

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
June 12, 2006**

The directors of the board met on the above date at 7:00 p.m. at the El Dorado High School Library, 501 Timberlane, with Will Vance presiding. Other directors present were Joey Bauman, Vicky Dobson, Wayne Gibson, Larry Holder, and Susan Turbeville. Director Teresa Swint was absent. Also attending the board meeting was Supt. Bob Watson, Dr. James Fouse, Shirley Billingly, Don Thompson, and Lou Ann Voris.

Mr. Vance called the meeting to order and asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting held May 8 and May 18. 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 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 monthly financial statement are on file in the business office.

The board approves two student transfers to the El Dorado School District.

Mr. Watson stated there is a move across the country for teachers to get National Board certified. He invited Dee Post and Geni Smith to make a presentation to the board about National Board Certification. Mrs. Post stated it is a three year process and a ponderous activity that takes a lot of time and effort. National Board Certification establishes advanced standards for experienced teachers. It measures a teacher's practice against high and rigorous standards through an extensive series for performance-based assessments, which includes teaching portfolios, student work samples, videotapes or DVDs and thorough analyses of the candidate's teaching and the students' learning. The process involves written exercises that probe the depth of a candidate's subject-matter knowledge, as well as their understanding of how to teach those subjects. She noted that there is an incentive from the state paying \$5,000 annually for ten years. She and Mrs. Smith are the only two in the county that have achieved certification status but there is a high school science teacher and two elementary teachers in the district that are currently going through the assessment.

Mrs. Post and Mrs. Smith spoke of encouraging other teachers to seek national board status. Certification is voluntary and open to anyone with a baccalaureate degree and three years of classroom experience in either a public or private school. It is valid for 10 years, after which a teacher must seek renewal. The state pays fees for assessment for the test, which is very expensive but very worthwhile. In the assessment they look at the last five years in considering what you have done in the classroom and community. Mrs. Post noted that they would like the board to consider helping teachers pay assessment fees and the cost of testing, which is \$2,300. Teachers who have participated in National Board Certification have overwhelmingly stated it is the most powerful professional development experience of their careers. Mrs. Post feels that support from the district and board for teachers to attain national certification will also help keep teachers in our district. Mr. Watson said that he would like to visit this during negotiations and encouraged board members to consider incentives from the district.

Mr. Watson said that board members were sent the bids for groceries and the low bids were being recommended. On a motion by Joey Bauman, seconded by Susan Turbeville, and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the low bid of \$52,468.94 for groceries for the 2006-07 school term.

Derrill Smith presented the athletic budget for the 2006-07 school year. He noted that it is \$2,000 less than last year. On a motion by Larry Holder, seconded by Susan Turbeville, and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the athletic budget of \$125,049.00 for the 2006-07 school term.

Mr. Smith stated that he needed to recommend raising athletic admission prices by \$1.00 at all athletic events, starting with the 2006 school year. The reason for the increase needs are to help offset the rising cost of officials and equipment and to be in line with the new conference guidelines for regular season admission prices to athletic events. He recommended:

Varsity football and basketball – Adults	\$ 5.00
Students	4.00
All other regular season events – Adults	4.00
Students	3.00

Tournaments: The recommendation is to raise the gate price \$1.00 for adults and \$1.00 for students.

After a time of discussion and on a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Joey Bauman, and carried on a 5-1 vote with Will Vance voting no, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the increase of admission prices by \$1.00 for all athletic events.

Mr. Smith presented the student and athletic/activities insurance bids. After some discussion and on a motion by Larry Holder, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

REOLVED, That the board hereby approves the low bid of \$13,000.00 for athletic and activities coverage from Benchmark Insurance Company, Arkadelphia, Arkansas for the 2006-07 school year. The board approves Benchmark Insurance Company for the voluntary student coverage. The coverage rates are: school time only coverage - \$10.00 and 24 hour coverage - \$50.00.

Mr. Watson presented the bids received for exterior doors at Yocum K – 1 Elementary School.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Allen Millwork, Inc., Shreveport, LA	\$ 9,530.00
PC Hardware & Machinery Company, Little Rock, AR	12,600.00

After some discussion and on a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Susan Turbeville, and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the bid of \$9,530.00 from Allen Millwork for exterior doors for Yocum K-1.

Mr. Watson reviewed the bids received for the library casework at Yocum K-1. He explained that he was recommending the company that is in state.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>
CCI Group, Longview, TX	\$11,579.00
DG Martin and Associates, Beebe, AR	11,799.00

On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the bid of \$11,799.00 from DG Martin and Associates for casework at the Yocum K-1 Elementary School.

Mr. Watson stated that requests for bids were widely advertised but only one bid was received for electrical and computer network installation for the Learning Center at Washington Middle School. On a motion by Joey Bauman, seconded by Susan Turbeville, and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the bid of \$26,460.00 from El-Ark Electric Company for electrical and computer network installation for the Learning Center at Washington Middle School.

Bids were received for the HVAC replacement at the Administration Office. Mr. Watson stated that three of the roof units were sixteen years old.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Ed's Supply Company, El Dorado, AR	\$10,921.00
York Midwest, St. Louis, MO	12,159.00
Carrier MidSouth, Little Rock, AR	12,691.00

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

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the bid of \$10,921.00 for HVAC replacement at the Administration Office.

Dr. Fouse presented bids received for two carts with twenty-four laptops each for the English department at El Dorado High School.

<u>Company</u>	<u>2 Bretford Carts</u>		<u>48 Laptops</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Total</u>	
CDW-G	\$1,375	\$2,750	\$705	\$33,840	\$35,950
Gateway	1,270	2,540	978	46,944	49,484
Global Computers	979	1,958	796	38,208	40,166+
					338 shipping
Micro PC	1,500	3,000	775	37,200	40,200

On a motion by Larry Holder, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the bid of \$35,950 for two carts with twenty-four laptops each for the English department at El Dorado High School.

Dr. Fouse reviewed the preliminary Benchmark and Iowa Test of Basic Skills scores with the board. He said the results showed El Dorado School District students improved from last year. He noted that overall, the schools look good but we will know more when the annual report comes out in September. On the Iowa test taken by kindergarten through second grade students, with 50% being the average, kindergarten students scored 40% in English and 63% in math; first-graders scored 43% in literacy and 56% in math and second graders scored 49% in reading and 54% in math.

Dr. Fouse stated that Benchmark tests are taken by students in grades three through eight. Third grade math scores by district, region and state are 536, 520, and 531 with the district scoring five points above the state. Third grade literacy scores are 488, 482, and 509 respectively. Fifth grade math scores are 601 in the district, 590 in the region and 600 in the state and literacy scores are 587 in the district, 588 in the region and 612 in the state. Sixth graders scored 665 in the district in math, 647 in the region and 651 in the state and in literacy; they scored 677 in the district, 646 in the region and 667 in the state. In math in the district, seventh graders scored 640, to 646 in the region and 661 in the state and in literacy; they scored 631 in the district, 635 in the region and 663 in the state. In the eighth grade in math, district students scored 659 to the region's 666 and the state's 673 and in literacy, they scored 726, to the region's 721 and the state's 739.

Dr. Fouse said that he presented the Gap policy in last month's board meeting for their consideration and vote. He reminded board members that the committee is made up of twelve different community groups to help close the achievement gap. The policy proposes that all students demonstrate proficiency in reading by the end of the third grade or they will not progress to the fourth grade and that every effort be made up through the third grade to facilitate this goal. He explained that the policy is a final stage if the student doesn't meet reading requirements by the end of the third grade, but students can be retained at any level. Every child needs to be reading by the end of the third grade. He said that we cannot do much with them if they can't. He noted that the district will also come up with a program for children who get retained and will tell their parents that if they will work with us we will find a way to get the child back on their reading level. On a motion by Larry Holder, seconded by Joey Bauman, and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board approves the Gap Policy.

Tom Simmons, chair of mathematics for the district, presented a proposal to the board. He asked that the board consider using a portion of textbook funds to hire a company to create a math curriculum for students in grades six, seven, and eight from The Achievements Connections curriculum. He explained that the curriculum would be created to prepare Arkansas students for end of year high stakes testing. Periodic assessments will be included along the way to ensure proper pacing so that all grade level specific student learner expectations, as defined by the Arkansas Department of Education mathematics curriculum frameworks, are taught prior to testing. The lessons will provide novice teachers with exact lesson plans including the use of best practices, student-centered learning activities, guided practice strategies and non-traditional high-interest homework assignments. Veteran teachers can adjust the lesson using techniques which they have had success with in the past. He noted that several teachers recently visited schools in Pass Christian and Meridian, Mississippi where math programs have been developed for school there. He said that the program sounded like where El Dorado wants to be with our math program. He noted that math textbooks don't cover state frameworks but this package is a step above what we have now. Mr. Watson reminded the board that they have adopted a textbook and now we are looking at a program that doesn't require a textbook. Some parents and teachers might have a difficult time with this since students will not be taking a textbook home every night. Dr. Fouse explained that the district will purchase a set of math textbooks for the classroom. Mr. Simmons said the program will include several days of professional development for teachers and ins-class instruction by originators of the program, will cost approximately \$24,000 per grade plus another \$3,000 for student materials. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Larry Holder, seconded by Joey Bauman, and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the district to submit to the Arkansas Department of Education a request to use textbook money to purchase a math program from The Achievement Connections for grades six, seven and eight.

Mr. Watson the district has received notice from the state the next year; seniors must attend school for 178 days. He explained to the board that we cannot let seniors go a week early like we have in the past. He has talked with Larry Walters, principal at El Dorado High School about forming a committee to visit the calendar change for graduation, baccalaureate, the all-night party, and prom.

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.