

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board  
January 18, 2010**

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 Susan Turbeville presiding. Other directors present were Vicky Dobson, Wayne Gibson, Larry Holder, Renee Skinner, and Will Vance. Director Joey Bauman was absent. Also attending was Supt. Bob Watson, Rhonda Simmons, Bonnie Haynie, Tim Zylks, Don Thompson, and Lou Ann Voris.

Mrs. Turbeville asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meetings held December 14 and 17. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Vicky Dobson, 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 Will Vance, 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. Turbeville introduced Alexis Downum as Student of the Month. Alexis is the daughter of Tammy and Greg Downum. She is a fourth grader at Yocum Elementary School and in Mrs. Amanda Waggoner's class. Alexis participates in many activities inside and outside of school. She is on the Yocum fourth grade Quiz Bowl team, in the Gifted and Talented program, participates in Girl Scouts, soccer, and softball.

Mrs. Waggoner stated that Alexis is an outstanding fourth grader. She has made excellent progress in all academic areas. Her exemplary work is a reflection of her fine attitude and effort that she puts into all her school work. She is also a fine citizen in the classroom. Her willingness to help others has made her well-liked by her classmates. Her teacher stated it is always pleasant to work with such a bright and willing student. Mrs. Turbeville presented Alexis with a certificate from the board.

Mrs. Turbeville said that Teacher of the Month is Kathy Zylks. Mrs. Zylks received her Bachelor of Science and Masters degrees in Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education, and Library Science from Ouachita Baptist University. This is her thirty-second year of teaching; with most of those years as the librarian at Yocum Elementary School.

Her principal and fellow teachers nominating Mrs. Zylks state she is an excellent candidate for Teacher of the Month! She exudes all the characteristics that complete a model teacher. Mrs. Zylks always has a friendly smile and kind word for everyone. She goes above and beyond to motivate and cultivate a love of reading and learning in the students. Mrs. Zylks creates a warm and friendly environment in the Yocum library. One teacher said she knows from experience that the students are always excited to visit the library. Along with all the wonderful teacher characteristics that she possesses, she is always a professional! Mrs. Turbeville presented Mrs. Zylks with a certificate from the board.

Mr. Watson stated bids were received on the south canopy for Yocum Elementary.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Smith Canopies & Awnings, Bastrop, LA	\$17,894.40
AACE, Inc., Shreveport, LA	19,200.00

After some discussion and on a motion by Larry Holder, seconded by Renee Skinner, and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the low bid of \$17,894.40 from Smith Canopies & Awnings for the south canopy at Yocum Elementary School.

Tim Zylks presented bids on a district vehicle that is used for driver's education and by coaches on scouting trips. Mr. Watson said that Mr. Zylks checked prices for used cars and the price was about the same as a new Ford Fusion.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Jim Golden Ford, Camden	\$16,618.00
Teague Ford, El Dorado	15,881.49
Smackover Motors	15,316.19

After some 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 low bid of \$15,316.19 from Smackover Motors.

Karen Magee with Coordinated School Health and PRIDE Youth programs updated the board on what part these programs are playing in the district schools. She said the district is one of thirty-three in the state that participates in the health program and PRIDE Youth Program, which is a part of the SHARE Foundation. The office is housed at El Dorado High School and is funded with Tobacco Settlement money. Mrs. Magee said that last year second and third grade students were provided with sealants to protect their teeth because of a grant from the Coordinated School Health program. She said that highlights of the program include a District Wellness Committee, Too Good for Drugs curriculum, Best Friends – Worst Enemies, Stomp Out Tobacco conference, health screenings, E.H.S. movie night after graduation, health tips in the El Dorado News Times, Red Ribbon Week, World Drug Prevention conference, Health Works Fitness Center discounts for employees, Stepping Out to Touch/Union County, Paw Power and PRIDE Clubs, physical education programs, “No Tobacco” school signs, wellness activities, staff exercise classes, body walk, flu shots and PE4Life. She said that 37.5 percent of Arkansas children are overweight – one of the highest percentages in the nation. She also showed that statistics for cigarette smoking, chewing tobacco, alcohol and marijuana use are all on the decline in Union County, but said we have a huge problem with prescription drugs. Mrs. Magee said if a child is healthy they learn better and said she would talk more with the board in the February meeting about the PE4Life Program.

Mr. Watson told the board that administrators will be providing some professional development for the board about what is going on within the district. He explained that is why they have been provided a notebook to keep up with the monthly information the staff will be presenting in the board meetings. Larry Walters visited with the board about concurrent credit that is available for high school students. He said if high school students take advantage of all the college courses offered at the high school, they can graduate with twenty-seven hours of college credit. The concurrent credit courses are offered because of an agreement between the school district and South Arkansas Community College.

Since the program first began in the fall of 2006 additional classes have been added and the number of students taking advantage of the courses has grown from seven to one hundred and sixty-three students. The concurrent credit courses offered are accepted at all two and four-year colleges in Arkansas, provided the student completes the course with a C average, and at some private universities. He said that Advanced Placement courses are accepted at any college. Taking the courses costs very little for the student – most costs such as tuition, fees, and books are paid by SouthArk and/or the school district, Mr. Walters said.

Courses offered this semester include Composition II, College Algebra, Plan Trigonometry, U. S. History since 1876, and Western Civilization since 1700. Courses are offered and El Dorado High School and El Dorado teachers do not receive any extra pay to teach those classes. To enroll in concurrent credit courses, students must visit their guidance counselor for options and approval, visit SouthArk College Transition department for Early College Start forms, complete the forms, complete a transcript request and provide immunization records and test scores.

Bonnie Haynie spoke with the board about Act 1180 of 2009 that requires certain information be available to the public on the district’s website – such as local and state revenue sources, administrator and teacher salaries and benefits, expenditure data, school district balances, minutes of regular and special meetings, the district’s budget, a breakdown of monthly expenses, salary schedule, current contact information for district

employees, statistical report and personnel policies. Act 1373 of 2009 – the Parental Improvement Act – requires that parents’ access to public school data on achievement gaps be improved and more easily accessible for parents. She said as far as she can tell, El Dorado is the first school district in the state to update their website to include the information now required for accessible information and parental involvement data.

Mr. Watson discussed with the board ongoing problems with the junior high and high school exam schedules. In the past there have been problems checking students in and out of school, which he said proved to be a bigger problem in the junior high school. This year they went with two exams a day allowing thirty minutes in between each exam hoping this will alleviate problems within the school and also help parents that have students in both the junior high and the high school. Trey Turbeville, student body president at El Dorado High School, discussed with the board the change in the exam schedule and how it is affecting students. He and other students like the thirty minutes of study time it gives them between exams and said that it’s been an all around positive thing.

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 Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the superintendent’s recommendations concerning the acceptance of resignations and the employment of new personnel.

The board hereby extends the employment contract of Bob Watson as superintendent. On a motion by Will Vance, seconded by Renee Skinner, and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby extends the employment contract of Bob Watson as superintendent for another three years with an annual salary of \$171,000 and benefits to remain the same.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.