

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board  
March 11, 2013**

The directors of the board met on the above date at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room, School Administration Building, 200 West Oak Street, with Vicky Dobson presiding. Other directors present were Wayne Gibson, Larry Holder, Renee Skinner, Will Vance, and Todd Whatley. Director Susan Turbeville was absent. Also attending was Supt. Bob Watson, Shirley Billingly, Rhonda Simmons, Phillip Lansdell, Tim Zylks, Angie Drummond, and Lou Ann Voris.

Mrs. Dobson asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting held February 11. On a motion by Larry Holder, seconded by Will Vance, and carried on a 6-0 vote, the minutes were approved.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. After some discussion and on a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Renee Skinner, and carried on a 6-0 vote, the bills were approved for payment. A list of bills paid and monthly financial statement are on file in the business office.

Mrs. Dobson introduced the Student of the Month from Barton Jr. High School, Tristen Lewis. She is the daughter of Heather Fish and an eighth grader at Barton. Mrs. Becki Schultz nominated Tristen and stated that she is new to the district, having moved to El Dorado from Florida. Once she arrived, Tristen quickly acclimated to the student body, making friends easily, and becoming involved in the activities on campus. Tristen possesses an optimistic spirit and appears to love life. In class she is attentive, respectful, and responsible. I will be sad to see her move on to the high school, but I look forward to following her academic career. Another teacher, Ms. Andria Gleghorn said, "Tristen works for me in the Bistro. She is a most dependable worker and there every week. She not only works her assigned shift, she also works an extra shift. She always has a smile on her face and is eager to help. If I need anything done, I know that Tristen will be willing to help in any way she can. I have really enjoyed getting to know Tristen this year."

Barton principal, Mrs. Sherry Hill stated Tristen is kind, friendly, enthusiastic, and just a joy to be around. She takes all Pre-AP classes, works in the Bistro, and maintains a 3.7 grade point average. Many teachers have said they could clone her! Mrs. Hill said since Tristen is new to El Dorado this year that it is very telling of her character that she was chosen by the staff, since none of the seventh grade teachers taught her last year! Mrs. Dobson presented Tristen with a certificate from the board.

Mrs. Dobson stated that Classified Employee of the Month is Trish Hicks. Mrs. Hicks is a para-professional at Retta Brown Elementary School. She began her career at Union School, and then moved to Northwest Elementary, before coming to Retta Brown. This makes her twenty-first year of working with our students and her fifth year at Retta Brown. Those nominating her and her principal, Mrs. Kimberly Thomas stated she is a very hard worker. She never backs down from a task. She cares for the students and tries in every way to help them accomplish the tasks set before them. She is friendly and cooperative with the teachers and staff. She always looks for ways to brighten your day. She is willing to assist, has a helpful attitude, and pays attention to details. Big or small whatever Mrs. Hicks has to do, she does it with a smile. Mrs. Dobson presented her with a certificate from the board.

Teacher of the Month from Barton Jr. High School is Tammy McCloy. Mrs. McCloy received her Bachelors of Science degree in elementary education from Southern Arkansas University. She also has twelve additional graduate hours. This makes her sixteenth year that she has been with our district.

Mrs. McCloy teaches Pre-AP eighth grade science. Mrs. Hill stated that her classes are among some of my favorite to observe because of the inquiry based approached she employs in her science classes. Students are always actively engaged. Mrs. Hill stated that Mrs. McCloy was Common Core before Common Core was cool. She is also one of

those teachers who comes early and stays late. She is very organized, helpful to new staff, and always positive.

Co-workers and Mrs. Amy Garner, who nominated Mrs. McCloy, stated Tammy McCloy goes out of her way to make a connection with her students. Every day that Mrs. McCloy doesn't have morning duty, she offers extra tutoring. There are always students in her room before school working on science. She is constantly looking for ways to improve her instructional methods to keep students engaged in the lesson and to make it fun and interesting. Tammy is also an inspiration to other teachers. She is well organized and always upbeat. She has been a tremendous help to me all year and continues to help me. Mrs. Garner stated that many days Mrs. McCloy has taken time to help explain certain lessons or labs to ensure that I have the understanding to teach that content to my students. I am very thankful to work with her and call her a friend. Mrs. Dobson presented her with a certificate from the board.

A Petition for Transfer Request was approved by the board for a student to transfer to Parkers Chapel School District.

Phillip Lansdell presented the athletic eligibility rules for home schooled students composed by the Arkansas Activities Association. He stated that some of the guideline include: A student who has been a bona fide student in an AAA member school and withdraws to be home schooled shall not participate in an interscholastic activity in a public school district of the parent's domicile for a minimum of one year after the student withdraws. A public school district may permit a home-schooled student to participate in interscholastic activities if the parent of the student notifies the superintendent of the school in writing of the student's request to participate in the activity by July 1. Prior to the first day of school, the student must be administered the SAT-10 Assessment at grade level and the student is required to score average or better on the SAT-10 Assessment in the areas of mathematics, English, science and social studies. If a student's request to participate in the activity is approved then the student shall be enrolled in and regularly attending at least one course per day (possibly two courses per day).

He noted that students would also have to meet criteria to participate in that interscholastic activity, demonstrate academic progress, comply with practice times and ride to and from activity events on a school bus if that is the policy of the district. A home-schooled student is not guaranteed participation in an interscholastic activity, only the opportunity to try out for the activity. After a time of discussion, Mr. Watson asked the board to consider what Mr. Lansdell presented and vote in the April monthly board meeting.

Tom Simmons presented the new math textbook adoptions for students in kindergarten through twelfth grades. Mr. Watson noted there are some changes coming in the Common Core area and more textbooks focused on testing. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Larry Holder, seconded by Wayne Gibson, and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the kindergarten through twelfth grade math textbook adoptions as presented by Tom Simmons.

John Davis chairman of the Personnel Policies Committee and a member of the District Calendar Committee answered questions the board had prior to the vote on the 2013-2014 District Calendar. On a motion by Todd Whatley, seconded by Larry Holder, and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the 2013-2014 District Calendar.

Mr. Watson visited with the board about the fact that he, Nelson Post, and Rick Arnold have been meeting with principals and exploring safety issues within the district. He noted that schools throughout the country have been looking at ways to increase safety on school campuses in light of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy. Mr. Watson said a company by the name of CourtHouse Concepts of Little Rock would inspect district schools and give an assessment of what needs to be done to upgrade school safety

measures. He asked for the board's consideration to spend \$3,000 – the fee charged by CourtHouse Concepts – for company officials to inspect district buildings and give recommendations to make schools safer for students and staff. He also stated the representatives of Hall Pass are expected, in the April board meeting, to demonstrate their software system that requires visitors to school campuses to show identification before being admitted into the building. With integrated data and instant identification, Hall Pass can increase security and prevent incidents in schools. Mr. Watson said the cost to place the Hall Pass monitoring system at all nine school campuses in the district is \$12,282.75.

Mr. Watson explained that trying to secure school campuses with multiple buildings is a “big issue,” and said he and Nelson Post, crisis manager for the district, recently visited Cabot schools to learn about security measures implemented on that campus. He noted that our district is looking at ways to create safe zones on school campuses, which would require visitors to gain entrance to the buildings through two sets of doors and would implement ways to secure doors to classrooms and buildings. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Renee Skinner, seconded by Larry Holder, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the district to secure the services of CourtHouse Concepts in regard to safety issues.

The meeting adjourned to an executive session to discuss personnel matters, then reconvened to an open meeting. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Renee Skinner, and carried on a 6-0 vote, 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 classified personnel and Derrill Smith, whose name was accidentally omitted last month.

On a motion by Larry Holder, seconded by Wayne Gibson, it was

RESOLVED, That the board stated if Jim Tucker decided to come to the administration office as deputy superintendent then the board hereby approves Alva Reibe as principal of El Dorado High School.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.