

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
November 8, 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 Vicky Dobson presiding. Other directors present were Joey Bauman, Wayne Gibson, Larry Holder, Renee Skinner, and Will Vance. Director Susan Turbeville was absent. 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 meeting held October 11 and 12. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Joey Bauman, 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 Larry Holder, seconded by Joey Bauman, and carried on a 6-0 vote, the bills were approved for payment. A list of bills paid and a monthly financial statement are on file in the business office.

Mayor Mike Dumas read a proclamation naming November 14 – 20 as American Education Week in El Dorado.

Mrs. Dobson introduced Katherine “Katie” Eckart as a National Merit Semifinalist. Katie is the daughter of John and Laurie Eckart. With a grade point average of 4.25 Katie ranks first in a class of 299 students. She is co-captain of the tennis team and co-captain of the swim team. Katie is a member of the high school orchestra, PRIDE, Junior Service League, Beta Club, and National Honor Society. In 2009, she medaled in swimming at the International Junior Olympics. She was the winner of the Level 8 regional ASMTA piano competition. Katie has participated in summer learning programs at Washington University, Vanderbilt University, and Notre Dame University. She plans to pursue a career in mechanical engineering. Mrs. Dobson congratulated Katie and presented her with a certificate from the board

Mrs. Dobson introduced Cameron Mahone as the Student of the Month. He is a senior at El Dorado High School and the son of Octavia Mahone and Terry Mahone and has one sister, Cristine. Cameron is an outstanding student and athlete. He currently maintains a 4.1 grade point average and stated his favorite subject is math because of the challenge it presents. He plans to major in biology at either the University of Central Arkansas or Arkansas State University. His goal is to pursue a career as an orthodontist.

Cameron plays football for the champion Wildcats of El Dorado High School. He plays on the offensive side of the ball as running back and on the defensive side as linebacker. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Beta Club, Key Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and a member of Douglas Chapel Church. Cameron also works as an office assistant in Mr. Walter’s office. Cameron was nominated by Coach Tank who noted Cameron’s athletic ability as well as his good behavior. Mrs. Reibe agreed with the good behavior and stated, “In the office, Cameron is always willing to do whatever is necessary to get the job done. He is eager to please, polite, and well-mannered. We can always rust him to represent the high school well...and he is cute, too.” Mr. Walters agrees with the characteristics noted by others. He has known Cameron for a long time and says that Cameron exhibits all these great traits – academically, athletically, and behaviorally – in a consistent manner. El Dorado High School staff and students are proud that Cameron was selected as Student of the Month. Mrs. Dobson presented Cameron with a certificate from the board.

Tami Philyaw was chosen Teacher of the Month, Mrs. Dobson stated. Ms. Philyaw teaches ninth grade physical science at El Dorado High School and received her Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Southern Arkansas University. She has fifteen years of teaching experience with six of those in our school district.

Ms. Philyaw comes from a family of educators – her mother teaches art and career orientation at Camden Fairview and her sister is the director of special education in

Smackover. Ms. Philyaw's hobbies include photography and gardening and she is an active member in her community, working with the Ouachita Kennel Club and the OASIS Animal Shelter.

Several co-workers nominated Ms. Philyaw. Coach Donnie Tank noted the following three things: She has a great rapport with students, she communicates and counsels well with students, and she has a classroom that looks ready-made for learning! Mrs. Reibe commends Ms. Philyaw on her special love for ninth graders. She states, "it takes a special person to teach ninth graders. Ms. Philyaw works on classroom policies and procedures repeatedly so students understand her high expectations." Mr. Walters also recognizes Ms. Philyaw's high expectations for student involvement and engagement. He states, "She uses instructional strategies that demonstrate best practices to ensure student success!" Mrs. Dobson presented Ms. Philyaw with a certificate from the board.

Mike Cobb with Cobb & Suskie, C. P. A. presented the annual audit report for the district. Mr. Cobb said financial statements present a story and the story they tell in El Dorado is that for many years the district operated with no debt and on the same millage. A number of issues, including the constant need to upgrade technology in schools, the facilities study completed by the state that requires districts to upgrade school buildings and was the beginning of the new high school, the business environment within the past few years, demographics in Union County, a population that is not growing and school enrollment are all reflected in a district's financial statement. Mr. Cobb explained that by looking and talking with board members and administrators, and looking at the books and records, it is evident that the district is paying attention to financials. He noted that it costs \$32 million to run the El Dorado School District annually, which is funded through property taxes and state and federal money. He explained that the district has right at \$12 million in cash and cash equivalents and \$5 million in certificates of deposit. The General Fund, for the year ended June 30, 2010 shows about \$33.5 million in revenues and about \$31.7 million in expenditures, leaving the district in the black in the amount of about \$1.8 million.

Mr. Cobb said the school district does keep a tight rein on things and the audit shows that the district's checks and balances are appropriate. He did not see any weaknesses in accounting and control. He said the district, by their accounting and financial practices, "takes the tone of integrity" and school officials are "paying attention and arriving at what is in the best interest of students." The district is fiscally sound and officials are good stewards of the Money entrusted to them for the education of students. Mr. Cobb said, "You can rely on the numbers. They are correct and you can rely on the financial statements for planning and review, for credit and evaluation."

Shawn Lamkin presented special education budgets for the 2010-11 school year which included Special Education State Equalization, Title VI-B, Medicaid, Catastrophic, ARMAC and ARRA. She said that on December 1, 2009 the district served 332 students – 234 males and 98 females. She said that since that time those numbers have increased. The IDEA Title VI-B budget is listed at \$1,032,459 and the money is used for salaries, buses, supplies, nurses, early intervention services, and equipment. Of that amount, \$148,201 goes to provide services at schools in the district - \$25,000 to Hugh Goodwin, \$30,000 to Northwest, \$27,000 to Retta Brown, \$25,000 to Yocum, \$17,000 to Union, \$8,067 to Barton, \$8,067 to Washington, and \$8,067 to El Dorado High School.

Miss Lamkin said the \$52,876 Medicaid budget is used to pay for contract services of physical and occupational therapists and the \$1,871,795 State and Local budget pays for salaries of an itinerant speech pathologist, resource room teachers, the special education supervisor, and others. The Catastrophic budget is for employee benefits and salaries at Northwest, Washington Middle School and Barton Jr. High School. The ARMAC or Arkansas Medicaid Administrative Claiming budget totals \$293,760 for various services for special education students and the AARA (stimulus) budget totals \$515,649, with that money used for therapy building and additions, equipment, and other administrative costs.

Miss Lamkin also presented special education assurances and agreements for school-age services for the fiscal year 2010-2011. On a motion by Will Vance, seconded by Wayne Gibson, and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the Special Education budgets for State Equalization, Title VI-B, Medicaid, Catastrophic, ARMAC, ARRA and special education assurance and agreements for school-age services for the fiscal year 2010-2011.

Mr. Watson stated he was recommending Shawn Lamkin as the district surrogate parent representative for 2010-11 school term. On a motion by Will Vance, seconded by Larry Holder, and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves Shawn Lamkin as the district's surrogate parent representative for the 2010-11 school year.

Mrs. Dobson stated the Arkansas School Boards Association's Annual Conference will be December 8 – 10 and the board has been asked to elect a delegate representative. Mr. Bauman left the meeting for a few minutes prior to the discussion and vote. On a motion by Will Vance, seconded by Wayne Gibson, and carried on a 5-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board elects President Vicky Dobson to serve as the delegate representative to the Arkansas School Boards Annual Conference on December 8.

The meeting adjourned to an executive session to discuss personnel matters, then reconvened to an open meeting. On a motion by Will Vance, 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 and the employment of new personnel.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.