

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the El Dorado School Board
November 6, 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, Wayne Gibson, Keith Smith and Todd Whatley. Also in attendance were Jim Tucker, Melissa Powell, Sherry Floss, Shelley Pruitt and Missy Passmore.

Mrs. Turbeville asked if there were corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting held October 9, 2023. On a motion by Renee Skinner, a second by Vicky Dobson, and carried on a 7-0 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 Wayne Gibson, seconded by Kenneth Clemons, and carried on a 7-0 vote, the minutes were approved and are on file in the superintendent's office.

Mayor Paul Choate stated that he has recently been at Hugh Goodwin Elementary and Yocum Elementary and El Dorado School District has some great kids. He also stated that his wife taught for the district for three decades and it was an honor for him to present the following proclamation.

I, Paul Choate, Mayor of El Dorado, Arkansas do proclaim that the week of November 13 through November 17 to be American Education Week for the El Dorado School District.

WHEREAS, public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they need to maintain our nation's precious values of freedom, civility and equality; and

WHEREAS, by equipping young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future; and

WHEREAS, education employees -- be they custodians or teachers, bus drivers or librarians -- work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, schools are community linchpins, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders, and elected officials in a common enterprise;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Paul Choate serving as Mayor of the City of El Dorado, Arkansas do hereby proclaim November 13 – 17, 2023 as the observance of American Education Week.

Signed this 6th day of November, 2023 by Paul Choate, Mayor of the City of El Dorado, Arkansas

Mr. Gibson then presented the Hugh Goodwin Student of the Month, Ivy Wasson. She is the daughter of Christopher and Jennifer Wasson and is in the 1st Grade and her teacher is Miss. Cross.

Mrs. Cooper, who nominated her, says Ivy always follows the Gator Way even when others may not. She is an outstanding student who does more than just the requirement asked for by her teacher. Miss Cross, her 1st grade teacher, says Ivy is one of the most genuine, respectful, loving, hardworking students I've ever had. She always has a smile on her face and has a contagious laughter. She's a friend to all and models the Gator way in everything she does. I am thankful to be her teacher and have the opportunity to teach a student like her.

Principal, Jesica Collins stated that Ivy is a fabulous example of the Gator way at all times. She is polite, well mannered, and always ready to help others. She always follows directions the first time and is the perfect Gator to represent our school.

Hugh Goodwin's Classified employee of the month is Chelcy Taylor. She has worked for ESD for nine years, and six of those have been as our School Secretary her at Hugh Goodwin.

Her nominating co-worker said that Mrs. Taylor goes above and beyond her duties and does it with a smile on her face. She has a tough position, but NEVER complains. I can't say enough good things about her. Mrs. Taylor does lots of behind the scenes jobs that keep our school running. She is always so upbeat and positive. She has helped me many times on things I need.

Principal, Jessica Collins said Mrs. Taylor is the face of our school whether you are the person she greets at the door, on the phone, on the radio, or on the intercom because I can assure you that is one of the 4 needs to be answered. She comes early and stays late everyday out of the goodness of her heart. Our school would not run or function without her. I appreciate and value Mrs. Taylor as not only the secretary of our school, but also as the smiling face and person that she is. Students and families love her because she always lends a helping hand, and we are so glad she is a GATOR!

Hugh Goodwin's Teacher of the Month is Veronica Curley. Mrs. Curley graduated from SAU with a Bachelor's Degree in early childhood education. She is a 3rd grade teacher and has been teaching for a total of 26 years! Out of the 26 years she has been teaching, she taught in the ESD for 22 of those years and at Hugh Goodwin for the last three years.

Her nominating Co-worker stated that Mrs. Curley is a hard worker and tries her best to help the students learn. She does all she can to make sure students are succeeding. She is a great team member who does all things with the "I can do this" attitude.

Principal Jessica Collins said we are so blessed to have Mrs. Curley at our school. She is a true example of endurance and has a heart of gold. Mrs. Curley will do anything for students to ensure they are learning. She is kind and dependable. She works hard to overcome challenges that arise. Mrs. Curley doesn't want recognition or praise and for that she deserves it all the more. HG is a better place because of her, and we are so glad she is a GATOR!

Jessica Collins, Principal of Hugh Goodwin stated that she was excited to share what they have going on in their school! This year's theme for Hugh Goodwin is SPACE! They had the Arkansas Skydome Planetarium come down and the students K-4 were allowed to go through and we could collaborate with the theme. They have also reached out to NASA requesting a group chat with NASA and one of their astronauts. She said that has not been accepted yet, but they are hopeful it will happen. They are also very excited and waiting for the Total Solar eclipse that will happen on April 8th. It is just a great way to tie everything together with this year's theme.

She stated that Hugh Goodwin had a lot to celebrate this year and she would like to share those with the board. She said the first thing was their letter grade for this year, and that they are super proud of that and they celebrated that with the staff by having a pizza party with the theme "Any way you slice it, we are proud of you" She stated that their grade was 78.45 so they are only .8 points from getting back to an A. They were able to increase their grade by 3.5 points. Mr. Tucker stated that is very hard to do! She said because of that the U of A recognized HG for their growth scores! She stated that she went with Mrs. Jackson to Little Rock with the Secretary of Agriculture in attendance and Hugh Goodwin was awarded Best State Garden. She was very appreciative to parent volunteer Katie Farrin, for all of her hard work to make the garden a success. She stated that they were also awarded the Silver Rise Community Award for literacy. They also received a financial award because they were the top 10% of public schools in the state to achieve high student performance on the state testing.

She stated that they are still using Digital Benchmark at HG. She shared videos of students in the Kindergarten class working through this program. She then shared a video of first graders during a small group. She also shared about fourth grade students working on fractions and decimals. She shared the engaging way Mrs. Farley was working with her students. She also shared a "turn and talk" students have already completed their work, they turn to another student and each will compliment the other and then explain how they came up with their answer. She said there is always so much going on and she wanted to share a glimpse of what they do.

She said that they also have several challenges going on right now. One of them is the honeycomb challenge. Where you must QUICKLY go through multiplication facts. Where she challenged the board to see if they could complete the honeycomb challenge, you have 60 seconds!

Another challenge they have is Goodnight Gators, which was part of the Rise Award. She invited the board, and anyone in attendance to participate. She said you can record yourself reading a book and they will share it with students for Goodnight Gators to promote literacy.

She shared pumpkin seeds with the board that are from their garden! She wanted to share a little taste test of the wonderful things they have grown. She also shared that they would be having a Veteran's Day Parade, November 28 they would have the Nutcracker Performance and many more things to come at Hugh Goodwin. She said HG is the place to be!

A board member asked her how many students start kindergarten at Hugh Goodwin already reading. She said that they have already had their first Gator Clap Out which is where students will line the halls and those who are readers who have already mastered their end of the year goals. She said we had several who came to us already knowing as there was no way they could have mastered that in 9 weeks. She said they have already had four students achieve that goal, and they will have their next Clap out in January, where that number will double or triple. The largest Clap Out is usually in March and there will be a few left in May. She credited the preschools for this achievement and said it also starts at home. She said those students are fluent, not sounding out and one of those students is already at a second grade level.

Clair Antoon then presented the 24/25 School Calendar for approval. She stated that she was so excited to present the calendar because calendars are her passion! She stated that there were three options presented to the ESD Staff. Calendar Options Breakdown 2024-2025 are as follows:

- All calendars have the following in common:
- Teachers report back August 7th
 - One week break for Thanksgiving
 - Two week break for Christmas
 - One week break for Spring Break
 - Holidays: Labor Day, MLK Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day
 - 10 days of professional development
 - PTC After School in October & February
 - A professional development day October 11th
 - A professional development day January 6th

Below are the **differences** between each calendar:

Calendar 1	Calendar 2	Calendar 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8 PD days before school (August 7th, 8th, 9th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th)• Start date August 19th• Break Feb 17th• End Date May 30th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8 PD days before school (August 7th, 8th, 9th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 19th)• Start date August 20th• End Date May 30th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7 PD days before school (August 7th, 8th, 12th, 13th,14th, 15th, 19th)• Start date August 20th• Break Oct 14th• Break Feb 17th• PD Feb 21st• End Date June 4th

She stated that staff was allowed to vote on the calendars and calendar 1 had 69.1% of the vote. This calendar is the earliest start date allowed for the state of Arkansas, has fewer breaks, but still allows us to complete the school year in May. After some discussion, on a vote by Wayne Gibson, a second by Todd Whatley and carried on a 7-0 vote it was

RESOLVED that the board hereby approves Calendar 1 for the 2024-2025 school year as presented.

There was also a question presented to Mrs. Hill, EHS Principal in regards to the required service hours for ESD graduates. Mrs. Hill stated that the current freshmen, class of 2027, will be the first class required to attain these service hours. She stated that EHS is providing many opportunities for students to earn hours. There are also many opportunities offered throughout the community and area churches. There was a concern of over-saturation due to the vast number of ESD students, but also the students from surrounding communities in Union County. She stated that students will have to be diligent to make sure they are on the right track. ESD has set up a monitoring system for students to record and keep track of hours earned and hours needed to fulfill the requirements. Students will report their hours to their teacher during CATS. Each teacher will keep required documentation and remind students of opportunities available to them. Students will be able to acquire hours over the summer break, as well as other breaks throughout the year.

One board memeber asked if there was a list of rules and regulations they are required to follow and Mrs. Hill said that they have not given specifics for rules and regulations. They also stated that maybe we could offer opportunities after sporting events, beautification at the school campuses and properties. It was also suggested that students could write letters to those in the military and those in nursing homes. Mrs. Hill said her staff was working hard to make sure we can help our students achieve this new requirement for graduation.

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

- A parent resides in the El Dorado School District and would like to transfer her student, age 16, to the Smackover School District. On a motion by Vicky Dobson, a second by Kenneth Clemons and carried on a 7-0 vote it was approved.
- A parent resides in the El Dorado School District and would like to transfer her student, age 13, to the Parkers Chapel School District. On a motion by Kenneth Clemons, a second by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 7-0 vote it was approved.
- A parent resides in the El Dorado School District and would like to transfer her student, age 7, to the Smackover School District. On a motion by Renee Skinner, a second by Vicky Dobson and carried on a 7-0 vote it was approved.

Mrs. Turbeville made the following announcements:

- **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 6:48 to an executive session to discuss personnel matters. The board reconvened to an open meeting at 7:42 and on a motion by Wayne Gibson, a second by Todd Whatley, and carried on a 7-0 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 7:50