

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
August 14, 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, Keith Smith, Susan Turbeville, Todd Whatley and Shaneil Yarbrough. Director Renee Skinner was absent. Also attending the meeting was Supt. Jim Tucker, Rhonda Simmons, Melissa Powell, Katie Sandifer, Bonnie Haynie, Shelley Pruitt, and Lou Ann Voris.

Mr. Gibson asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting held July 10. On a motion by Vicky Dobson seconded by Keith Smith and carried on a 6-0 vote, the minutes were approved at 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Pruitt reviewed the monthly bills. After some discussion and on a motion by Todd Whatley, seconded by Shaneil Yarbrough, 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 stated the Arkansas School Boards Association's annual membership dues of \$2,300.00 are now due and needs the board's vote of approval. He explained the benefits of that membership. On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 6-0 vote at 6:02 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves continuing membership to the Arkansas School Boards Association with annual dues of \$2,300.00.

Justin Small visited with the board about considering the purchase of a mini excavator for maintenance department. He noted that it will help with multiple maintenance jobs, such as plumbing and concrete work. He said that Blueline Rental has a 2012 Volvo EC35C model available for \$28,767.67. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Keith Smith and carried on a 6-0 vote at 6:04 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the purchase of a 2012 Volvo EC35C mini excavator for \$28,767.67 from Blueline Rental.

Grace George reported to the board on the Seamless Summer Food Program provided by the district in June and July. She told members of the board that 6,748 breakfasts and 8,695 lunches were provided during those two summer months for students. Mrs. George said, "There was a need and we were able to meet that need." Mr. Tucker added, "The food was amazing." Mrs. George said because of the success of the Seamless Summer Food Program for feeding children, "The staff is looking forward to continuing the program next year." She added that anyone under 18 years old can get a meal. She said that First Baptist Church brought students for lunch from local apartment complexes that had a need. "The kids wanted to come back," she said, showing a slide of children eating barbecued chicken, watermelon, corn, beans, rolls and milk. Mr. Tucker said that next summer, the district will be able to provide another 10,000 meals and will add area locations where children can receive food. Mrs. George stated it proved to be a very good summer for the feeding program.

Mrs. George also reported that the "Breakfast in the Classroom" program had a test run Monday – the first day of school – and every child in district grades kindergarten through fourth received a free breakfast delivered to the classroom. The free breakfast will be served to the classrooms between 7:45 – 7:50 a.m. each morning. She said the district received a \$12,000 grant to provide equipment to implement the program also including such needs as extra trash bags, hand wipes and other items. She added, "Our goal is that no child will be hungry," noting the statistics prove that children who receive regular, healthy meals, have less discipline problems and make fewer visits to the school nurse. She said 950 free breakfasts were served on the first day of school and that the student meals met USDA nutritional requirements. Mr. Tucker said that all four elementary principals were eager to implement the program in their school. 6:17 p.m.

Beth Sullivan and Brooke Bagwell visited with the board and showed a Power Point presentation about the district's Gifted & Talented Program. Mrs. Sullivan reported that staff and students are happy with the new pull out program and location implemented this past school year at Retta Brown. The current enrollment in the district program is 735 students. She said the GT program provides 30 minutes of enrichment per week with GT specialists for students in grades kindergarten and first; 300 minutes of pull-out with GT specialists per week in grades second through fourth grade; pre-advanced placement courses and 300 minutes of pull-out instruction with GT specialists per month in grades fifth and sixth; and pre-AP courses and one class period of pull-out sessions with GT specialists per month in grades seventh through twelfth.

Mrs. Sullivan said if parents might have been a bit apprehensive of the pull-out program at first, they are certainly on board now. Students are even telling staff that it is their favorite day at school. She noted that teachers and principals are happy and seem to love no conflicts with pullout or tests. Mrs. Sullivan said it proved to be a good school year for the program and the location has definitely suited the needs of the GT classes. 6:28 p.m.

Alva Reibe visited with the board about a proposal regarding student parking spaces and fees at the high school. She said this has become a safety issue for the school with last year having several fender-benders involving unlicensed drivers. At this time we cannot identify who are licensed drivers and who are not. Mrs. Reibe noted that resource officers try to identify vehicles and often find there will be a vehicle that belongs to a family member but not noted on the student's information. She said students who receive a pass to park on campus must have a driver's license and show proof of insurance. A tag, to hang on the rear-view mirror will be issued to the student for their vehicle.

Mrs. Reibe suggested a fee of \$15 per school year and seniors who would like to personalize their parking spot by painting a mural on it to be charged \$50. She assured the board that staff will closely monitor what students paint in the space. Seniors will receive first choice of the available designated parking spaces. Coach Nick Vaughn, who already monitors attendance and students who are tardy to school, will sell the parking spaces and check the lot to ensure safety and compliance to district policies. Mrs. Reibe added since the school no longer receives money from vending machine sales, she would like to use this money for student celebrations throughout the school year.

Board members asked questions which included the consequences for non-compliance with parking pass regulations. Mrs. Reibe stated she is looking at Saturday School attendance but will provide the board members with a written proposal on the rules, regulations and procedures for the student drivers and their parking space. Mr. Tucker recommended that Mrs. Reibe provide those in the September board meeting for the board's consideration. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Vicky Dobson, seconded by Keith Smith and carried on a 6-0 vote at 6:45 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, The board approves twelfth graders at El Dorado High School to purchase a designated parking space for a fee of \$50 for the school year. The seniors may personalize their space by painting a mural that has been approved and monitored by the administration.

Melissa Powell presented a personnel report to the board stating, "I have great news. We are fully staffed and all the teachers hired started on day one." She noted the district has employed sixty-three new teachers, bringing the total number of certified staff to more than four hundred for the 2017-2018 school year. Mrs. Powell said that several new teachers were hired during nine job fairs that district administrators attended. She added there is a possible need for two classified positions in the food services department.

Mrs. Powell thanked Bonnie Haynie for the fifty-six different sessions of professional development that were offered staff prior to the start of school. She said new teachers to the district said those sessions helped them feel informed and most confident starting their school year as a first year teacher. Mrs. Powell said that even the veteran newly hired teachers said they had not had professional development like these sessions and they will prove to be a tremendous help. Mrs. Yarbrough asked how many hours of

professional development are required for a licensed teacher. She said thirty-six hours are required each year by the Arkansas Department of Education. Mrs. Powell stated she will be meeting weekly with the Teacher Leaders that are mentoring the new teachers. Mr. Tucker added that he appreciated Mrs. Haynie's work in providing more than sixty hours of professional development for teachers to choose from. He also thanked Michelle Henry and Rhonda Simmons for coordinating this year's Kindergarten Bash. The number of students and parents topped two hundred this year – more than doubling last year's attendance at the event.

Geni Smith visited with the board about a needed vote on the Board & District Policies Handbook and Student Handbook that were presented last month. She asked if there were any questions. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 6-0 vote at 6:55 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the Board & District Policies Handbook and Student Handbook for the 2017 – 2018 school year.

The board approved petition for transfer requests for one student to Smackover-Norphlet School District, seven students to Parkers Chapel School District and one transfer from Parkers Chapel to El Dorado School District.

Mr. Gibson said the upcoming school election will be Tuesday, September 19. Since the two board positions are uncontested, voting will take place through early and absentee voting at the Union County Court House, County Clerk's office, located on the first floor. He asked for the board's vote on a resolution for early and absentee voting. The state requirement for Notice of Election and Notice of Polling Site needs the board's approval and will be published in the El Dorado News Times legal section. On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 6-0 vote at 7:02 p.m., it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the Resolution for Early and Absentee Voting and the Notice of Election and Notice of Polling Site for publication in the local newspaper.

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 Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 6-0 vote, at 8:10 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.

