

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
August 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 Kenneth Clemons, Vicky Dobson, Wayne Gibson, Keith Smith, and Susan Turbeville. Director Todd Whatley was absent. Also attending the meeting was Supt. Jim Tucker, Melissa Powell, Michelle Henry, Katie Sandifer and Shelley Pruitt.

Mrs. Skinner asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meetings held July 14 and July 23. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Keith Smith and carried on a 6-0 vote, the minutes were approved.

Mrs. Pruitt reviewed the monthly bills with the board. After some discussion and on a motion by Keith Smith, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 6-0 vote, the bills were approved for payment. A list of bills paid and monthly financial statement are on file in the business office.

Mrs. Pruitt visited with the board about consideration of transfer of funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. She stated the need to transfer \$30,616,719.71 from unrestricted general fund to the operating fund, the transfer of \$2,077,191.39 from unrestricted general fund to debt service, the transfer of \$268,055.02 from unrestricted general fund to the 3200 building fund, and the requirement was waived for the 2019 – 2020 fiscal year for a transfer to the 3000 building fund. Mrs. Pruitt answered board member's questions. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the transfer of funds, as presented, for the 2019 – 2020 fiscal year.

Mr. Tucker visited with the board about the need for an increase in adult meals through the district's food service program. With the board's consideration, breakfast will go from \$2.20 to \$2.50 and lunch will go from \$3.60 to \$4.00. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the food service increase for adult breakfast to \$2.50 and adult lunch to \$4.00.

Michelle Henry said each year the board is to be brought up to date and reviewed on the Statement of Assurance for Title I and Federal Programs. She previously sent the board a copy of the assurances for covered programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and visited with them about the need for their vote of approval in order to submit this to the Arkansas Department of Education. On a motion by Keith Smith, seconded by Wayne Gibson and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves the Statement of Assurance for Title I and Federal Programs for the district.

Melissa Powell presented a personnel report for the upcoming school year. She told the board that she or another administrator attended four job fairs this year at Arkansas State University, Arkansas Tech University, Ouachita Baptist University and the University of Central Arkansas. Following those job fairs times changed due to the pandemic but she was able to fill all of the district positions without using the Teach for America program or Arkansas Teacher Academy.

Mrs. Powell added that fifty-seven classroom teachers have been hired and of the twelve retirees, five were administrators and seven were classroom teachers. She explained that two employees have opted to use the new Leave of Absence policy and she did receive some resignations from teachers related to COVID-19. Several staff members returned to their hometowns during the shut-down last semester and decided to take jobs near their

hometown to be closer to their families, due to the uncertain times. She feels certain she would have seen a reduction in turnover if times were different.

Mrs. Powell noted of the new teachers that are returning to El Dorado to teach, six graduated from El Dorado High School: Jay Brooks, Greg Roberson, Tabitha Patrick, Brooklyn Nesbitt, Haley Gullledge and Nathan Odom. Thirty-one new hires live here, close, or have strong ties that brought them back to El Dorado, she said. She explained her focus is still on hiring the best candidate for the position and supporting them once they have started. She added her appreciation for the work that Stephanie Lowrey puts in overseeing the mentoring program. Mrs. Powell stressed that finding substitute teachers has been a concern due to the pandemic and she is expecting absences to occur more frequently this school year. She is assuming responsibility for hiring some of the substitutes and using SubTeach to fill the remaining need. The permanent substitutes will report to the building each day and will be used whenever an employee is out due to quarantine.

Mr. Tucker received Petition for Transfer Request forms from parents of four students wishing to transfer to Parkers Chapel and one student to transfer into our district from Parkers Chapel. He recommended the legal transfer to the board. On a motion by Wayne Gibson, seconded by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 6-0 vote, it was

RESOLVED, That the board hereby approves all transfer requests as presented by the superintendent.

Mrs. Skinner reminded the board of the Opening Session for Licensed Staff that will be held in the E.H.S. Arena on Wednesday, August 12 at 1:00 p.m. Gerry Brooks will be the guest speaker.

The board entered an executive session to discuss personnel matters, then reconvened to an open meeting. On a motion by Susan Turbeville, seconded by Kenneth Clemons, and carried on a 6-0 vote, at 7:10 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.