

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
September 10, 2012**

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 Joey Bauman, Wayne Gibson, Larry Holder, Renee Skinner, Susan Turbeville, and Will Vance. Also attending was Supt. Bob Watson, Rhonda Simmons, Bonnie Haynie, Shirley Billingly, Bonnie Haynie, Angie Drummond, and Lou Ann Voris.

Mrs. Dobson asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meetings held August 13. On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Wayne Gibson, 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 Larry Holder, seconded by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 7-0 vote, the bills were approved for payment. A list of bills paid and a monthly financial statement are on file in the business office.

Angie Drummond discussed with the board the past school term athletic expenditures. Working with a formula designed by the legislature, the district's athletic expenditures appeared to out strip the 2011-2012 fiscal year budget by more than twofold. The legislature mandates 18% of the costs to maintain and operate the entirety of a school district's square footage be classified as athletic expenses.

The district budgeted \$883,097, with expenditures of \$2,314,725. The latter figure denotes the 18% of total costs and includes \$586,787 for coaches' salaries and \$637,189, which represents 14% of the construction costs for the new high school paid during the 2011-12 fiscal year. Derived from the architect's specs, the 14% accounts for the segment of the high school deemed to be built for athletic use. Those construction costs won't be included in the 2012-2013 fiscal year athletic budget of \$1,408,097.

Mrs. Dobson introduced the Student of the Month, Caroline Humphreys. Caroline is an eighth grader at Barton Jr. High School, the daughter of Jill and Greg Humphreys, and the big sister to Ben, who is in the fourth grade at Yocum. Adrienne Carey is one of the teachers nominating Caroline and states that her personality is best described as effervescent but she demonstrates individuality, leadership, perseverance, respect, and scholarship. She approaches her most challenging tasks with a smile and a positive attitude. She is always willing to help someone in need and is not afraid to step outside her comfort zone. Caroline is involved in numerous extra-curricular activities but she prioritizes purposefully and remains focused. She is a model student. Tammy McCloy stated she is respectful at all times; always completes her work in a timely manner; and is a positive role model for other students.

Her principal, Sherry Hill said that Caroline is a friendly, helpful student who is kind to all. She is very mature for her age and takes a leadership role in many activities. Caroline is a straight A student, works in the main office, and is active in the youth group at College Avenue Church of Christ. She is the type of student any teacher would love to have in their class. Mrs. Dobson presented her with a certificate from the board.

Wendy Brown was introduced as the Teacher of the Month from Barton Jr. High School. Ms. Brown received her Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. This begins her third year of teaching English – the first two in seventh grade and now eighth grade this year. Karen Millican, one of the teachers nominating her said that she cheerfully greets her students each morning and maintains a wonderful rapport with them. She offers engaging lessons in her classroom and is working diligently to mesh the Common Core Standards into her lessons with the use of technology and creativity.

Another teacher, Sarah Huddleston said that Ms. Brown is a very energetic teacher. She arrives early each day to get ahead for the day's lessons, often researching more techniques to use in her classes. She works hard to help fellow teachers with technology,

lessons ideas, and implementing new strategies. She had been instrumental this year in finding new ways to help teach Common Core Standards and has spent hours helping new teachers hook up technology and get ready for their students.

Her principal, Sherry Hill said that Ms. Brown is a co-sponsor of the Paw Power drug free organization on campus, a teacher in our summer "Waiting to Excel" program, and volunteers for many other school activities. She is very technology savvy and incorporates technology into most lessons. Her classes are rarely lecture but more discovery and hands on. For that reason, Ms. Brown has assumed a leadership position in the English department as we implement Common Core. She graciously agreed to move to the eighth grade to help form a collaborative team with the other two eighth grade English teachers who are both new to our school. Her infectious enthusiasm for learning has led to her becoming a favorite among staff and students alike. Her positive attitude and work ethic is an example for all. Mrs. Dobson presented her with a certificate from the board.

The board approved a Petition for Transfer Request for a student to transfer to Parkers Chapel School District and two students to Smackover School District.

Shawn Lamkin presented the designated surrogate parent program to the board. She stated that as director she has Odell Carr, Anne Hegi, Camille Daniels, Bruce Turner, Mark Southall, and Kent Jobe helping her as representatives. After a time of discussion and 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 designated surrogate parent program director and representatives for the district: Shawn Lamkin, director, Odell Carr, Anne Hegi, Camille Daniels, Bruce Turner, Mark Southall, and Kent Jobe.

Miss Lamkin visited with the board about the special education assurances and agreements for school age services and certification regarding lobbying. Miss Lamkin also presented the special education budgets for state equalization, Title VI-B, Medicaid, catastrophic, and ARMAC. On a motion by Larry Holder, seconded by Renee Skinner, and carried on a 7-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the special education assurances and agreements for school age services and certification regarding lobbying. The board approves the special education budgets for State Equalization, Title VI-B, Medicaid, Catastrophic and ARMAC.

Prior to the next item of business, Larry Holder excused himself from voting on the matter. Mr. Watson stated that Families and Children Together, Inc. (F.A.C.T., Inc.) was interested in a long term lease of West Woods for ninety-nine years for their pre-school program. On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Wayne Gibson, and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves a ninety-nine year lease of the West Woods facility to Families and Children Together, Inc.

Rhonda Simmons reported highlights in district gains in the Annual Report to the Public. She said an expanding achievement gap is the result of improved Advanced Placement scores and participation. The National College Board recognized El Dorado High School in 2011 as having the greatest increase in the number of students taking AP exams. This reiterated the progress in that 590 tests were given during the 2011-12 school year, an increase of 137 tests from the previous year. The widening gap between students from more affluent backgrounds and students from economically-disadvantaged circumstances is a function of increased enrollment in AP courses, college-level classes that allow students to earn college credit. It was stated the easiest way to close the gap would be to do away with AP and pre-AP. Mr. Watson said that would be a tack he would loath to consider. He said students at both ends of the spectrum are improving but the progress of students higher on the socio-economic ladder is outpacing those who reside on the lower

rungs. The state considers students to be economically disadvantaged if they receive free or reduced lunches. He noted that the district is pulling the gap closer together and students are doing better.

The Criterion Reference Test showed the biggest disparity in math and science scores. There was a 39% gap in science scores among the district's fifth graders and a 36% gap for seventh graders. Sixth graders showed the biggest gap in math achievement at 37%. Mrs. Simmons noted markedly improved ACT scores from 2011. The district's composite scores jumped from an average of 17.8 in 2011 to 20.1 in 2012. Scores improved across the board, increasing in English: 19.8 from 16.9, math: 19.9 from 18.1, reading: 20.3 from 17.7, and science: 20.0 from 17.9. While academic performance was up, enrollment was down from 2011. The district reports 127 fewer students, Mrs. Simmons said. As of September 7, 4,477 students were enrolled, compared to 4,604 last September. Mr. Watson noted the decline will be reflected in funds the district receives from the state, which allocates \$6,200 per student.

Mr. Watson stated each year his portion of the Annual Report to the Public deals with facilities. At El Dorado High School painting took place in the weight room, touch up paint was done in the halls, on handrails, and in classrooms. Two ball fields were developed, with irrigation and Bermuda grass planted. One outdoor band practice area was developed and a 26' x 30' storage building was erected on the practice fields. At the El Dorado Education Complex (former high school site) remodeling of the administration area took place for special education and English Language Learners offices. He noted the roof was replaced in that area and roof leaks were repaired throughout the campus. Mr. Watson said that furniture and files were moved from Union School to other district locations. At Barton Jr. High School roofing was repaired in the main building. The counselor's offices and four classrooms were painted in the main building. Rest rooms and the school's entrance doors and frames were painted. Washington Middle School had classroom 217 remodeled to house new computers. Repairs were done to the plumbing in the 300 building. A portion of broken down plumbing under the kitchen floor was replaced. Maintenance installed new fixtures in the rest rooms near the cafeteria, painted the exterior doors and frames, restrooms, and the main building hall.

Hugh Goodwin Elementary School had their P. E. portable building painted and received a new ceiling. The exterior doors and frames were also painted at the school. Mr. Watson said that Northwest Elementary School had baseboard installed on their metal lockers. Maintenance crews painted and installed base mold also. Exterior doors and frames were painted at the school and carpet was replaced in the counselor's office. At Retta Brown Elementary School the exterior doors and frames were painted, along with the rest room partitions. Painting took place in the pre-school portable building with a new ceiling installed. At Yocum Elementary School the second floor rest rooms were remodeled which included new plumbing fixtures, paint, and a refinished floor. Plaster throughout was repaired and then the halls were painted. One classroom had the lockers repainted and floor covering was replaced in the teacher's lounge. Murmil Educational Center had rest rooms and one classroom painted. Some office furniture, files, and equipment were moved from West Woods to Murmil. The district maintenance crew moved the special education offices from the Carver Building to the El Dorado Education Complex. West Woods furniture and office equipment was moved to other district locations, too.

Mrs. Dobson stated the school election is September 18 but district school board positions are unopposed and will be handled through absentee and early voting at the Court House. She reminded board members that the School Board Member Institute is Monday, October 15 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Little Rock, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Six hours of training credit is earned for attending. The Region 13 Annual Meeting of the Arkansas School Boards Association will be held Monday, October 22 at Smackover School District, 700 Magnolia Street. Two hours of training credit will be earned at this meeting.

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 Larry Holder, 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.