Month. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:08 p.m.

Mr. Gibson introduced Lexi Pope, EHS Student Council treasurer. She reported to the board about Student Council happenings and said that over \$2,000 was raised at the Mr. E.H.S. pageant and \$1,600 of that amount was donated to the Agape House. She mentioned that she plans to run for Student Council president and several other juniors at the school have announced plans to run for various Student Council offices for their senior year. A couple of things Lexi likes is being a member of the E.H.S. girls' basketball team, mock exams, and A.P. classes. She stressed that she likes the way her teachers engage in class with the students, especially in Ms. Noble's classroom. Mr. Gibson asked if there were two things she would change at E.H.S., what it would be. She smiled and said to start classes a little later and sports drinks. She noted that students can drink water when in class but not sports drinks – she laughed and said she understands the reasoning behind both. The board thanked Lexi for her update from the high school. 6:14 p.m.

Beth Sullivan, Gifted and Talented Program Director spoke with the board about a proposal to restructure how the district administers gifted services to children in the schools. Administrators and G-T teachers have been studying a restructuring program for the past year. She noted the goal of the restructuring is to create a gifted education center in South Arkansas and her proposal is for Retta Brown Elementary to be the location for the district's center. This would provide more services for gifted learners and allow teachers more time with the students in the program, which are two benefits of restructuring the program.

Mrs. Sullivan stated they have done a lot of research and received positive feedback from the principals. Mr. Tucker noted this would bolster the program and would be a premier program in the state. Mrs. Sullivan explained for G-T students in grades kindergarten through first grade, teachers will go to the respective schools to provide thirty minutes of enrichment each week. Students in grades two through four, parents will take students to their home schools and a bus will pick up and take them to the gifted center around 8:15 a.m. and bring them back in the afternoon around 2:30 p.m., for parents to pick up at their home schools. Students enrolled in grades five and six, parents will take their child to Washington Middle School and a bus will pick up the fifth grade students once a month and the sixth grade students another time during the month. Students will go to the center for instruction until 2:30 p.m. at which time they will return to Washington.

The proposal for G-T students in grades seven and eight, G-T teachers will go to Barton Junior High to provide services for one hour per grade each month. This is in addition to the pre-advanced placement courses currently offered, Mrs. Sullivan said. For students in grades nine through twelve, G-T teachers will provide services for one hour per grade each month on the El Dorado High School campus – which will be in addition to the pre-AP, AP, and/or concurrent credit courses currently offered. Mrs. Sullivan explained that the district has four G-T teachers and currently two of those four "float" from one school to another. She said while some schools have 170 G-T students, others have 12, and the new enrichment program will help us have unity and consistency, and all G-T students will be in the same environment. Susan Turbeville motioned to suspend the rules and vote on the proposal, seconded by Chris Lutman, with a 4 – 0 vote. On a motion by Chris Lutman, seconded by Susan Turbeville, and carried on a 4 – 0 vote at 6:25 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the proposal to create a gifted center at Retta Brown Elementary School for gifted and talented students and teachers.

Melissa Powell, principal at Yocum Elementary and Yocum Primary School brought a report to the board about current events at the school. She showed the board a power point presentation created by Melissa Claypoole. Mrs. Powell thanked her teachers, paraprofessionals, counselors and other members of the staff at Yocum for their dedication to the students. She said teachers bring excitement to learning and energy to the classrooms. Yocum teachers love what they do, Mrs. Powell said. Activities and learning programs highlighted during the video presentation included the 100 days of school celebration, Dr. Seuss' birthday, learning about Leap Day, Read Across America week, Quiz Bowl preparation and study, pumpkin carving, field trips, 50's Day, 80's Day, and College T-shirt day. Mrs. Powell said a variety of clubs are also offered to students at Yocum, including Bird Club, Gourd Club, Cooking Club, and "Grossology" science experiments – to name a few. The school receives grants for some programs and businesses and members of the community are always willing to help with events – by volunteering and/or donating funds. Mrs. Powell added that staff members Tracy Richardson and Amy William have implemented a student and staff member of the week, which has been exciting for all. 6:35 p.m.

Debbie McAdams, updated the board on the El Dorado School Based Health Center, located at Washington Middle School. She reported the local SBHC is in its third year of operation and the state-wide program is now in its sixth year in Arkansas. There are twenty-seven centers in the state and several new programs to improve the overall health of students are being implemented. In the past year, the SBHC showed a 51% increase in enrollment for dental health, 36% increase in physical health, and 24% increase in mental health services. Mrs. McAdams said new to the SBHC at Washington this year is a mentoring program sponsored by Wyatt Baptist Church. There are seventeen students enrolled and nine mentors. The mentors invest time in the students on a weekly basis, building relationships and helping them adjust to different areas of growth in school, family, and life. The program intends to follow each enrolled student through their educational years until graduation from the school district.

Hydration education is the new "buzz" word in school health, Mrs. McAdams said. She noted that water bottle refill stations are being added to most water fountains in all the schools to provide access to water for students throughout the school day. Televisions were installed over the dental chairs in the SBHC to aid in providing the best dental care possible to students. Last year, the school district participated in the Arkansas Children's Hospital Dental Sealant program and one hundred sixty-three students were screened, one hundred seventeen students received sealants, three hundred eighty-one teeth were sealed and sixty-three students were referred for urgent dental needs. This program will continue into the 2016 – 2017 school year. The SBHC received a two thousand dollar grant to purchase an Automated External Defibrillator device and all health center staff will be trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and AED. Gianna Grant, a family nurse practitioner, provided twenty-one kindergarten physicals, through the SBHC during elementary registration for the district in August 2015.

In the near future, Mrs. McAdams will assist with a program called "Choices," at Barton Jr. High School on April 13, which is an interactive decision making workshop for eighth graders, provided by Economics Arkansas. It focuses on keeping teens in school, motivating them toward their future, and helping them with life skills to guide them into becoming successful adults. Mrs. McAdams said the district also sent four counselors to an ASIST – Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training – to enable local counselors to be able to intervene when suicide threats are learned. Other events she will participate in are the upcoming Girls Learning About Math and Science conference for eighth grade girls, Medical Applications of Science for Health (MASH) camps, various other programs with the United Way of Union County and its affiliated agencies, and the El Dorado School District programs. 6:46 p.m.

Tim Zylks stated he received the following bids for one Type C route bus:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Central States Bus Sales, No. Little Rock	\$73,630.00
Summit Bus Company, Conway	73,780.00
Midwest Bus Sales, Van Buren	84,971.00

Bids received for two Type C trip buses:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Total</u>
Central States Bus Sales, No. Little Rock	\$83,745.00	\$167,490.00
Summit Bus Company, Conway	84,268.00	168,536.00
Midwest Bus Sales, Van Buren	95,871.00	191,742.00

Mr. Tucker recommended the low bid of \$73,630.00 from Central States for the Type C route bus and the low bid total of \$167,490.00 from Central States for the two Type C trip buses. On a motion by Vicky Dobson, seconded by Chris Lutman, and carried on a 4-0 vote at 6:48 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the low bid of \$73,630.00 from Central States for one Type C route bus and the low bid total of \$167,490.00 from Central States for the two Type C trip buses.

Mr. Zylks sent bid requests for 840 cases of 8 ½” x 11” copy paper, for the 2016 – 2017 school year, to the following companies: Unisource, Texarkana, TX; Contract Paper Group, Uniontown, OR; El Dorado Printing, El Dorado; Sam’s Club, Monroe, LA; American Paper & Twine Company, Little Rock, AR; Staples, Little Rock, AR; and Quill, Lincolnshire, IL. Quill in Lincolnshire, IL responded they did not wish to bid. Mr. Zylks received a response from:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Per Case</u>	<u>Total</u>
Contract Paper Group, Uniontown, OH		
Arkansas Mill	\$ 25.96	\$ 21,808.40
Non-Ark. Mill	22.39	18,807.60

Mr. Zylks noted the bid last year came in at \$23.19 per case. Mr. Tucker recommended to the board the low bid of \$18,807.60. On a motion by Chris Lutman, seconded by Susan Turbeville, and carried on a 4-0 vote at 6:50 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the low bid of \$18,807.60 from Contract Paper Group for 840 cases of 8 ½” x 11” copy paper for the 2016 – 2017 school term.

Sarah Huddleston, chair of the Personnel Policies Committee, visited with the board about the proposed district calendar for the 2016 – 2017 school year. The committee presented two calendars to the district staff for a vote. Mrs. Huddleston explained the difference in the two calendars and Calendar A received the most votes by staff. Mr. Tucker made a recommendation to the board for that calendar. On a motion by Chris Lutman, seconded by Susan Turbeville, and carried on a 4-0 vote at 6:55 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the 2016 – 2017 District Calendar as presented.

The board approved two student transfers to the El Dorado School District and one to Parkers Chapel School District. 6:57 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 4-0 vote at 7:25 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.

On a motion by Vicky Dobson, seconded by Susan Turbeville and carried on a 4-0 vote at 7:25 p.m. it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the superintendent's recommendation concerning the re-employment of licensed personnel.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.