

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
February 10, 2020**

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

Mrs. Skinner asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meetings held January 13, January 27 and February 4. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Todd Whatley and carried on a 7-0 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 Todd Whatley and carried on a 7-0 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.

Jason Holsclaw with Stephens Inc. visited with the board about consideration of refinancing the 2012 bonds. He stated the need for a resolution from the board to submit to the Arkansas Department of Education in order to pursue the refinancing.

**RESOLUTION TO REFUND OUTSTANDING BONDS
IN ORDER TO PRODUCE DEBT SERVICE SAVINGS**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of El Dorado School District No. 15 of Union County, Arkansas (the "District") that:

1. The District recognizes that debt service savings may be achieved by refunding the District's outstanding bond issue dated June 1, 2012 (the "Prior Bonds").
2. The District retains Stephens Inc. as municipal advisor and approves the attached agreements.
3. The District authorizes Stephens Inc. to file an application with the State Board of Education to issue refunding bonds (the "Bonds") in order to refund the Prior Bonds.
4. The District hereby expresses its intent to retain Friday, Eldredge & Clark, LLP, Little Rock, Arkansas as Bond Counsel for the Bonds ("Bond Counsel").
5. The Superintendent of Schools is authorized to offer the Bonds for public sale.

signed/Renee B. Skinner
President
El Dorado School Board

signed/Lou Ann Voris
Secretary
El Dorado School Board

Mr. Holsclaw said they work to structure the majority of interest paid within the first two years. The bonds will be structured with lower payment in the early years so that a majority of the debt services will be generated in these years. The remaining payments will be structured so that they are relative to the payments on the bonds being issued. He added the 2012 bonds had in interest rate of 3.5%. At current market conditions, the District could potentially realize a savings of \$227,620.68 by refunding the June 15, 2012 bonds. Should the interest rate change, he asked the board's consideration for Stephens to work with the superintendent if changes are needed. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Todd Whatley, seconded by Shaneil Yarbrough and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:06 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the resolution to the Arkansas Department of Education to pursue refinancing the 2012 bonds with Stephens, Inc. Should the interest rate change, the board approves Stephens Inc. to work with the superintendent on the change.

Wayne Gibson introduced Student of the Month, Erinn Roblee. She is a senior at El Dorado High School and the daughter of Daniel and Kristen Roblee. Erinn has two younger siblings in our district and an older sibling who has already graduated.

One of her nominating teachers, Mrs. Tabitha Bledsoe said: Erinn is a member of the National Honor Society (serves as president), Student Council, BETA Club, Steering Committee (three-year member and vice president), Campfire, St. Paul United Methodist Church, and is a Boys and Girls Club volunteer. She has many achievements to be proud of, which include an academic letterman, AP Distinguished Scholar, in the top 5% of her class, a 4-time varsity cheer letterman, and a 3-time All American Cheerleader. Erinn has been the captain of the E.H.S. varsity cheer team for the past two years and was also selected to the Arkansas All Star Cheer Team. Mrs. Bledsoe added Erinn is an inspiration on and off the cheer mat! She leads her team with honor and I am proud to have had her on the cheer team for the past four years. I am surely going to miss her when she is off in college!

Erinn's future plans are to attend Louisiana State University and major in biomedical engineering and has been accepted into the honors college. She later wants to attend medical school in hopes of becoming a pediatric surgeon.

Another nominating teacher said: Erinn has a hard work ethic and incredible drive to always be her absolute best. Her principal, Mrs. Hill said: The E.H.S. staff did an outstanding job selecting our Student of the Month. Erinn is one of the most involved and active students on campus. She takes five AP classes, maintains a 4.42 G.P.A., is a varsity cheerleader, Student Council officer, a member of several honor organizations and a very nice young lady as well! I have noticed that Erinn is very hard working, meticulous in her work, and is goal oriented. She's quiet but friendly at the same time. I have no doubt she will attack college with the same purpose she has in our schools...at least from what I've seen since I first met her at Barton...and she will be successful in whatever she sets her mind to in the future. Staff and students at E.H.S. are thrilled that Erinn Roblee was chosen Student of the Month! Mr. Gibson presented her with a certificate from the board. 6:09 p.m.

Classified Employee of the Month from El Dorado High School is Darlene Williams. Mr. Gibson said that Ms. Williams has been in the food services department since August 1, 2004, making this her sixteenth year in the district! Fellow co-workers said she is pure Wildcat spirit! Ms. Williams is a great asset to El Dorado High School. Students like her because she is friendly and caring. Another said Darlene is such a hard worker and is always in a cheerful mood. She can put a smile on anyone's face or make anyone laugh. One said, Ms. Darlene is such a ray of sunshine! Not only does she treat students like her own, she also supports our athletic department in everything. She doesn't miss anything. In fact, she will ride for countless hours on the school bus, not because she has to but because she loves to support the team. She is always about the Wildcats and her spirit is unparalleled.

Her principal, Mrs. Sherry Hill said: Ms. Darlene takes pride in the food she serves each day...and has been known to give a little grief if you don't choose her line. She is also a Wildcat institution. No one, and I mean no one, has more Wildcat spirit than Ms. Darlene. She is at most all Wildcat games and can be heard cheering all over the place! Some say, and I cannot confirm nor deny, that she might be heard coaching a little as well. She loves our students and she loves our staff. Ms. Darlene especially loves our coaches...but, she keeps them in line, too! I am so happy Ms. Darlene was chosen Classified Employee of the Month. Mr. Gibson presented Ms. Williams with a certificate from the board. 6:13 p.m.

Mr. Gibson presented the Teacher of the Month, Lauren Cross. Ms. Cross has her Masters in teaching through the MAT program at Southern Arkansas University and is certified in journalism, speech and English language arts. This is her fourth year of teaching journalism, credit recovery and oral communications – all in the El Dorado district.

Fellow co-workers nominating her said: Ms. Cross is there for her students in so many ways that extends further than just a normal teacher. She stays late so they are able to

finish their work for the school paper or for class. She is there if they need someone to confide in. Lauren Cross pushes her students to be better versions of themselves. What makes her teacher of the month is how often she is there for everyone else. She runs home to quickly eat dinner then heads back to school so the games are videoed!

It was said that Ms. Cross ensures that everyone is appreciated and spotlighted in the yearbook. She often checks up on other teachers to encourage them and to just listen to them. She represents everything that I feel exemplifies what a teacher of the month should represent. Her principal, Mrs. Sherry Hill said: Ms. Cross teaches a plethora of classes: oral communications, credit recovery, journalism I, II and III. When I started my job at E.H.S. in July, Ms. Cross was one of the first teachers I met and one that I saw the most...starting in July! She spends a lot of her own time working on the yearbook and other class activities. She looks for ways to create lessons that are engaging for students. She also has high expectations for her students and holds them accountable. I see her often talking with other teachers and even though most of what she teaches is different from the other teacher's class loads, she works to be a team player. Ms. Cross participates in school spirit activities...boy does she ever! I appreciate her work ethic and am enjoying getting to know her at E.H.S. We are so proud that Laure Cross was chosen Teacher of the Month. 6:16 p.m.

Mr. Gibson said Teacher of the Month from Murnil Educational Center, Christina Hostetter was not in attendance but he recognized her hard work and achievement. 6:16 p.m.

Blake Dunn visited with the board about consideration of renovations of the women's restroom on the grandstand side of Memorial Stadium. He and Mr. Tucker visited about this need during the time of the recent press box remodel. His architectural drawing showed the women's restroom would have fourteen toilets, which is 300% more than what is already there. It would also be handicap accessible, and have two entrances and exits instead of just the one. Mr. Dunn said the bathroom would be fully screened, so it would be harder to see into the restroom from the doors. There will be two hand-wash fountains, which is the semi-circular sinks with multiple places for people to wash their hands.

Plans are to add about 720 square feet of new space, which is twice as large as the current restroom. The proposed project is estimated at \$122,590. Mr. Dunn covered the dates of completed construction documents; submission to reviewing agencies: Division of Academic Facilities, Arkansas Department of Health and the Arkansas State Fire Marshal; bid date; proposed date construction is to commence, and projected construction completion date of August 15, 2020. All dependent upon receipt of the Division Construction Approval letter, he said. Mr. Dunn added the first home football game is September 4 and hopefully the projections prove true to be through in time for that first game. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Todd Whatley, seconded by Shaneil Yarbrough and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:25 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the renovations to the women's restroom on the grandstand side of Memorial Stadium at a projected cost of \$122,590.

Sherry Hill gave a principal's report from El Dorado High School. In her power point presentation Mrs. Hill showed academic slides first with Hinton Foster's anatomy and physiology classes dissecting mice and rats to view the layout of internal organs and comparing that to humans. Students in Mrs. McClellan's transitional math class were shown simulating items bungee jumping from the second floor to the first in the EHS hallway. The class then created equations to predict the number of rubber bands needed for a safe jump. Mrs. Harwell's visual art I students have been working on floor knitting. Large yarn is used with only the floor and hands. Mrs. Hill noted that Mrs. Harwell received an El Dorado Education Foundation grant for supplies.

Mrs. Hill showed a slide of Mrs. Curtis' Arkansas tourism class that created a map of Arkansas' six geographical regions to learn about the tourist attractions in each area. Ms. Reynolds culinary arts class created their own version of the Netflix show, "Nail it or Fail it." They found pictures of desserts and then made them and had judges vote to see if they nailed it or failed it! Aiden Price and Scott Ratchford were then pictured. Mrs. Hill

said they have received several prestigious awards this year. Both are National Merit Semi-Finalists, qualified to apply for the Presidential Scholars Program and both scored a perfect 36 on the ACT! Then she added, today both were notified they have made National Merit Finalist recognition! National Merit Scholarships are awarded to only 2,500 finalists, or about one in six finalists. This scholarship is a one-time award of \$2,500. Mrs. Hill also showed over forty students that received their academic letter jackets this year and thanked Murphy Oil for their support in this endeavor.

Mrs. Hill said the high school has begun the Professional Leadership Community (PLC) process with the staff. PLC is a group of educators that meets regularly, shares expertise, and works collaboratively to improve teaching skills and the academic performance of students. She noted that almost twenty staff members have been to the PC Institute and more will be trained this summer. She explained they have started implementing some of the ideas through their content team meetings and are also test driving using an extended homeroom time to incorporate more Response To Intervention (RTI) across the content areas. She said the goal is to take baby steps this year until all teachers are trained. She showed interviews with instructional resource teachers – Katherine Mobbs, Math IRT and Tate Aldrich, Literacy IRT regarding content.

Mrs. Hill then moved on to the high school's activities. She showed a picture of the Student Council officers that do the announcements at the start of each school day. She said that Wednesdays are wear college colors to promote the opportunity to attend college with the El Dorado Promise. She showed a picture of the students representing the 2020 Sweetheart Court, each wearing college t-shirt or sweatshirt. Next were pictures of the E.H.S. Winter Ball held in December that was a fun time. Mrs. Martindale and Mrs. Phillips, sponsors of the Future Business Leaders Association, had students recently compete in the district FBLA competition. Their student all placed high enough to compete at the state level in April. Also pictured were sixteen E.H.S. students that competed in the recent Union County math competition. A total of one hundred sixty-nine students from the six Union county schools competed and E.H.S. had several winners in Cal II, Cal I, Pre-Cal Trig, Algebra II, Geometry and Algebra I. Mrs. Hill noted that Emme Landes has been selected as Arkansas' Top High School Youth Volunteer in the 2020 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. This qualifies her for the President's Volunteer Service Award! E.H.S. has a Leadership and Service Learning class that recently sponsored a blood drive at the high school. The high school's parent and community engagement/social media involvement includes: Wildcat Weekly – a newsletter sent to those who sign up, posted on social media, and sent to all faculty emails; daily announcements – posted to the school website each day and the school's website, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts are updated regularly with information about what's going on at E.H.S.

Mrs. Hill touched on the high school's athletic involvement by showing slides of the all-sport strength and conditioning class and explained how that class has helped athletes. She also showed a short video of the football team scoring a touchdown and E.H.S. students, from several sports, signing athletic scholarships for college. Mrs. Hill closed with a picture of the E.H.S. staff and said, "All of these accomplishments would not be possible without the care and support of the best high school staff around!" 6:39 p.m.

Mrs. Skinner introduced Anthony Farris-King, Director of the After School Programs at the Boys and Girls Club of El Dorado. He recognized Hugh Goodwin Elementary, Northwest Elementary and Yocum Elementary Schools for being officially chartered as Boys and Girls Clubs of America outreach sites. Michelle Henry was in attendance and thanked Mr. Farris-King for her Yocum's recognition and plaque. Mrs. Henry and Mr. Tucker bragged and expressed their appreciation of the program and the work that Mr. Farris-King is doing through the Boys and Girls Club outreach. 6:43 p.m.

Reaves Robinson, reporter for the E.H.S. Student Council reported to the board on recent events at E.H.S. She said the Mr. E.H.S. pageant was a sold out success and raised \$3,800, with all funds contributed to Arkansas Children's Hospital. The board asked about her future plans and she has been accepted to the University of Arkansas Honors College and plans to major in business. She was asked what she has liked about E.H.S. and what she would like to see changed. Reaves said that she has had some amazing teachers, to name a few Ms. Antoon, Mr. McDuffie, Ms. Mobbs and Mr. McDuffie. She said she felt that each have helped in preparing her for college. 6:46 p.m.

Hinton Foster, member of the district's personnel policies committee and calendar committee, presented the proposed 2020-2021 District Calendar. He and Mr. Tucker explained the calendar committee met at least three times and came up with two calendars to submit to the staff. Mr. Foster noted the difference in the two were the beginning and ending dates. Once staff voted, calendar A received the most votes with only five voting for calendar B. It was mentioned that orientation dates, Cats and Kittens Conferences will be added at a later date. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 7-0 vote at 6:48 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the 2020 – 2021 District Calendar as presented.

Mrs. Skinner said the upcoming school election will be held on Tuesday, March 3 from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Early voting opens Tuesday, February 18 from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and Saturday hours are 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The last day of early voting will be Monday, March 2 and voting closes at 5:00 p.m. Early voting will take place at the Union County Court House, County Clerk's office, 101 North Washington Street. Mr. Tucker added with the new machines, voters may vote at any polling site. 6:49 p.m.

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 Todd Whatley and carried on a 7-0 vote at 7:38 p.m., 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 the chairs and administrative staff.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.