

OFFICIAL MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF THE
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

The Board of Trustees for the Arkansas School for the Deaf and the Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired met for their monthly meeting on November 13, 2018.

Present: Faith McLaughlin, Chairperson; Susan Pack, Vice-Chairperson; Everett Elam, Secretary; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Board Member; James Caton, ASBVI Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; , ASB Parent Representative; Harry Pompeo, ASD Parent Representative; Will Gorum and Eddie Schmeckenbecher, Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community, Hillcrest Residents

Ms. McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. The next meeting was scheduled for December 11th at ASB.

18-J-014 Motion to Approve Minutes

Ms. McLaughlin asked for a motion to approve the minutes from October meeting. Ms. Pack made a motion to approve October minutes and Mr. Elam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

None

Discussion Items

ASB Parent Report (Given by Mr. Caton)

Mr. Caton reported that on November 3rd, ASB cheerleaders performed at the Central Arkansas Classic. They were exposed to a competitive cheer environment with their non-disabled peers. They received a great response from the crowd.

The STYLE (Student Transition Youth Learning Experience) program has been going well. The students have been excited about the different experiences – money management, personal care, independent living skills and dining.

ASB participated in Special Olympics bowling this month. Twenty kids participated receiving several gold, silver and bronze medal winners. No word if anyone qualified for the State Special Olympic tournament which will be on December 6th.

ASB's annual Christmas concert will be Thursday, December 20th in Woolly Auditorium.

Homecoming was this past weekend. Friday was the parade with a tailgate lunch in front of the gym. Friday evening was the annual chili cook off. Saturday there was a wrestling meet with several schools participating (held at ASB).

Mr. Caton said ASB still does not have a parent representative. Mr. Elam asked what board members could do to get a parent representative appointed. Mr. Caton said he was going to send a letter to the office that processes appointments reminding them ASB still does not have a parent rep and one is still wanted – someone has applied for the position. Additionally, the board will have two more vacancies soon to be filled. Ms. McLaughlin said it would be nice to have one by January 1st. Ms. Pack asked if the office had even started the process for the appointment. Mr. Caton said he did not know about that. He said he had contacted ASB's liaison but she has left that position. Ms. McLaughlin asked if the superintendents recommend someone for board positions. Can anyone apply to be a board member? She said she was recommended by another board member. Ms. Pack said originally the Governor appointed someone, but they were always courteous about calling to tell who they were thinking of appointing and asking if there was a problem. She said now someone from the school makes a recommendation. Mr. Caton said the last two appointments the schools got a call saying this is who was appointed. He said he thought anyone could apply for a board position. Ms. McLaughlin said she thought the application was online. Ms. Pack said yes and it is quite a lengthy form, you have to divulge your finances and some people may not want to do that. Mr. Caton said there is nothing to prevent superintendents from writing recommendation letters. Mr. Elam said he had a recommendation for his position and asked if he sends it to the board or the Governor. Ms. Pack said she would send it to James and the Governor. Ms. Pack asked if it was a blind person. Mr. Elam said yes. Ms. McLaughlin said it was March before Dr. Atcherson came on board and he was recommended in November or December. She said it takes a while to get the process started so it needs to begin soon. Mr. Elam asked if could step down officially and continue to serve via phone until someone is appointed. Ms. Pack said she thought that was possibility.

ASD Parent Representative – Harry Pompeo

Silent Sunday was November 4th. There were live performances by the Singing Fingers plus deaf live art. This was fundraising event that helped us raise money for technology for the school. Stacey did a great job with the other staff that was involved. Many man hours were spent making this event happen.

The ROAR store – the students wanted to go there to buy tickets for 100 paw points. The store will start opening for PBIS (behavior points) in November.

Mr. Pompeo said ASD had Red Ribbon Week October 22-26. It was a very successful event. The students had bracelets, pens, pencils, stickers and ribbons. There was a student competition of pledging to promote a drug free lifestyle.

The Lower School students went to the pumpkin patch and had a wonderful time. They brought pumpkins back to the dorms. The Anthony School hosted a Halloween party for the Lower School. There was a lot of involvement with trick or treaters for the Hillcrest area.

GPSD, the Academic ASL Bowl and the oratorical competition was held in Wisconsin November 7th – 11th. There were a number of students involved in these bowls. Eight schools participated. He said ASD beat all of the teams. ASD faced Kansas which forced them to go into a tie breaker and ASD lost by one point.

Thanksgiving lunch will be November 15th and parents are invited. ASD will host the Leopard Classic December 7th and 8th for basketball. First basketball game is tonight in Russellville. The football players and coaches were invited to go downtown to the Touchdown Club.

There being no further business of Joint nature, the meeting moved to the School for the Blind agenda.


Faith McLaughlin, Chair


Everett Elam, Secretary

OFFICIAL MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF THE
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

The Board of Trustees for the Arkansas School for the Deaf met for their monthly meeting on November 13, 2018.

Present: Faith McLaughlin, Chairperson; Susan Pack, Vice Chairperson; Everett Elam, Secretary; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Board Member; , ASB Parent Representative; Harry Pompeo, ASD Parent Representative; James Caton, ASBVI Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; Will Gorum and Eddie Schmeckenbecher, Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community, Hillcrest Residents

18-D-015 Motion to Approve Consent Items

Ms. McLaughlin asked for a motion to approve the consent items to include the minutes, financial statement and personnel items. Dr. Atcherson made a motion to approve the consent items and Mr. Elam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

None

Discussion Items

Environmental Science Club Report

They gave a report on their trip to Buffalo River October 4-7, 2018. The trip was for environmental science. The club members introduced themselves. The purpose of the trip was a science trip. They were searching for baby dragonflies. They had a lab test for Mercury in the larva. It is called a bioaccumulation. The purpose of this was to increase the bioaccumulation to see if it was dangerous in Mercury. They also presented a slide show of the trip. Mr. Elam said their presentation was better than the one he had in college.

FY 2017 Audit Findings & Report – Michael Krenn

Mr. Krenn said they found a couple audit findings – the biggest issue being inventory. He said he has been working on the inventory for the last 2 – 2 ½ years. He said they had to present to the legislature that there was an asset incorrectly coded and it has been fixed with DFA. He said theft of property – they had the police report but did not do the next step and that now has been corrected. He said the auditors could not find 12 items on the inventory list and they ranged from back in the 1980’s. He said they told the legislature ASD has about 20 buildings, 268,000 square feet and over 3000 items on the asset list.

Mr. Krenn said the other item was on procurement. If you spend anything over \$25000, you are supposed to do a performance evaluation as a contractor and one of our interpreters was over that and wasn't caught. One thing we didn't have three bids on. He said they are trying not to have any findings for 2018.

New Lease for Children's First – Michael Krenn

Mr. Krenn said when he first started he didn't know much about the lease and what it included. At that time it was a two year renewal. They have been paying the same price for about 2 ½ years. He has done research and found that they use more square footage than they are paying for. The proposal would be to increase in January at the current rate but at the correct square footage which would be about a \$10,000 increase on the rent and gradually increase every year in July until they are closer to the market rate for the use of a facility with that square footage. He said they have not proposed this to them yet but the lease expires in January. He said they also put in rules in the proposal per DBA. Mr. Krenn said ASD wanted board approval to go forward with the proposal. He said they needed to get the letter to them regarding the renewal. Ms. McLaughlin asked if the board needed to approve the proposal. Mr. Krenn said according to Arkansas Code yes. It states any major lease for buildings needs board approval. He said they do not have the final lease yet but wanted approval to get started. Mr. Pompeo said he noticed ASD's facility agreement has different rules and are parking in front of the infirmary (which they are not supposed to be doing) to get their kids. He said maybe more signage is needed there to keep this from happening. Also, it is the same problem with E-Stem parking for basketball practice. He said he feels like there is no respect to the property and a better system is needed. Dr. Dickinson said they would bring the lease back next month.

18-D-016 Motion to Approve New Lease Proposal

Ms. Pack made a motion for approval of the new lease/rules proposal and Mr. Elam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Dickinson thanked everyone for their hard work on Silent Sunday. It was very different this year but had a lot of spirit. She said Stacey was a great leader and they always look to her to know what to do. She said she really appreciated Stacey's leadership again this year. Next year will be the 30th Silent Sunday.

She said the Hands and Voices organization had their fall fundraiser, A Taste at Twilight. Several ASD employees attended. They recognized Karen Lange, one of ASD's staff.


Dr. Dickinson said last week Ray and KaAnn did a great job hosting the American Sign Language Roundtable Conference at ASD. She said they had top notch presenters from Gallaudet and other states. She said they had over 100 attend the 3-day conference. ASD's Double Pride Café catered the event.

Dr. Dickinson said the Christmas program will be December 20th and they will also have a Holiday Open House for the museum. She said everyone was welcome to attend.

She invited everyone to her Open House after the meeting for warm soup and cookies.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.


Faith McLaughlin, Chair


Everett Elam, Secretary

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Present: Faith McLaughlin, Chairperson; Susan Pack, Vice Chairperson; Everett Elam, Secretary; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Board Member; , ASBVI Parent Representative; Harry Pompeo, ASD Parent Representative; James Caton, ASBVI Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; Will Gorum and Eddie Schmeckenbecher, Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community; Hillcrest Residents

18-B-015 Motion to Approve Consent Items

Ms. McLaughlin asked for a motion to approve the consent items to include the minutes, financial statement and personnel items. Mr. Elam made a motion to approve the consent items and Dr. Atcherson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

None

Discussion Items

None

Superintendent Report

Mr. Caton said this had been a busy month with budget hearings happening this week. He said they were at the Capitol at 7:30 this morning for special language approval and it went well. They have to go back tomorrow for personnel items to be approved and then again at 1:30 for the actual budget hearing. Included are the following projects: security upgrades, gym renovation, building waterproofed, plumbing and sewer lines repaired and upgrades, electrical upgrades, ADA compliance (elevators) and sidewalks/covered sidewalks. He said an electronic door entry and video system will be installed on the front door soon as well as two other doors in the main building. The overall plan is to lock all doors on campus to control entry into the buildings.

Mr. Caton said administration is considering moving to a block schedule for academic classes. With the model used now there is not enough time in a 45-50 minute class to cover what needs to be covered. This would allow extended time that the students need to master content and other skills. They have also discussed year round school.

ASB's annual Thanksgiving lunch will be Thursday, November 15th from 11:30 – 1:00 and hope you are able to come by. The Turkey Walk will be after lunch at 2:00 pm. Thanksgiving break will be November 19-23 with classes resuming on the 26th.

The Arkansas School Board Association Conference is December 5-7. This will be one of the last opportunities to get the required training hours before the end of the year.

Mr. Elam asked about the Close-Up trip. Mr. Caton said they are still working on it and will hopefully have a group to send. Mr. Caton asked Dr. Dickerson if ASD attends and she said they used to but now they go to Washington with the Deaf organization and meet with legislators. Mr. Elam said he learned so much by attending Close-Up when he was at ASB.

There being no further business for the Arkansas School for the Blind, the meeting moved to the Arkansas School for the Deaf agenda.


Faith McLaughlin, Chair


Everett Elam, Secretary