

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board  
December 8, 2008**

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 Susan Turbeville presiding. Other directors present were Joey Bauman, Wayne Gibson, Larry Holder, Renee Skinner, and Will Vance. Director Vicky Dobson was absent. Also attending was Supt. Bob Watson, Rhonda Simmons, Shirley Billingly, 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 November 7 and 10. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Larry Holder, 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 Will Vance, seconded by Joey Bauman, 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 presented Annabelle Rogers as the Student of the Month from Northwest Elementary School. Annabelle is the daughter of Shaun and Solena Rogers and is a fourth grader at Northwest Environmental Studies Academy. She is in Mrs. Sharon Patterson's homeroom but Mrs. Lou Ingram and Ms. Amy Williams are her teachers as well. Her teachers state that she is a delightful child who works very hard. She gets along well with her peers and is a bright spot in the classroom. Mrs. Powell, her principal, said that Annabelle is very deserving of this honor. Staff and students at Northwest are proud that Annabelle was chosen Student of the Month. Mrs. Turbeville presented her with a certificate from the board.

Mrs. Turbeville introduced Travis Ricker as the Student of the Month from El Dorado High School. Travis is the son of Brian and Sarah Ricker and a seventeen year old junior at El Dorado High school with a 3.96 grade point average. He moved to El Dorado from Louisiana last year and EHS staff and students feel very fortunate to have him as a student. He loves math and science and plans to attend Arkansas Tech University in Russellville to major in mechanical engineering.

Mrs. Shelley Forbess nominated Travis and describes him as an excellent student that is diligent and meticulous in his work. She said he is a joy to have in class and is well behaved, helpful, and always participates. His critical thinking skills are superb; he is always thinking and analyzing content. He asks pertinent, high-order questions. All feel that Travis is a wonderful representative for El Dorado High School and are thrilled that he was chosen as Student of the Month. Mrs. Turbeville presented him with a certificate from the board.

Shelley Forbess was presented as the Teacher of the Month for November. Mrs. Turbeville said that Mrs. Forbess received her Bachelors of Science degree from Louisiana Tech University with a major in biology, a minor in physics, and graduated magna cum laude. This begins her fifteenth year of teaching with eleven of those in the El Dorado district. She teaches physics, Pre-AP physics, AP physics, and physical science at El Dorado High School.

Those nominating Mrs. Forbess said that she is a great science teacher who cares about her students. Her AP students return from college stating how well prepared they were for college physics. She applies her musical talent into labs on sound waves and students create pitch pipes to play songs. Mrs. Forbess also can be found supporting her students by attending ballgames, matches, and has been with the cannon crew at football games, too. When former student return for games, they want to speak to Mrs. Forbess. She cares about her students and pushes them to succeed. She also collaborates with the other teachers to apply physics principals into their own class.

Mr. Walters describes Mrs. Forbess as an exemplary teacher and role model to all – students and peers. She is passionate about her content and her students. Mr. Walters noted that he deeply appreciates her dedication to the students and helping them become

lifelong learners. Students and staff at the high school are proud that Mrs. Forbess was chosen as Teacher of the Month. Mrs. Turbeville presented her with a certificate from the board.

Mrs. Turbeville said that Nancy Beene was chosen at the Teacher of the Month for December. Mrs. Beene received her Bachelors of Science degree from Southern Arkansas University with a major in elementary education and minor in kindergarten. She teaches second grade and this is Mrs. Beene's thirty-first year of teaching and all in the El Dorado district. Those nominating her stated that President Bush, the Arkansas Department of Education, and Nancy Beene believe No Child Should Be Left Behind, literally! The fourth grade G/T students were having an optional field trip to Dallas to view the King Tut exhibit and attend the Medieval Times dinner theatre. When Mrs. Beene learned one of her former students would not be going due to finances, she stepped into action. In the midst of her own St. Jude karate fundraiser for her special needs daughter, she took on this new project so this student would not be left behind. She not only paid \$135 for trip fees but also collected spending money for him by enlisting the aid of her family.

This young man did not buy souvenirs at the gift shops as others were doing. He firmly stated he was saving his money for new shoes. He was very proud and appreciative of the good quality shoes he was able to purchase. On Monday morning he proudly waited in his new shoes for Mrs. Beene to arrive at school. He had written a special thank you note which made her weep for joy. Many teachers lose connections with their former students when they leave their classroom, but not Nancy Beene.

If she focused that much energy and attention on a former student's needs, imagine the careful planning and implementation of skill lessons she uses to insure her current students aren't left behind on the academic levels! The Marines believe a soldier should never be left on foreign soil. The Arkansas Department of Education believes no Arkansas student K-8 should be left at basic or below. Nancy Beene believes her students shouldn't be left behind on educational outings. And she puts her money where her mouth is! Yocum's staff and students are proud that Mrs. Beene was chosen Teacher of the Month. Mrs. Turbeville presented her with a certificate form the board.

Laura Rogers, regional education coordinator for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission made a presentation to the board to establish an Arkansas Youth Shooting Sports Program at the high school. She noted this program is approved by the Arkansas Department of Education. She explained that the program, introduced in Arkansas in 2007, will be funded by the AGFC and currently, there are more than 70 schools, 4,000 students, and 450 coaches participating in the program throughout the state. She said it is a very structured program and anyone can excel in it. Benefits of the program, in addition to learning gun safety, are building self-esteem and team spirit, and the program has high parental involvement and little or no cost to the student. Coaches are volunteers and the AGFC provides training for coaches as well as gun shells, eye and ear protection, targets and other supplies.

Mrs. Rogers explained 12 and 20 gauge shotguns are used in the trap-shooting program and guns will be loaned to students who are unable to purchase a gun. The season begins February 1 and ends July 31. Students compete on several levels, and may be awarded trophies, savings bonds, cash prizes, and college scholarships. She said the Arkansas team won the national title and this summer, Olympic trials will be offered for students wishing to compete at that level.

A motion by Will Vance to suspend the rules, it was seconded by Renee Skinner, and carried on a 6-0 vote. On a motion by Will Vance, seconded by Joey Bauman, and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Youth Trap Shooting Sports Program for the El Dorado High School.

Mrs. Turbeville recognized Director Joey Bauman and stated the Arkansas School Boards Association states that he has attained the Master Board Member status by earning at least 50 hours of professional development credit through the Boardmanship Awards Program. Mrs. Turbeville also said that Director Wayne Gibson was elected by the state delegates to vice president of the board for the Arkansas School Boards Association. She congratulated both directors on these achievements.

Mr. Watson gave the board an update on the new high school. In bringing all up to date he said we still don't have a real good estimate on the final cost of the new high school but are encouraged by the fact that steel, wood, and other products are down from previous costs. The cost to move the natural gas pipeline which is currently located near the center of the 61.9 acres has been lowered from about \$400,000 to \$132,000, and noted that an estimated groundbreaking for the school has been set for March or April 2009.

Mr. Watson said the 61.9 acres has been cleared and the school will be very impressive – an asset to the community. The Corps of Engineers has been working with the district architect, Blake Dunn to reroute a creek that runs east and west on the property. Corps of Engineers officials have asked the district to present a drawing to indicate where they will reroute the creek that will still allow the water to move freely. He said one reason the district still doesn't have a solid estimate on the cost of the new facility is because of its size. Baldwin & Shell Construction, the construction management firm, is working hard to get estimates but reminded the audience that the school will be from 317,000 to 322,000 square feet in size. He said that four months ago it was pretty depressing with construction costs rising to record levels. He noted they are now encouraged and the architect assures us that by December 30, all the documents will be completed and sent to Little Rock. After officials with the state education department have received the documents, they will have from four to six weeks to approve or reject the proposal. Bidding on the project will take about four weeks.

Mr. Watson also reminded the board of a Naming Opportunities Policy program that he presented to them last month. He asked the board to grant him authority to appoint a committee to pull this together to determine ways to solicit private funding for the new high school. He also reminded the board that all committee recommendations will require board approval. Mr. Watson explained that sections of the new high school and school programs there could be named for individuals and the committee will determine the areas, programs, and prices to name portions at the facility. Facilities or physical items such a building, performing arts theater, art rooms, band space, chorus space, ensemble room, set preparation area, sports, arena, arena lobby, weight room, main lobby, principal's office, counselor's office, conference room, single theater seats, cafeteria, and other areas are included on the proposal as possible areas that could be named for an individual. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Renee Skinner, carried on a 6-0 vote it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves appointment by the superintendent of a Naming Opportunities Committee to design a naming policy and determine ways to solicit private funding for the new high school. The committee will bring their proposal back to the board for consideration and approval.

Pat Johnson, representing the district's Personnel Policies Committee, reported to the board that the committee is currently going through all district policies and aligning them with the state laws as provided by the Arkansas School Boards Association's policy service. He explained that members of the committee are not adding policies, but just rewording some and deleting items that no longer apply. He said the district's present "School Board Policies and Regulations" and "Handbook for Certified Staff" are the handbooks the committee is working with and presented board members with a revised District Policy Manual.

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 Larry Holder, 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.