

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
May 14, 2007

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 Larry Holder presiding. Other directors present were Joey Bauman, Wayne Gibson, Teresa Swint, and Will Vance. Directors Vicky Dobson and Susan Turbeville entered during the second and third items of business. Also attending the board meeting was Supt. Bob Watson, Rhonda Simmons, Tim Zylks, Don Thompson, and Lou Ann Voris.

Mr. Holder asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meetings held April 9, April 19, and May 3. Wayne Gibson requested a correction to the May 3 minutes stating that he was not in attendance at that meeting. The correction will be made to the minutes. On a motion by Teresa Swint, seconded by Wayne Gibson, and carried on a 5-0 vote, the minutes were approved.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. After some discussion and on a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Teresa Swint, 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.

Mr. Holder introduced Ricky Bullock as the Student of the Month. Ricky is a senior at E.H.S. and the son of Ricky Bullock and the grandson of Jimmie Bullock. Those nominating Ricky state that he exemplifies the model student through his diligent efforts in academics, athletics, and in school spirit. Mrs. Reibe, Ricky's former biology teacher and current assistant principal, agrees that Ricky is worth of this recognition. She says, "Ricky was a consistently hard worker in class. He always turned everything in, studies hard, and behaved well. He had a great attitude, was very respectful (probably the politest student ever; and was well liked by his peers. As Ricky's assistant principal, I have seen the same characteristics – he has never been sent to the office on a discipline issue and is well liked by both teachers and students all over campus. Ricky always has a big smile on his face and a kind word for everyone. He is a great young man!" Mr. Tidwell, Ricky's automotive instructor at South Arkansas Community College, also speaks highly of Ricky. He states that Ricky is an extremely hard worker, is very respectful of others, and always has a good attitude. Another teacher, Mr. Fairley, English IV echoes Mr. Tidwell's comments by speaking of Ricky's work ethic, respectfulness, and concern for others. Finally, Charles White, Ricky's classmate and friend, says what jumps out at me about him is that he is honest, always willing to help out a friend, and just a great all-around nice person.

Ricky has strong family values; he spends a large amount of time with his grandmother and helps care for his father. He was seen all during the basketball season sitting at the top of the gym with his grandmother, cheering and supporting his school team. While an avid basketball fan, Ricky played offensive line for the E.H.S. football team. Ricky plans to attend South Arkansas Community College so that he can stay close to his grandmother and study business. Mr. Holder presented Ricky with a certificate from the board.

Beverly Allen was introduced as the Teacher of the Month. Mrs. Allen received her Bachelors of Arts in speech and drama from Morehead State University. She then went on to earn her certification in English and speech and receive her Masters in gifted and talented education from Southern Arkansas University. This is Mrs. Allen's thirty-fourth year of teaching with twenty-seven of those in our district.

Those nominating Mrs. Allen state that she sets extremely high standards for herself and her students and works diligently to see that they are met. Mrs. Allen refuses to settle for anything less than excellence. Superior knowledge of her subject's content makes her effective with students of all ability levels. She has been instrumental in the growth of the English Advanced Placement student enrollment as well as in the AP English students' extraordinary testing accomplishments. Last year seventeen of her twenty-one senior AP English students scored three or higher on their national AP test, a phenomenal feat. In addition to teaching student, she has actively been involved in the mentoring

program for new teachers. Her willingness to share her expertise and her passions for education enables her to promote professionalism among other educators. Mr. Walters said that she is well deserving of Teacher of the Month. She is valuable to E.H.S. as she prepares the Senior English students for success when they graduate. She has very high expectations for her students and it is reflected in their work. She is a leader among her peers and respected by all the staff at E.H.S. Mrs. Allen was presented with a certificate from the board.

Mark Toombs presented a bid for new band uniforms for the high school. He stated that every nine years the district replaces the uniforms. The drum major modeled the sample uniform for board members. Mr. Toombs stated that one bid was received:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Fruhauf Uniform Company	\$64,370.55

On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 7-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the purchase of 140 band uniforms from Fruhauf Uniform Company for \$64,370.55.

Tim Zylks presented bids from three new trucks for maintenance and student services use: One – White ½ ton pickup, regular cab, V-8 gasoline engine, radio, air conditioning, and automatic transmission and Two – white ¾ ton pickups, regular cab, V-8 gasoline engine, radio, air conditioning, automatic transmission, and utility bed.

<u>Truck</u>	<u>Jim Golden</u>	<u>Teague Ford</u>	<u>Teague Chevrolet</u>	<u>Murphy Motors - GMC</u>
½ ton	14,659.00	14,897.00	18,270.43	18,250.00
¾ ton	20,928.00	21,825.00	24,899.00	28,500.00
¾ ton	<u>20,928.00</u>	<u>21,825.00</u>	<u>24,899.00</u>	<u>28,500.00</u>
	56,515.00	58,547.00	68,068.43	75,250.00

On a motion by Joey Bauman, seconded by Wayne Gibson, and carried on a 6-1 vote with Will Vance voting no, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the low bid for one ½ ton pickup and two ¾ ton pickups from Jim Golden for \$56,515.00.

Mr. Watson presented the one bid received for six Bard units for Yocum Primary School.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Ed’s Supply Company	\$26,849.66

On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 7-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the bid from Ed’s Supply Company of \$26,849.66 for six Bard units for Yocum Primary School.

Mr. Watson stated the following bids for new electrical service at Yocum Primary School were received:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>
H & F Electric, Magnolia	\$44,000.00
ESCO Electrical, El Dorado	44,203.00
El-Ark Electric, El Dorado	54,595.00
Quality Electric, El Dorado	54,750.00

On a motion by Joey Bauman, seconded by Susan Turbeville, and carried on a 7-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the bid from ESCO Electric for \$44,203.00 for new electrical service at Yocum Primary School.

One bid was received for Yocum Elementary HVAC alterations, Mr. Watson stated.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Hargett Construction, El Dorado	\$959,500.00

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 bid of \$959,500.00 from Hargett Construction for HVAC alterations at Yocum Elementary School.

Mr. Watson stated the following bids were received for a new HVAC supervisory control system at Barton Junior High School:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>
El-Ark Electric, El Dorado	\$39,554.00
Glenn Mechanical, El Dorado	41,893.00
ESCO Electric, El Dorado	101,366.00

On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Joey Bauman, and carried on a 7-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the low bid from El-Ark Electric of \$39,554.00 for a HVAC supervisory control system at Barton Junior High School.

Mr. Watson stated the board had public meetings on April 30 and May 1 regarding the discussion of whether or not to build a new high school or renovated the present facility. He stated that after reviewing finding from the two public meetings held to discuss the pros and cons of renovating the current high school, which was built in 1963-64 or building a new facility, it was determined that an overwhelming majority of those in attendance preferred building a new school.

He explained that about fifty people attended each public hearing and said a list compiled by a state committee charged with inspecting all public school buildings in the state had determined a facility cost index of 66 percent to renovate E.H.S. State officials said facilities with a FCI of over 65 percent should consider building a new facility. A proposal sent to the state to renovate the high school was rejected. Mr. Watson explained state officials won't spend state money to renovate a school with a FCI of over 65 percent. Of the five proposals sent to the state by the school district, four were rejected. He said at renovation costs of \$17,500,000, the state would only pay 9.7 percent, or \$1,700,000 of the total cost of the project, while the district's bill would be \$15,800,000.

Mr. Watson said to build a new high school, based on an estimated cost of \$25,000,000, the state would pay 37.3 percent of the cost, or \$9,325,000 and the district's portion would be \$15,675,000. It would cost the district \$125,000 less to build a new high school, than to renovate the current facility. Issues considered in determining whether or not to build a new high school included safety, energy and space. He said E.H.S. is not energy efficient, as every classroom has two doors that both open to the outside. If the 20 percent growth in enrollment prediction over the next ten years due to the El Dorado Promise is attained, our present facility won't accommodate additional students, Mr. Watson said.

He brought before the board a recommendation to:

1. Build a new high school,
2. Submit a new partnership plan to state facilities department to reflect building a new high school,

3. Begin to purchase land for a high school, and
4. Start planning for a millage increase in September.

After a time of discussion and on a motion by Will Vance, seconded by Susan Turbeville, and carried on a 7-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board approves to build a new high school, submit a plan to the state for the project, purchase land for a new high school and ask voters to approve a 3.7 millage increase.

Mr. Holder announced that baccalaureate for El Dorado High School seniors will be Sunday, May 20 at the Municipal Auditorium at 8:00 p.m. Graduation will be Friday, May 25 at Memorial Stadium at 8:00 p.m.

Wayne Gibson was chosen to represent Arkansas at the National School Boards Association Conference recently in San Francisco reported, "We really have a good thing here in El Dorado." He said in many other school districts in the country, members of the boards bicker back and forth and the districts are constantly operating "in the red." He said most board members agreed that the federal No Child Left Behind program is not working and he said barriers to learning were reported. Guest speakers included the president of South Africa and President Bill Clinton. He also said several states are conducting literacy camps or workshops to help students excel in classes.

Mr. Watson brought before the board the suggestion to move from a negotiations committee to a personnel policies committee. He said the Classroom Teachers Association no longer has a fifty percent membership of the three hundred and sixty five teachers that we have in the district. He said in order to be in compliance with state law for the school year 2007-2008 it is necessary that the district go to a Personnel Policies Committee. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Will Vance, seconded by Susan Turbeville and carried on a 7-0 vote. After some discussion and on a motion by Will Vance, seconded by Teresa Swint, and carried on a 7-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the district move away from a negotiations committee with the Classroom Teachers Association and go to a Personnel Policies Committee (PPC) beginning with the 2007-2008 school year.

Mr. Watson stated that Thursday, May 17 at 1:30 p.m. will be Academic Signing Day at El Dorado High School

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 Vicky Dobson, 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.

The board discussed allowing up to \$2,000 in relocation allotment for newly hired certified staff. If they accept the money the stipulation will they agree to teach for two years in the district. It was also noted they will have to show receipts for up to \$2,000 to receive the relocation allotment money. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Will Vance, seconded by Susan Turbeville, and carried on a 7-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves allowing up to \$2,000 in relocation costs for newly hired certified staff. If they accept the money for relocation costs the stipulation is they agree to teach for two years in the district. It was also noted they have to provide receipts for to \$2,000 in order to receive the relocation allotment money.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

