

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
August 11, 2009**

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 Joey Bauman, Vicky Dobson, and Renee Skinner were absent. Also attending the meeting was Supt. Bob Watson, Rhonda Simmons, Tim Zylks, Bonnie Haynie, Don Thompson, and Lou Ann Voris.

Mrs. Turbeville asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting held July 28, 2009. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Will Vance, and carried on a 4-0 vote, the minutes were approved.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. After some discussion and on a motion by Will Vance, seconded by Larry Holder, and carried on a 4-0 vote, the bills were approved for payment. A list of bills paid and monthly financial statement are on file in the business office.

The board approved three student transfer to the Parkers Chapel School District.

Mr. Watson noted that last month the request for policy changes to the district's discipline handbook were brought before the board for their consideration. He reminded the board that the update of requirements for district-wide student handbooks are to meet state education mandates. He asked for the board's vote on these changes. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Larry Holder, and carried on a 4-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the district student handbooks and the policy changes needed to meet state education mandates.

Mr. Watson said the cell phone policy that he was about to present would make a change to the handbook policy. He said he doesn't enjoy getting here but students have used cell phones to take pictures of tests and send them to friends, text each other, and/or record and put things that happen during the school day on social networking sites. He noted that state lawmakers recently enacted a new law making it illegal for students ages sixteen to eighteen to text or use a cell phone while driving a vehicle. He also mentioned if teachers have cell phones ringing or they use cell phones during class time, they will be written up. Teachers have to help us deal with this problem by being the example. He told the board that we are trying to do what's best for our young people. He asked for the board's consideration to change the cell phone policy to the following:

Possession and Use of Cell Phones

Students in grades K – 8 should never be in possession of a cell phone during the school day.

Students in grades 9 – 12 should never have a cell phone in his/her possession during school hours; however, phones may be kept in the students locker if he/she is involved in an after school activity, but must be turned off during school hours. This means from the time a student comes on campus in the morning until the student leaves the campus in the afternoon.

On occasion if a student has extenuating circumstances unrelated to school the parent may bring a cell phone to the office with the student's name on it to be kept for the student until the end of the school day.

Penalty for cell phone:

First Offense

- One (1) day suspension
- Cell phone is confiscated
- Parent/guardian picks up cell phone, pays \$15.00 fine

Second Offense

- Three (3) day suspension
- Student loses the right to carry cell phone rest of the year
- Parent/guardian picks up cell phone, pays \$30.00 fine

Third Offense

- Five (5) day suspension
- Phone confiscated rest of the school year
- Parent/legal guardian picks up cell phone last day of school, pays \$45.00 fine

On a motion by Larry Holder, seconded by Wayne Gibson, and carried on a 4-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the cell phone policy as presented.

Mr. Watson brought before the board the need for approval of books two and three of the El Dorado School Board Policies and Regulations. He stated that Geni Smith, chair of the Personnel Policies Committee, brought these policies before the board for their review. He also said this has been coordinated with the Arkansas School Boards Association's Model Policy. On a motion by Larry Holder, seconded by Will Vance, and carried on a 4-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves books two and three of the El Dorado School Board Policies and Regulations.

Mr. Watson reminded the board that Southside Elementary School property has been under lease to the Southwest Economic Development Association (S.W.E.D.A.) for a couple of years. The agency's executive director, Ron Murphy told Mr. Watson that in order to receive grant dollars to make improvements they need to own the property however, they cannot afford it. Mr. Watson discussed the possibility of it being a donation to SWEDA. He has been told by the district's attorney, Matthew Shepherd, state law provides that a school district can donate to a non-profit if that organization serves children in some capacity. Mr. Shepherd also noted if the building ever ceases to be used as intended and indicated in the letter from the Mr. Murphy, that the property would revert back to the school district. He said with current state regulations regarding school facilities, it is doubtful the district would ever be able to use the building for a school. On a motion by Will Vance, seconded by Wayne Gibson, and carried on a 4-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the donation of Southside Elementary School building and property to Southwest Economic Development Association (SWEDA). Should the non-profit cease to serve children in some capacity the property will revert back to the El Dorado School District.

Mr. Watson brought before the board the request from Dr. Brenda Holder, executive director of Families and Children Together, Inc. (F.A.C.T., Inc.) to lease the former Morning Star Elementary School. The building was previously leased by the Literacy Council of Union County. The council no longer uses the facility. Mr. Watson said that under a lease agreement, F.A.C.T, Inc. would be responsible for maintenance but any structural changes to the facility would have to be approved by the superintendent's office. Mr. Watson recommended the ten year lease and noted this will be good utilization of the property for their three and four year old program. Mr. Holder chose to stay in the meeting for the recommendation but voted nay because his wife is director of F.A.C.T., Inc. On a motion by Will Vance, seconded Wayne Gibson, and carried on a 3-1 vote with Larry Holder voting no, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the lease of Morning Star Elementary School to Families and Children Together, Inc. (F.A.C.T., Inc.).

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 Will Vance, and carried on a 4-0 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.