

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
February 13, 2017**

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 Wayne Gibson presiding. Other directors present were Vicky Dobson, Chris Lutman, Renee Skinner, Keith Smith, and Susan Turbeville. Director Todd Whatley was absent. Also attending was Supt. Jim Tucker, Rhonda Simmons, Bonnie Haynie, Katie Sandifer, Shelley Pruitt, and Lou Ann Voris.

Mr. Gibson asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meetings held January 9, 17 and February 9. On a motion by Chris Lutman, seconded by Renee Skinner, and carried on a 6-0 vote the minutes were approved at 6:00 p.m.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. After some discussion and on a motion by Keith Smith, seconded by Chris Lutman, and carried on a 6-0 vote, the bills were approved for payment at 6:01 p.m. A list of bills paid and monthly financial statement are on file in the business office.

Mr. Gibson said that Student of the Month, Joseph Aubrey was ill and will be recognized in the March board meeting. 6:01 p.m.

Classified Employee of the Month from the district's health services is Karen Wolfe, R.N. Mr. Gibson said Mrs. Wolfe received her L.P.N. degree from Oil Belt Vocational School and her Bachelor of Science in nursing degree from Southern Arkansas University. She began her career with the school district in October 2006 and her office is located at Barton Jr. High School.

Fellow co-workers stated Karen Wolfe is a dependable nurse and a very hard worker. She is easy to get along with and has a great rapport with co-workers and students. Sherry Hill said that Barton's staff is happy that our "Nurse Karen" was given this honor! She works hard each day taking care of our many students but is also quick with a smile or laugh with staff. Nurse Karen is also one of those folks who pitches in and helps in any she can. She is definitely not one of those "that's not my job" kind of people. She is committed to her profession and it shows! Barton staff and students are very glad that Nurse Karen Wolfe is receiving this well-deserved recognition! Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:04 p.m.

Keith Ross was unable to attend the board meeting but recognized as the Classified Employee of the Month from the maintenance department. He will be given a certificate from the board. 6:04 p.m.

Mr. Gibson said Teacher of the Month from Retta Brown Elementary School is Veronica Curley. Mrs. Curley received her Bachelor of Science in Education from Southern Arkansas University. She has four years of teaching experience prior to coming to El Dorado and this is her fifteenth year in our school district.

Co-workers and principal, Bethanie Hale stated Mrs. Curley is so inspiring. She is an extremely hard working teacher. They agreed Mrs. Curley goes above and beyond to push her students to reach their full potential. High expectations are set in her classroom from day one and she works alongside her students to help each reach their potential. Mrs. Curley is a teacher who models what true integrity is. Whenever she says something she means it and always follows through. She is dependable and consistent in willing to help staff and students. Mrs. Curley is a great asset to our Retta Brown family and we are proud she was chosen Teacher of the Month. Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:06 p.m.

Lexie Pope, president of the student council at El Dorado High School visited with the board on happenings at the high school. She reported on the Mr. E. H.S. pageant and noted it sold out quickly and in her opinion it was the best one ever. She added proceeds from the pageant will go to the Arkansas Children's Hospital. Lexie said the Sweetheart Court will be honored at tomorrow's basketball game. She also mentioned that Mrs. Reibe is cracking down on cell phone abuse and that has helped. Mr. Gibson asked about

her plans following graduation. After touring many engineering schools, Lexie stated she plans to attend the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, go through rush and intern with an engineer at one of the local chemical plants. 6:13 p.m.

The board heard a principal's report from Retta Brown Elementary School. Bethanie Hale said they have compiled a road map of Retta Brown – where we are and where we want to go - school's theme this year is the "Road to Success." She said during August 2016, Mike Makepeace demonstrated remote control airplanes for the students and members of the Boy Scouts visited the classrooms. In September, community volunteers read to students on 9/11 and Book Buddies was introduced to students by members of the Union County Literacy Council. Freedom Week was observed and several clubs – including Young Scientists and Cake Decorating – were offered to students. Popcorn with the Principal was held and the annual Report to the Public was presented.

Fire Prevention was stressed during October at Retta Brown, the Principal's Award was presented. Accelerated Reader students went on a field trip and a magic show was held. Retta Brown students were awarded the first place award for their entry in the El Dorado Homecoming Parade and students visited the Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources in Smackover. During November, Retta Brown held their first annual Thanksgiving feast at El Dorado High School and over one hundred people attended. Mrs. Hale said that fourth graders visited the Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources, observed Veteran's Day, held a balloon release and the "Acting Right," program was initiated. Third graders attended a basketball game at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston in December and members of the Barton Junior High Orchestra performed for the students and staff. First graders sang on the radio and were presented tickets to attend a performance of the South Arkansas Symphony Orchestra.

Mrs. Hale said the Jingle Bell Walk was held in December, along with a Christmas family lunch and a school Christmas program. Students at the school were treated to a trip to Showtime Roller Rink in January and received behavior and "Random Acts of Kindness" go on the Shout Out board and awards were presented. Volunteers from Immanuel Baptist Church worked with students helping with their site words. Future events are to "Tape the Principal to the Wall" in order to raise money for the Agape House. Mrs. Hale expressed appreciation to Reggie Thomas, with Murphy U.S.A. Mr. Thomas has donated and raised \$25,000 for a new playground at Retta Brown. 6:30 p.m.

Chair of the Personnel Policies Committee and District Calendar Committee, Sarah Huddleston presented the proposed 2017 – 2018 District Calendar to the board. She noted that school term begins August 14 and ends May 25. Mrs. Huddleston covered specific dates for the board members and answered questions. On a motion by Chris Lutman, seconded by Renee Skinner and on a 6-0 vote the board approved to suspend the rules. On a motion by Chris Lutman, seconded by Keith Smith and carried on a 6-0 vote at 6:34 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the 2017 – 2018 District Calendar as presented.

The board approved Petition for Transfer Requests for five students to transfer to Parkers Chapel School District and three students to transfer into El Dorado School District. 6:36 p.m.

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 Keith Smith, and carried on a 6-0 vote at 7:15 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the superintendent's recommendations concerning the acceptance of resignations and the employment of new personnel.

On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Chris Lutman, and carried on a 6-0 vote at 7:15 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the re-employment of the administrative staff and the literacy, math, and science chairs.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.