

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board  
May 13, 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, Susan Turbeville, Will Vance, and Todd Whatley. Also attending was Supt. Bob Watson, Rhonda Simmons, Bonnie Haynie, 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 April 8, 30, and May 9. On a motion Wayne Gibson, seconded by Renee Skinner, and carried on a 7-0 vote, the minutes were approved.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. After some discussion and on a motion by Renee Skinner, seconded by Wayne Gibson, 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.

Mrs. Dobson introduced Jonathan Polk, Student of the Month from El Dorado High School. Jonathan is the son of Rev. Jim and Patty Polk and a senior at E.H.S. The teacher nominating Jonathan said, "I know he has a lot going on after school through Boy Scouts and church yet he stays on top of his school work and is always smiling.

Students interviewed stated that Jonathan is such a great guy. He is always positive and makes everyone feel welcomed. He is smart, funny, friendly, and athletic. He sets an example for everyone around him. Another said, it was fun running track with Jonathan. He is a great inspiration. He always makes every boring situation exciting. He is by far one of the greatest people I have ever met. While another said Jonathan is one of the most godly guys I know. He is always kind to everyone and he never leaves anyone out of the loop. He knows how to have fun all the time. He cares about everyone, he is quite the lady's man, and he is the best track runner I know.

His principal, Jim Tucker stated Jonathan always has a great attitude and is always smiling. It makes me smile to see him in the halls. He is the type of student all teachers wish they had in their classroom. E.H.S. staff and students are proud that Jonathan Polk was chosen Student of the Month and wish him the best in his future endeavors. Mrs. Dobson presented him with a certificate from the board.

Student of the Month from Retta Brown Elementary School is Ashton Staples. Polite, well mannered, easy going, and aware of others needs are just a few words to describe fourth grader, Ashton. He is the son of Shakeda Reynolds and the grandson of Lewis and Tori Reynolds. He is an active member of New Bethel Baptist Church.

Ashton enjoys playing football and helping others. His goal is to finish high school and join the U. S. armed forces so he can help defend his country. He can be seen around Retta Brown ready to give a helping hand. His compassion for others was evident on a recent school trip. A student was in a tough situation and no one was willing to help. Instead of worrying about being embarrassed, he stepped up to the plate to help the student. When faced with his own tough situations, Aston remains level headed and strives to make good choices. He applies himself in the classroom and takes pride in his work. Without a doubt we are proud that Ashton Staples was chosen Student of the Month. Mrs. Dobson presented him with a certificate from the board.

Mrs. Dobson said that Caitlin Lower was chosen Teacher of the month from Retta Brown Elementary School. Ms. Lowery received her Bachelor's degree in environmental science from the University of Michigan. She came to our district following an intensive training program with the Teach for American Institute. This is her second year in our district and she has taught third grade and kindergarten at Retta Brown Elementary School.

Those nominating Ms. Lowery stated she is a very loving and kind person. She has high expectations for each of her students. She is patient and eager to help in any way she can.

She volunteers and lends a helping hand any time there is a need. One of her co-workers stated that Ms. Lowery has a contagious personality and she has a way of bringing out the best in others. Ms. Lowery is a team player and Retta Brown staff and students are lucky to have her on our team. Mrs. Dobson presented her with a certificate from the board.

Teacher of the Year from El Dorado High School is Patrick Johnson. Mr. Johnson received his Bachelor's degree in art and art history from Henderson State University and his Master's degree in visual arts from Union Institute and University in Montpelier, Vermont. He had two years of experience teaching in Hughes, Arkansas and has been in our district for twenty-three years, mostly at E.H.S. teaching art and ceramics.

Those nominating him stated he deserves to not only be teacher of the month but teacher of the year! Mr. Johnson has a great relationship with students and is very caring. He works great with a wide variety of abilities from his AP classes, all the way to the special needs students. He is a true "pro" in our profession to work with all student's needs and capabilities. He possesses great character and integrity. What would you expect – his dad was a principal and mom a school music teacher – both beloved by many staff and students in our district.

His principal, Jim Tucker stated Pat Johnson is a very effective and engaging teacher that treats all students fairly and shows respect for each student. He builds positive relationships with each that help them grow as students and as citizens. His is always positive with those around him. E. H. S. is proud that Pat Johnson was chosen Teacher of the Month. Mrs. Dobson presented him with certificate from the board.

Mr. Watson reminded the board that the district was studying ways to achieve safety goals for students and staff in the district and had secured CourtHouse Concepts to provide that assessment. He then introduced Dan Coulombe and Paul Hickman with CourtHouse Concepts. Mr. Coulombe told board members that all nine school buildings were surveyed to determine areas of safety vulnerability and how to address those issues. He said the study focused on all hazards that could cause crisis situations in schools – from floods and natural disasters, to thefts and unwanted persons on school campuses. He complimented the high school's design committee and said as far as safety is concerned and in other areas, the new high school is "truly the best high school design I've seen."

Mr. Coulombe said priorities to safety in all schools are entrances and accesses to school campuses, and he extolled the board's decision to purchase Hall Pass, a software system that will provide each campus with a terminal that will issue visitor badges after background checks are completed. He said Hall Pass is "one of the best entry systems" for schools. Components used by CourtHouse Concepts to determine what needs to be done to ensure safety at schools include inspections, interviews with key school personnel, surveys, crime reviews, policy/plan reviews and assessments. Coulombe, a former police chief, said school districts need to look at a layered approach to safety – by adding window tinting, curtains, locking doors, updating and checking alarm systems and security cameras, double doors at entrances, audits and inventory of door keys and camera systems, removing rocks that are sometimes used to hold doors open, removing bushes from near school windows, increasing fencing on some campuses and locking all janitor closets and supply and equipment rooms.

Mr. Coulombe suggested creating shelter in place programs at schools, where in the case of a chemical spill classrooms would be sealed. He added that a plan for communication would be necessary as well. The National Incident Management System, a federally mandated system for law enforcement, is also mandated for school districts, Coulombe said and he suggested the district use the system in planning in response to a school emergency. He said if school officials suspect a crisis situation on a campus, "get police on the way – call 911."

Included with the assessments of schools, Coulombe added a list of grants available to school districts to achieve safety goals and said if federal grants are received the district will have to be NIMS compliant.

Andre Rucks came before the board with a request. He told board members that he visited with Mr. Watson about use of the gym at the El Dorado Education Complex for Thursday and Friday night basketball games to keep young men, from 18 to 35 years old, off the streets during the summer months. He stated that he would like to begin on June 13 from 7:00 – 11:00 p.m. He explained the security measures he would have in place and said he has the support of the Union County Sheriff's Department and the El Dorado Police Department. In making his presentation to the board, he stated that he changed his mind from his initial request to Mr. Watson and wished to ask the board for use of the Washington Middle School gym and gave the reason that it is centrally located to the young men he wishes to reach. Board members asked Mr. Rucks to submit a written proposal to Mr. Watson for further board discussion of his request.

Kimberly Thomas, principal at Retta Brown Elementary, made a proposal to the board regarding a gender based Boys' Academy at Retta Brown. She explained the program will be available to approximately twenty-eight fourth grade boys with Tyrone Davis as their teacher. She said there are not differences in what girls and boys can learn, but there are big differences in the best ways to teach them. Mrs. Thomas explained the academy will focus on direct teaching, learning styles, and strategies developmentally appropriate for fourth grade males. The academy will also center on discipline techniques that will foster a family and team approach through the use of the "Stop and Think" program, sports, and mentoring.

The overall purposes of the male academy at Retta Brown will be to teach a rigorous curriculum that encompasses all subjects, while presenting the information in a style, delivery, and format beneficial to the learning styles of all males, a discipline program that fosters positive, yet firm discipline techniques, and a cooperative learning environment. She said the school days for boys in the academy will be from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. – an extended school day – and Wednesday will be "dress for success day." Parents and mentors will be invited to "shadow" their students on certain days and each month families will be invited to eat a meal at the school with their child. Presentations will be given to boys in the academy by successful males in and around El Dorado and a mentoring program will be established with mentors serving as academic coaches to students. The academy will also partner with the Boys and Girls Club of El Dorado, allowing students to attend programs at the club. Mrs. Thomas said teachers and parents of students in the academy will sign contracts pledging to provide motivating learning experiences for students, talk with children about experiences at school, read to students and support teachers' efforts; students will sign contract letters promising to "come to class prepared with all necessary supplies, do my very best every day, support my teacher's efforts to help me succeed and have fun learning." After some discussion and on a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Renee Skinner, and carried on a 7-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the gender based Boys' Academy at Retta Brown Elementary School beginning with the 2013-2014 school term.

Mr. Watson stated the high school has a request to make some revisions to the 2013-2014 District Calendar. The changes are to increase parent participation and are only applicable to the high school. He stated Mrs. Reibe requested the August 12 Orientation for ninth grade and new students be from 4:30 – 7:30 and August 13 Open House/Registration be for grades 10 – 12 and be for A-Z thus omitting August 15 Open House/Registration for M-Z. She also requested the 7:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. March 13 CATS Conferences be changed to March 18. On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Wayne Gibson, and carried on a 7-0 vote, it was

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

Rhonda Simmons presented the grades K – 6 school supply list. She explained to the board that principals and administrators have reassessed the list to remove and add items in conjunction with Common Core standards. On a motion by Renee Skinner, seconded by Larry Holder and carried on a 7-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the K-6 school supply list as presented. A copy is on file in the assistant superintendent's office.

Mr. Watson stated the following bids were received for a concrete slab in the El Dorado High School courtyard.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Total</u>
B & B Contractors	\$11,300.00
Mac's General Contractors, Inc.	16,480.50

Mr. Watson recommended the low bid to the board. On a motion by Todd Whatley, seconded by Wayne Gibson, and carried on a 7-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the bid of \$11,300.00 from B & B Contractors for a concrete slab in the E.H.S. courtyard.

Phillip Lansdell updated the board on the status of the state legislature's bill to allow home-schooled students to participate in interscholastic activities at public schools. In the April board meeting the board approved the Arkansas Activities Association's athletic eligibility guidelines for home-schooled students but as Mr. Lansdell said, some of the guidelines changed since the last meeting. He reminded them that the board agreed a home-schooled student would be required to attend two courses at the school, but the new law reads, "The student cannot be required to be enrolled in more than one period per school day." Previously the board had agreed that the students would have to provide a written request to the superintendent and now, the students must inform the principal of their request to participate before the sign-up, tryout, or participation deadlines.

The home-schooled student must obtain a minimum test score of the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile on the Stanford Achievement Test Series in order to participate, the student must be enrolled within the first eleven days of the fall or spring semester and meet the same requirements as enrolled students. The law also reads, "If the student withdraws from an Arkansas Activities Association member school to be home-schooled, the student shall not participate in interscholastic activity in the resident school district for a minimum of 365 days after the student withdraws from the member school." On a motion by Larry Holder, seconded by Susan Turbeville, and carried on a 7-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the changes as presented to be in compliance with the Arkansas Activities Association's athletic eligibility guidelines for home schooled students.

Mr. Lansdell also presented, for the board's consideration, a request for the high school to play in the Battle on the Border High School Football Showcase football game in Shreveport, Louisiana with C. E. Byrd High School at Independence Stadium. The board is requested to sign a resolution from the city of Shreveport for the two year commitment. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Todd Whatley, seconded by Renee Skinner, and carried on a 7-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the resolution from the City of Shreveport for a two year commitment with El Dorado High School to play a football game with C. E. Byrd High School in the Battle on the Border High School Football Showcase at Shreveport's Independence Stadium.

Tim Zylks visited with the board about the need for a digital camera system in the district school buses and noted this is definitely an upgrade from DL recorders presently being used. With this system there will be three cameras in the bus with one camera on the outside. The outside camera will provide safety for students as well as record license plate numbers of cars that might pass a stopped school bus. The district will go through the TIPS/TAPS program where the state has already secured bids and the cost for ten units is \$33,867.50. He said this price includes installation of the camera units. On a motion by Renee Skinner, seconded by Wayne Gibson, and carried on a 7-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the purchase of ten mobile DVR system cameras from KLC Video Security, Texarkana, Texas for district school buses at a cost of \$33,867.50.

Mrs. Dobson stated baccalaureate for upcoming graduating seniors will be Sunday, May 19 at 8:00 p.m. at the Municipal Auditorium and El Dorado High School's graduation ceremony will be Monday, May 20 at 8:00 p.m. She asked that board members be at both events at 7:45 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, 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.