

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
July 10, 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, Renee Skinner, Todd Whatley and Shaneil Yarbrough. Directors Keith Smith and Susan Turbeville were absent. Supt. Jim Tucker, Rhonda Simmons, Melissa Powell, Katie Sandifer, Justin Small, Bonnie Haynie, Shelley Pruitt and Lou Ann Voris were also in attendance.

Mr. Gibson introduced and welcomed new board director, Shaneil Yarbrough. Mr. Tucker welcomed and introduced new director of maintenance, Justin Small. 6:02 p.m.

Mr. Gibson asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meetings held June 12 and June 27. On a motion by Vicky Dobson seconded by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 5-0 vote, the minutes were approved at 6:03 p.m.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Todd Whatley, seconded by Renee Skinner, and carried on a 5-0 vote, the bills were approved for payment at 6:06 p.m. A list of bills paid and monthly financial statement are on file in the business office.

Mr. Tucker presented the gasoline and diesel bid received for the upcoming school year.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Gasoline</u>	<u>Diesel</u>
Sewell Oil Company, El Dorado	\$0.120	\$0.035

Mr. Tucker explained this was the only bid received and the past working relationship with Sewell Oil Company has been positive and favorable. This figure represents the amount above rack price, not the actual price per gallon. Mr. Tucker reminded the board that the price quoted is the same as what the district paid for the 2016-2017 school year. On a motion by Vicky Dobson, seconded by Chris Lutman, and carried on a 5-0 vote at 6:07 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the bid from Sewell Oil Company for gasoline at \$0.120 and diesel at \$0.035 for the upcoming 2017 – 2018 school year.

Mr. Tucker stated the following bids were received for roof replacement for the administration office:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Cross Roofing, El Dorado	\$ 97,860.00
El Dorado Roofing, El Dorado	103,000.00
Harness Roofing, Inc., West Monroe	96,050.00
Ketcher and Company, Inc., North Little Rock	71,073.00

He recommended the low bid of \$71,073.00 from Ketcher and Company, Inc. Mr. Tucker said there is quite a difference in the bids and added that Justin Small and Bryan Monroe checked references plus because of the difference in bids, Mr. Monroe visited with Ketcher representatives to be sure specifications of the bid were indeed understood and they were. After some discussion and on a motion by Renee Skinner, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 5-0 vote at 6:10 p.m.

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the bid of \$71,071.00 from Katcher and Company, Inc., North Little Rock for roof replacement at the district's administration office.

Melissa Powell presented a report to the board on the district's Teacher Leader program. The program encourages new teachers to continue in the teaching profession and has been a huge success. She stated in providing support for our new teachers, the administration began the pilot Teacher Leader program at El Dorado High School this

past 2016 - 2017 school year. Plans are to do it another year before moving into the other schools. Mrs. Powell noted the four Teacher Leaders that focused in the core subjects are: Alyssa Folk, math; Kaitlyn Noble, social studies; Stephanie Fussell, English; and Sherri Rankin, science. These teachers taught in the classroom for half a day and then served as Teacher Leaders the rest of the day. The Teacher Leaders observed, encouraged, and mentored the high school's new teachers. Teachers need support at the beginning of their careers and Mrs. Powell stated it has been a very positive experience. This upcoming school year they do not plan to departmentalize but move into the other subjects. She showed the board a video about the program where some of the new teachers were interviewed, expressed positive and grateful remarks about the program and in the video the board heard from the Teacher Leaders about their experiences. Alyssa Folk attended the meeting and gave more information about the positive aspects of the program. She noted the team of Teacher Leaders saw exceptional growth in the new teachers working in the program. Mrs. Yarbrough asked the credentials of becoming a Teacher Leader. Mrs. Powell said each is a great teacher and although several have been chosen for honors, that is not a requirement. She said the personality traits play a big role. Each is approachable, self-motivated and has a desire to help others. She added when a teacher knows their subject well and is good at instruction, they make for a great Teacher Leader.

Mrs. Powell added the Teacher Leaders spend part of the day coaching new teachers – observing and sometimes co-teaching with them in their classrooms, providing feedback and leading collaborative planning among teacher teams – while still getting part of the day to teach students directly. That first year of teaching is hard for new teachers, Mrs. Powell said. The new teachers said they were encouraged, felt supported without judgement and trusted their Teacher Leaders. Following the program they felt self-motivated, enthusiastic and confident in teaching their students.

When asked how they heard about the program, Mr. Tucker said he heard about it at a meeting and then went to Denver, Colorado to observe the training. He was most impressed and sent Melissa Powell, Geni Smith and Mark Smith to Denver to observe how their Teacher Leader program works. El Dorado district modeled their program after the one in Denver's public schools but Mr. Tucker said Teacher Leaders in Denver are district evaluators where ours are not. 6:29 p.m.

Katie Sandifer revealed to the board the district's new website www.eldoradopublicschools.org and new design for the school district. She showed a video created for the district that showcases interviews with students, teachers and principals. The site includes links to all schools in the district, lists upcoming events and athletic schedules, school calendars and other links to various aspects of the school district. Website coordinators will be assigned to each school in the district.

Mrs. Sandifer said the app can be downloaded at the El Dorado School District App Store, on Google Play. The mobile app is a quick and easy way to follow what is going on in the schools for students, parents, staff and members of the community. She added by clicking on the menu in the upper left hand corner of the new website, visitors can learn about district information, administration, school board, enrollment, food services, transportation services, after-school care and the School Based Health Center. They can learn about arts and music offered for students in the district, athletics, counseling, the El Dorado Promise, federal programs, Gifted and Talented programs and services offered for special education.

Students can view educational resources, the student handbook, school supply lists and Home Access Center/E-School. A section marked "Careers" includes a job application, along with information for current and new employees. Mrs. Sandifer said the mobile app is a summarized version of the district's website and is "very mobile friendly." She said the district's mobile app is easy to navigate and by touching the white dot with three lines in the top right hand corner, a menu will appear for the school selected. The notifications and settings options on the app allow users to customize their preferences. 6:43 p.m.

Sylvia Thompson brought an update to the board on the El Dorado Promise. She noted the high school graduates who have received the Promise scholarship funds are currently attending seventy-one different colleges and universities. A full Promise scholarship for students who have attended El Dorado schools from kindergarten through graduation pays up to \$8,427.30 per year for an El Dorado High School graduate to attend college.

Mrs. Thompson gave the board information on the ten year anniversary festivities held earlier this year. The anniversary was celebrated during the week of January 17 – 20, 2017 and included a day to honor all school district employees, a college day for representatives to visit with district students, a career day when students dressed for their future careers, a Purple Promise day and a pep rally on the Union County Court House square in downtown El Dorado, attended by approximately 500 residents. The community celebration, “A Decade of Promise,” was held February 2 and included guest speaker, Liz Murray, author of “Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard,” along with Governor Asa Hutchinson, with remarks from Bob Watson, former superintendent and Jim Tucker, current superintendent of the El Dorado School District. Mrs. Thompson said backing up a bit, in October 2016 at the PromiseNet Conference held in Washington, D. C., that Supt. Jim Tucker, Alice Mahony, Lila Phillips and Mrs. Thompson spoke with attending representatives from school districts across the country that were seeking information to start a similar scholarship program. During that time the El Dorado Promise was recognized at the White House and Vice President’s reception. In December 2016 the Promise representatives were asked to speak during a break-out session at the Arkansas School Boards Association annual conference in Little Rock. In February, Mrs. Thompson also presented about the Promise in an ACT breakout session at Arkansas State University Beebe. Mrs. Thompson added in April the keynote speaker at the EHS senior’s Academic Signing Day was Miss America, Savvy Shields.

Since the Promise scholarship was first awarded to EHS graduates, students have attended 120 colleges and universities in 29 states and have graduated from 39 different colleges and universities, she said. Mrs. Thompson added the top five schools that the 2016 -2017 graduates are attending include South Arkansas Community College, the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, Southern Arkansas University, the University of Central Arkansas and the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Other schools with the attendance numbers are Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Ouachita Baptist University, Henderson State University, University of Arkansas at Little Rock and Arkansas State University. She added a two-year pilot College and Career Coaches program was started during the last school year to help prepare students to attend college after high school graduation. The district partners with South Arkansas Community College to provide this program for students. 7:04 p.m.

Geni Smith explained this is the time of year for updates, changes and additions to policies for board, staff and student handbooks. She noted the district subscribes to the Arkansas School Boards Association’s policy service in order to comply with current and new laws affecting school districts, the school board, staff and students. Three days prior to the meeting the board was given copies of the Board and District Policies Handbook and Student Handbook but Mr. Tucker encouraged them to study the policies and vote in the August board meeting. 7:08 p.m.

Mr. Tucker stated the 2017 – 2018 Licensed and Classified Salary Schedules remain the same as last year. He recommended the salary schedules to the board. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Todd Whatley, seconded by Renee Skinner, and carried on a 5-0 vote at 7:09, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the 2017 – 2018 Licensed and Classified Salary Schedules.

The board approved one student to transfer to the Parkers Chapel School District.

Mr. Gibson said the upcoming Southern Region Leadership Conference for school board directors will meet from noon Sunday, July 16 – noon Tuesday, July 18 at the Hot Springs Convention Center. The New Teacher Breakfast is Thursday, August 3 at 7:30

a.m. at the El Dorado Golf and Country Club. He added that Opening Session for Licensed Staff will be Wednesday, August 9 at 8:00 a.m. at the E.H.S. Fine Arts Auditorium. 7:11 p.m.

Vicky Dobson extended an invitation to the audience for the upcoming KinderBash, which is for incoming kindergarten students. There will be two this year - one to be held July 27 at the E.H.S Commons from 7:00 – 11:00 a.m. and then on August 4 at St. John Missionary Baptist Church from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Mr. Tucker stated the first KinderBash was held last year, received encouraged 7:12 p.m.

The meeting adjourned to an executive session to discuss personnel matters, then reconvened to an open meeting. On a motion by Todd Whatley seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 5-0 vote at 7:38 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.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.