

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
October 9, 2023

The directors of the board met on the above date at 6:00 p.m. in the Central Office Board Room, 200 West Oak St, El Dorado, Arkansas with Susan Turbeville presiding. Other directors present were Vicky Dobson, Renee Skinner, Kenneth Clemons, Keith Smith and Todd Whatley. Director Wayne Gibson was absent. Also in attendance were Jim Tucker, Melissa Powell, and Missy Passmore

Mrs. Turbeville asked if there were corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting held September 12, 2023. The Special Called meeting held on September 21, 2023 and the Discipline hearing held on September 21, 2023. On a motion by Vicky Dobson, a second by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 6-0 vote the minutes were approved and are on file in the superintendent's office.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. After a time of discussion and on a motion by Todd Whatley, seconded by Kenneth Clemons, and carried on a 6-0 vote, the minutes were approved and are on file in the superintendent's office.

BJH Student of the Month is Autumn Kingery, she is the daughter of Josh and Mandy Kingery and she is in the 8th grade.

Her nominating teacher stated that Autumn is a genuinely nice person and excels at everything she does. She is a handworker in the classroom. Autumn makes sure to have a positive attitude with every person she meets and demonstrates what the Wild kitten Way is supposed to represent every single day! I am proud I was able to have her as a student last year and I know she has so much potential!

Principal Michelle Henry stated that Autumn is a model student, and she truly displays the qualities of the Wildkitten Way. She is respectful and responsible throughout every day at Barton, and I suspect even when she is away from Barton as well. Autumn is an avid reader and is in her second year of being a library worker at Barton. She loves to travel with her family and this year is in our Barton Bakes class. I cannot think of a more deserving student to represent Barton as student of the month. Well deserved for sure! Barton is proud Autumn is a Wildkitten!

BJH's Classified Employee of the Month is Karen Wolfe, and she was not able to attend.. She is the BJH nurse and has been working in the ESD for 17 years. Before that she worked at the hospital and in home health. She has her associates degree in nursing and has been a nurse for 33 years. She has been married for 14 years to Bill Wolfe. Karen has 2 kids-Rachel Tribble and Jonathan Hopper, and a stepson Matthew Wolfe. She and Bill also have 3 grandkids and 4 great grandkids.

The nominating employee stated that Nurse Karen is a vital part of our school and a wonderful resource when needed. She is always willing to help out with any problem you come across and truly cares about the health and safety of our students.

I always see her with a warm and compassionate attitude, and it seems like she really likes being here. She is also very quick when responding to students who need her!

We have so many students that have special medical needs. Not only does she have to stay on her toes to keep up with all of those students, but also navigate the many others who need her daily for non-emergency issues (students and teachers...lol). I love that she is always able to help fix us up, give advice when we have health issues, and warn us when something is on the rise! She rocks!

Andria Gleghorn, BJH Assistant Principal stated that Nurse Karen is in her 15th year at BJH. She has a hard job keeping up with all of our students and teachers! She does great taking care of our students on a daily basis and helping in emergency situations. She always has her 'go bag' and is ready to help. She also takes good care of our teachers and staff when they need her too. We are very thankful that Nurse Karen is part of the Barton family!

BJH's Teacher of the Month is Calandra Brown. She obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Biological Science in 1998, and her Master's Degree in Gifted and Talented Education in 2013 from SAU Magnolia. She has been teaching for a total of 18 years! Seven of those years have been in ESD where she has taught as a 7th grade Science teacher. She also taught at Stephens High School for seven years. Gardner-Strong Elementary for 3 years and Strong High School for 1 year. She has

been married for 16 years to Jarvis Brown Sr and they have two children, Jarvis Jr, age 12, and Jaxton, age 8.

Nominating co-workers stated that Mrs. Brown is a hard working colleague. She is always willing to help me out and offer advice. Serving on the Guiding Coalition, she offers suggestions and has great organization for her 7th grade science team. Another stated I am proud to serve on the science team with her. She is a definite plus to our team. Another co-worker stated Calandra goes above and beyond to make sure her kids are learning. She finds new and creative ways to make learning fun. She also is so helpful to her team and others who need help.

Michelle Henry, BJH Principal, stated that Calandra Brown is a joy to have at Barton. She is a hard worker, dependable, organized, and 100% here for students with a positive attitude everyday. Calandra works to make her lessons engaging and to be sure the students are paying attention and participating. She works hard to find ways to connect with students so they can learn. Calandra goes above and beyond for students, including setting a timer after school hours each week so she can pick her students she needs to get in her intervention classes. I can not say enough about how wonderful it is to have Mrs. Brown at Barton. She is a pleasure to have on our team and so happy she calls Barton Jr High her home.

El Dorado High School's Teacher of the Month for September was Heather Craig. She was not able to attend last month and is being recognized tonight.. EHS is thrilled that Heather Craig was selected ESD Teacher of the Month. Mrs. Craig graduated with a Bachelor's of Arts in Psychology and a Master's of Art in Special Education from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. She has been teaching a total of fourteen years, and she is starting her fourth year teaching at EHS. Mrs. Craig moved to El Dorado from West Monroe, Louisiana four years ago. She is married to Jason Craig and has two bonus children, Anna and AJ. In her spare time, she is active in Charis Women's Retreats, DKG, El Dorado Service League, and in a Bunco group. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, reading, and cooking.

Her co workers said: She has true Wildcat spirit! She loves her students unconditionally and it shows! Mrs. Craig is devoted to her students and passionate about teaching. She is also willing to help her coworkers when we are having a difficult time.

Mrs. Hill: Heather Craig is a breath of fresh air at EHS. She is kind, compassionate, and friendly to all. She never says that is not my job. She is one that everyone likes....students, staff and parents all agree she is a fine human! What I like most about Mrs. Craig is that she is an encourager. When she sees someone doing good, instead of just noticing, she actually seeks the person out and tells them. We need more Mrs. Craigs in the world. The EHS family is very happy for our number 1 encourager to receive recognition herself!

Barton Junior High principal, Michelle Henry, stated that she was excited to share all of the wonderful things happening at BJH. She said that last May, at Barton Gives Back, they were able to raise about \$5000. This helps them give to students and families during Christmas, as well as many other areas to really give back!. Last spring BJH was able to perform Little Mermaid Jr and they did such an amazing job. If you had a chance to attend you know what a wonderful job the students and staff did. There will be another play this spring, but it has not yet been announced. Last Spring Student Council and MP3 students were able to go to New York City! This year they will be going to Boston!

We are also celebrating the tremendous growth we haven achieved over the past year. BJH improved its scores across the board, in 7th and 8th grade and raised their overall score to a C, and hoped to have that up to a B next year. This is a testament to all of the hard work that started at WMS and has continued here at BJH. The teachers and students have worked really hard and I am so proud of the growth we have seen, and I am expecting even more this year.

Mrs. Henry shared a video of the Collaborative Team meeting. She stated that the PLC collaborative meetings have contributed to the growth we have seen. This particular team was the math team.

She stated that last year they implemented the Behavior Matrix, and have continued that process this year. The first two weeks of school the behavior expectations for this matrix were taught during Team Time. Students were then quizzed on these expectations. If they didn't pass the quiz, they went to an RTI session until it was passed. This was to make sure all students understood the expectation.

She was also very excited about the growth for 7th and 8th graders in every subject tested last year. The numbers are listed below.

Growth	20-21 (7TH)	21-22 (7TH)	22-23 (7TH)	20-21 (8TH)	21-22 (8TH)	22-23 (8TH)
ENGLISH	62%	68%	78%	65%	60%	65%
READING	25%	32%	38%	42%	39%	54%
SCIENCE	31%	35%	40%	34%	30%	41%
MATH	29%	28%	36%	33%	25%	28%

She also stated that she was very excited that the ESSA School Index for BJH has significantly improved!

2020-2021	62.26 D
2021-2022	62.97 D
2022-2023	65.54 C

Mrs. Henry also stated that she had received a letter from one of the 7th grade teachers. That teacher stated that when the students were coming into her class for RTI, they are coming in ready to work, and they are working hard. She stated that it is a testament to WMS and all of the hard work they have put into the students for the last two years. That investment, and the similar procedures and expectations have made for a smooth transition which has greatly contributed to the students success.

Mrs. Henry stated that she was proud of her staff, and students for all they have been able to accomplish and she looks forward to sharing more about BJH and all they will accomplish in the future.

Jennifer Lee then presented the annual report to the public. She said “every student deserves an education that provides rigor, encourages resilience, and fosters responsibility. A safe space to learn, where communication, collaboration and critical thinking are used to push them to be their very best.

She stated that the El Dorado School District is fully accredited by the division of Elementary and Secondary Education. She stated that five of the schools in the El Dorado School District are classified as schoolwide for Title I part a Federal Programs. Those schools are Northwest Elementary, Yocum Elementary, Washington Middle School, Barton Junior High, and El Dorado High School. She stated that the El Dorado School District is receiving Level 2 - Coordinated Support from the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education. This is a significant improvement from last year as we were in Level 3. Very proud of all of the hard work that went into this accomplishment and it is definitely credited to the PLC process.

Mrs. Lee stated that the District Goal: The El Dorado School District is focused on High levels of learning for all students. Providing support for teachers and collaborative teams. Making the PLC Process the primary work throughout the district. Supporting effective tier I instruction. Addressing student’s social and emotional needs. Using reliable assessments dada to drive instruction, intervention, and extension. Providing specific, targeted interventions and extensions for individual students. Giving feedback to students and involving students in tracking their own learning.

She stated that we have multiple reasons to celebrate! The ACT Aspire reading scores in 202 were at or better that per-pandemic scores in 2019 at EVERY tested grade, 3rd - 10th. ACT Aspire math scores in 2023 showed growth from 2022 at 4th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades. State accountability scores showed growth in three schools from last year, Hugh Goodwin Elementary, Washington Middle School, and Barton Junior High.

Hugh Goodwin was named top 5 elementary schools in the southwest region based on ELA ACT Aspire growth by the office of educational policy.

Northwest Elementary, 4th grade students showed growth in EVERY area of the ACT Aspire in 2023. That included English, Reading, Math, and Science.

Yocum Elementary School was able to exit Comprehensive School Improvement! They were one of only 6 schools in the stated to accomplish this! They were one of three schools in the stated who did so based on student’s academic growth!

Washington Middle School was identified as a Model PLC School. They were named top five Middle Schools in the Southwest Region based on ELA ACT Aspire growth by the office of Educational Policy!

Barton Junior High 7th & 8th graders showed growth in EVERY area of the ACT Aspire in 2023! That included English, Reading, Math, and Science.

El Dorado High School was named top ten in the state for best freshman success by the Office of Educational Policy.

El Dorado School District was able to reduce the number of Year 1 novice teachers from 44 to 32! Of the 32, 8 of those were residents in the district last year.

Mrs. Lee shared the Enrollment data as listed below.

Grade Span	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
K-4	1637	1569	1537	1570	1549	1519
5-8	1358	1317	1299	1202	1152	1144
9-12	1283	1306	1285	1307	1303	1223
DISTRICT TOTAL	4278	4192	4121	4079	4004	3930

Mrs. Lee also stated that to find the policies for the ESD you go to <https://www.eldoradopublicschools.org>. You then click on State Required Information and then click on policies.

Mr. Tucker stated that they had been presented with School Improvement plans for each of the schools for the 30-60-90 day plans. Mr. Tucker recommended each of the plans and stated that they could be approved as one. On a motion by Renee Skinner, a second by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 6-0 vote it was

RESOLVED that the board hereby approves the School Improvement Plans as presented and are on file in the superintendent’s office.

Mr. Tucker also stated on October 4th and October 5th they interviewed four companies, Clark, CDI, Crawford, and Ideal for the position of Construction Manager for the new Intermediate School Project. The interview panel consisted of Superintendent, Mr. Tucker, all of the ESD board of directors and ESD Maintenance Director, Justin Small. Mr. Tucker stated that each of these companies were qualified for the position of Construction Manager. Mr. Tucker stated that he would like to recommend Ideal Construction as the Construction Manager for this project. On a motion by Keith Smith, a second by Kenneth Clemons and carried on a 6-0 vote it was

RESOLVED that the board hereby approves Ideal Construction Company as the Construction Manager for the Intermediate School Project, effective immediately and for the duration of the project.

Mrs. Turbeville stated that we have several transfer requests. Mr. Tucker recommended these legal transfers.

- The parent resides in El Dorado School District and would like to transfer his student to the Camden Fairview School District. On a motion by Renee Skinner, a second by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 6-0 vote it was approved.
- The parent resides in the El Dorado School District and would like to transfer her his student to the Parkers Chapel School District. On a motion by Kenneth Clemons, a second by Todd Whatley and carried on a 6-0 vote it was approved.
- The parent resides in the El Dorado School District and would like to transfer her student, to the Parkers Chapel School District. On a motion by Vicky Dobson, a second by Kenneth Clemons and carried on a 6-0 vote it was approved.

- The Parent resides in the Strong Huttig School District and would like to transfer her student to the El Dorado School District. On a motion by Renee Skinner, a second by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 6-0 vote it was approved.
- The parent resides in the Strong School District and would like to transfer her students and Emma Browning, age 5, to the El Dorado School District. On a motion by Kenneth Clemons, a second by Keith Smith and carried on a 6-0 vote it was approved.
- The Parent resides in the El Dorado School District and would like to transfer her student to the Parkers Chapel School District. On a motion by Vicky Dobson, a second by Kenneth Clemons and carried on a 6-0 vote it was approved.
- The parent resides in the El Dorado School District and would like to transfer her student to the Junction City School District. On a motion by Kenneth Clemons, a second by Renee Skinner and carried on a 6-0 vote it was approved.

Mrs. Turbeville made the following announcements:

- **EHS School Board Lunch:** Thursday, October 12 at 12:00
- **Region 13 Meeting** October 24, Magnolia Performing Arts Center; 1473 East Greene Street; Magnolia, AR 71753
- **Board Training:** November 2 at the COOP in Camden
- **Hugh Goodwin School Board Lunch:** Thursday, November 9 at 12:00
- **70th ASBA Annual Conference**, Marriott Hotel & Statehouse Convention Center December 6-8
- **New Board Member Boot Camp**, Marriott Hotel & Statehouse Convention Center December 6
- **WMS School Board Lunch:** Thursday, December 14 at 12:00
- **BJH School Board Lunch:** Thursday, January 11 at 12:00
- **MEC School Board Lunch:** Thursday, February 8 at 12:00
- **NW School Board Lunch:** Thursday, March 7 at 12:00
- **YO ELEMENTARY School Board Lunch:** Thursday, April 4 at 12:00
- **YO PRIMARY School Board Lunch:** Thursday, May 9 at 12:00

The meeting recessed at 6:42 to an executive session to discuss personnel matters. The board reconvened to an open meeting at 7:46 and on a motion by Kenneth Clemons, a second by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 6-0 vote. it was:

RESOLVED that the board hereby approves the superintendent's recommendation concerning the acceptance of resignations and the employment of new personnel.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:47