

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board  
February 14, 2005**

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 Will Vance presiding. Other directors present were Joey Bauman, Larry Holder, Teresa Swint, and Susan Turbeville. Director Wayne Gibson was absent and Director Vicky Dobson entered the meeting during the third item of business. Also attending the board meeting was Supt. Bob Watson, Dr. James Fouse, Shirley Billingly, Tim Zylks, 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 January 10. On a motion by Teresa Swint, seconded by Susan Turbeville, 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 Teresa Swint, seconded by Joey Bauman, and carried on a 5-0 vote, the bills were approved for payment. A list of bills paid and monthly financial statement are on file in the business office.

Mr. Vance introduced Lawson Smith as the Student of the Month. Lawson is the son of Ricky and Ingrid Smith and a second grade student in Mrs. Mary Davis' class at Hugh Goodwin Elementary School. Mrs. Davis said that Lawson is a very responsible student, has a positive attitude toward school, and is always cheerful. Lawson works well with his classmates and is thoughtful, considerate, and polite to everyone. He also has a great sense of humor! Another teacher, Mrs. Lynn Dixon said that she worked with Lawson during the second grade production of the Nutcracker. He always stayed in control and was never noisy backstage. Lawson tried out for and got a cute part and was very prepared. Mrs. Dixon also stated whenever she is on duty that Lawson has never gotten a behavior slip. In fact, he uses his Gator Expectations to exhibit good behavior. He is a good friend to and a good role model for all his classmates. Students and staff at Hugh Goodwin are proud that Lawson was chosen as the district's Student of the Month. Mr. Vance presented him with a certificate from the board.

Classified Employee of the Month is Shirley Park. Mrs. Park began her career as school nurse in our district in August 1984; which makes this her twenty-first year as a school nurse. Those nominating Mrs. Park said, "she is a good nurse," "a hard worker," "is a great example of how to care for others," "is kind...so kind," "has an up-beat personality and is never negative," and "a great lady to work with." Mr. Vance stated that we are most fortunate to have Shirley Park as one of our school nurses. He presented her with a certificate from the board.

Mr. Vance introduced Therese Gathright as the Teacher of the Month. Mrs. Gathright teaches first grade at Union Elementary School. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in early childhood and elementary education from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. She has twenty-one graduate hours while currently working on her Masters degree in early childhood and elementary special education. Prior to teaching at Union, Mrs. Gathright had work experience in administration at Head Start and teaching experience at Strong and Huttig School Districts. Her principal and co-workers say that Mrs. Gathright is kind, compassionate, is willing to try new things, and often stays late to make the next day special for her students. Union is proud that Mrs. Gathright is the Teacher of the Month. Mr. Vance presented her with a certificate from the board.

Mr. Watson said that bid requests were sent to the following companies for security cameras at Washington Middle School.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Custom Wiring, Sherwood, AR	\$71,000.00
Arkansas State Security, Inc., Mabelvale, AR	64,880.00
Go Wireless, Camden, AR	no bid
Hi-Tech Security, Benton, AR	no bid
Thorn Communications, West Monroe, LA	no bid

Mr. Watson recommended the low bid from Arkansas State Security, on a motion by Teresa Swint, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the bid of \$64,880.00 from Arkansas State Security, Inc. for security cameras at Washington Middle School.

Mr. Watson stated that one bid was received from Hargett Construction Company, Inc. on the track event addition at Memorial Stadium. On a motion by Joey Bauman, seconded by Teresa Swint, and carried on a 6-0 vote it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the bid for \$28,500.00 from Hargett Construction Company, Inc. for the track event addition at Memorial Stadium.

Mr. Watson said that bids were received on additions to Washington Middle School and Northwest Elementary School.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>
F & J Construction, Hampton, AR	\$258,000.00
Hargett Construction Company, Inc., El Dorado	255,000.00
Rose Construction, Inc., El Dorado	255,000.00

He noted that for the first time in history, or as far back as anyone can remember, the El Dorado School District received two bids that were tied for the low bid. He asked Blake Dunn to explain the process in deciding the recommendation to the board. Mr. Dunn said that he has never had a low bid tie in over twenty-one years and had to research what needed to be done for a fair and impartial awarding of the bid. He first contacted the Arkansas Building Authority, a group that ensures compliance by architects of the Americans With Disabilities Act. The A.B.A. has only dealt with this situation once and they tossed a quarter. He then contacted the Arkansas Department of Education and then the Contractor's Licensing Board and they both concurred with the A.B.A. to toss a coin or draw names out of a hat. He then scheduled a meeting with both low bidders and Mr. Watson. A name was drawn from a basket and Hargett Construction was awarded the bid. 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 bid of \$255,000.00 from Hargett Construction Company for additions to Washington Middle School and Northwest Elementary.

Dr. Fouse asked the board to consider Washington Arts and Science Academy for the name of the focus to be created at the school this year. On a motion by Teresa Swint, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board approves Washington Arts and Science Academy for the name of their focus.

Mr. Watson announced the dates and times of the focus meetings for the district schools:

- Murril Accelerated Aerospace Academy, February 17
- Union Academy of Health and Wellness, February 21
- Yocum Math and Science Academy, February 22
- Hugh Goodwin Academy for the Arts, February 24
- Northwest Environmental Studies Academy, February 28
- Retta Brown World Business and Technology Academy, March 1
- Washington Arts and Science Academy, March 3

He noted that all meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will run 60 to 90 minutes. Governor Mike Huckabee will attend the Union Health and Wellness Academy program.

Tim Zylks reported that the following bids were received for lease of copy machines for the district.

<u>Company</u>	<u>New Machines</u>	<u>Monthly Cost</u>	<u>Copies Per Month</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Arkansas Copier Center	3 yr. – 31	12,966.00	1.4 million	.0075
Copy Systems	27	10,626.00	921,000	.0100
Office Equipment	24	9,810.38	766,000	.0072
Xerox	14	9,544.74	852,000	
Stuart's	20	8,898.52/3,138.52	800,000	.0072
Rainer Office Machines	3 yr. – 36	12,315.56		.0067

After a time of discussion and on a motion by Larry Holder, seconded by Joey Bauman, an carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the bid from Office Equipment of South Arkansas for a five year contract to lease twenty-four Canon copying machines.

Mr. Watson reported on the Little Rock visit that Rick Arnold, Rodney Barnette, and he had with the Arkansas Department of Education's facilities Assessment Team. He stated that last year teams of construction experts assessed each of Arkansas' 6,600 school building. This was due to work ordered by the Arkansas Supreme Court under an order declaring the state's public school system unconstitutionally inadequate. Cost estimates to upgrade and renovate schools in the El Dorado District were listed at over \$44 million, according to the Arkansas Statewide Education Facilities Assessment released November 30, 2004. Mr. Watson explained the report lists \$4 million in upgrades during a ten year period for the El Dorado Schools. Included in the list was \$1.2 million for Southside Elementary. He noted they got Southside taken off the list since it is no longer in use by the district. He said most of the costs for the district, listed by the assessment, are for work at El Dorado High School, which includes replacing doors, windows, air conditioning and heating systems, plumbing, and wiring. He noted that the district replaces these items as they wear out. He said the state committee estimates that it will cost \$18 million to bring El Dorado High School up to standards and \$6 million to provide more space for students as determined necessary by the assessment. If costs to upgrade a school are 65% of the cost to build a new one, the building should be torn down and rebuilt. The cost to upgrade El Dorado High School is 73% and he said he doesn't see the district building a new high school. He explained that upgrades and renovations are listed on the assessment based on priorities with the number one priority being safety and security. He noted that fire alarm systems at El Dorado High School will have to be replaced in the next few years since they are forty years old. He said that it is possible that other safety alarms, such as carbon monoxide detectors will need to be installed. Last year, security cameras were installed at El Dorado High School and Barton Junior High School. Mr. Watson said that it is possible that the \$87 million in safety upgrades proposed by the assessment through the state will be funded by the state. After that, what has been proposed is a 60-40 funding split with individual school districts paying 60% of the suggested improvement and the state paying 40%. He said the district has good facilities but that in the next few years we will have to spend some to upgrade and renovate them but he doesn't think it will be \$44 million.

The meeting adjourned to an executive session to discuss personnel matters, then reconvened to an open meeting. On a motion by Teresa Swint, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the superintendent's recommendations concerning the acceptance of resignations, the employment of new personnel, and the re-employment of administrators for the 2005-06 term.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.