

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

The Board of Trustees for the Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired met for their monthly meeting on September 18, 2018.

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

18-B-013 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. Ms. Pack made a motion to approve the consent items and Dr. Atcherson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items
Approval of the ACSIP Assurances
Approval of the Minority

The above action items were approved for both schools in the ASD agenda. (See below)

Dr. Dickinson said they have actions items to be approved and said ASB had the same items to be approved. Mr. Caton said the ACSIP Assurances are federal assurances for districts that receive all different forms of federal money. The schools have to check off on each one even though they do not receive most of them. The Minority Teacher and Administrator Recruitment Plan is a yearly plan that has to be presented to and approved by the board. Ms. McLaughlin said that the board needs to approval for each of them. She asked for approval of the ACSIP Assurances for both ASD and ASB. The board approved the ACSIP Assurances unanimously (5-0). Ms. McLaughlin asked for approval of the Minority Teacher and Administrator Recruitment Plan for ASD and ASB. The board approved the plan unanimously (5-0).

Discussion Items
Report to the Public

Mr. Caton said he is going to give the actual report to the public October 12th at 9:00 am in Woolly Auditorium. The members were given a copy of the Report to the Public.

Mr. Caton said a history of the school was included this year at the front of the report. He thanked Beverly for her help in getting the report ready. He said under the Infirmary section, the School Nurse Survey could be found.

Mr. Caton said ASB was going to get to continue the STYLE program that was started this past year with WSB and Dr. Ford. The program takes the older students and gives them work opportunities, vocational training and some college prep. He said he just learned they received funding for the program for this school year. He is very excited about it and looking forward to continuing the program.

Cane Quest is October 11th. Mr. Elam asked if Whitney Musick was coordinating it and Mr. Caton answered yes. It is for 3rd – 6th grades.

Ms. Pack asked if he would tell the again about the pens and the cost. Mr. Caton said a price had not been set as yet. He said the students are doing very well with it, even the ones with very low vision. Once they get the pattern down and the feel of pushing the pen against the rollers they get it down to a science. He said they have added a laser engraving machine. The pen project is going to be a student led marketing plan where they learn how to market the product and have a small business. He thinks that is what the focus is moving to at the school – student led learning and student focused learning. He said there is a lot to be learned about it and changes that have to be made about how one thinks about education. He said that was the direction the school was moving in and he thinks it is very worthwhile.

Mr. Caton said the kids were doing better with the ACT Aspire and would be sharing the data with them as it is compiled.

Superintendent Report

Ms. McLaughlin asked what was happening with the second bus. Mr. Caton said it was held up at the factory when it was going through inspection. They are looking into why it didn't pass inspection and making sure it is all okay before they send it out to the school. He said the school did get the first one and made its maiden voyage to Nashville this past weekend. The kids enjoyed riding in it and said it was very comfortable.

Mr. Caton said this was a very sad day for ASB with the passing of Ms. White, Residential Services Manager. He said even though she had been out on leave for a while, he was hoping that she would be able to return. The kids loved her dearly. It is going to take some getting used to. Her family expressed their appreciation for all the school has done for Ms. White over the years. He said the kids are doing pretty well. The school had off-campus counselors come in to talk with the students.

Mr. Caton said times like that shows how much of a family you are as a school, everyone pulls together and supports each other.

Mr. Caton said the school has been having some trouble with the main building chiller and hopefully by tomorrow it will be repaired and there will be air again. The other building repairs are all finishing up. They came today to start putting the downspouts back on the building which is part of the roofing project.

He said there was going to be a Catapult Health Clinic onsite this Friday so employees would be able to get the discount on their insurance premium. This is the first year for the onsite physical screening. They are having these clinics all over the state at different locations. The state requires an annual wellness check to get the discount and this year they are sending these clinics to different agencies to help employees get the check-up they need.


Mr. Caton said he had visited with a representative from the Parks and Tourism Department. They are interested in doing a trail in the back woods. He is not sure how he feels about it now but on the 24th at 5:00 pm he is going to walk with them and see what they are planning. He said it looks like they want to follow the edge of the woods between the ASB and ASD. He said if the schools were not open to having a public trail they would look into doing one for the students. They use volunteer labor to build the trail. It would be a natural scenic trail. Ms. Pack asked if it would go down to Cantrell. Mr. Caton said it was closer to Coolwood. Dr. Dickinson said the way it was explained to her was it would be on the lower part of the drop off so it would be very difficult for anyone to get up that drop off. She said she heard there were a lot of homeless people and may not be the best place to put a trail. Their response was that with increased foot traffic the homeless probably would relocate because they don't like a lot of traffic. He said they are going to start at Easter Seals. Ms. Coleman said that is where the trail used to be and they built the building on top of it. Ms. McLaughlin asked if it would be coming over toward the Deaf School. Mr. Caton said the way he understands it yes. Ms. Coleman said it goes down by the ravine. She said Doug Watson and Joe Register both talk about using the trail when they were in school here. Ms. Pack asked if they said why they want to do this now. Mr. Caton said he thought they are looking for a way for people to walk instead of going down Markham. Ms. Coleman said they are talking about putting a park close to the railroad tracks that would have an amphitheater and other things. Ms. Pack asked if this was the State Parks and Tourism. Mr. Caton said Parks and Tourism and he said they use volunteer labor. Mr. Krenn said they live in the area and said they were pretty much neighbors. He said they would love to have a trail starting behind Dr. Dickinson's residence going down. Mr. Krenn said they are coming Monday at 5:00. Ms. McLaughlin said she would like to see it. She asked who was in charge or contact person and Mr. Caton said Mike Sprague.

Ms. McLaughlin said in a way it is really exciting to think about having something nature wise for the kids, but certainly something they would want to see. She said this would be an interesting discussion. She said maybe Mr. Sprague could come to the October meeting and discuss the vision/idea for the trail. Mr. Caton said he would ask if he would be available to talk to the board at the next meeting. Dr. Atcherson said he would like to see it himself and Ms. McLaughlin said she would too. Dr. Dickinson said she thought anyone that wanted to go would be welcome. Mr. Caton said they were going to meet at Easter Seals and wear your boots.

Mr. Caton said by the next time the board meets he will have attended the Superintendent Conference in Heber Springs and also go to the American Printing House for the Blind for their annual conference.

Ms. McLaughlin said if there was no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.


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 September 18, 2018.

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

18-D-013 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. Ms. Pack made a motion to approve the consent items and Dr. McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Pack asked if all classes were now covered with the hiring of new personnel. Dr. Dickinson answered yes all teachers positions have been filled.

Action Items

Approval of the ACSIP Assurances

Approval of the Minority Teacher and Administrator Recruitment Plan

Dr. Dickinson said they have action items to be approved and said ASB had the same items to be approved. Mr. Caton said the ACSIP Assurances are federal assurances for districts that receive all different forms of federal money. The schools have to check off on each one even though they do not receive most of them. The Minority Teacher and Administrator Recruitment Plan is a yearly plan that has to be presented to and approved by the board. Ms. McLaughlin said that the board needs to approval for each of them. She asked for approval of the ACSIP Assurances for both ASD and ASB. The board approved the ACSIP Assurances unanimously (5-0). Ms. McLaughlin asked for approval of the Minority Teacher and Administrator Recruitment Plan for ASD and ASB. The board approved the plan unanimously (5-0).

Discussion Items

Report to the Public

Dr. Dickinson said she gave the Report to the Public Saturday between games at Homecoming. She went over the report for the board and gave each member a copy.

Dr. Dickinson shared that ASD received awards for growth, not only locally but statewide as well. She said they received four awards regarding state assessment. She said she thought it was the only time in her career when a deaf school received state assessment awards. She shared information about enrollment, currently it is 144 students.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Dickinson said that everything had revolved around Homecoming. ASD had a parade around the Capitol. It was a good week. She said the admin team especially the educational leadership team has a lot of focus on accreditation this year. The accreditation visit will be in February. There was a training last week from AdvancEd. She feels they are on top of what needs to be done.

She said she could not remember if they asked for the money for the bus at the last meeting. Ms. Pack said the board approved to buy a bus if they found one in the right range. Dr. Dickinson asked Steve to tell about the bus. Steve said he had been looking for a bus to replace the totaled bus. He found a 45' bus that met the needs of the school. It is a 2001 with 467,000 miles on it. The cost was \$57,771. The money came from an account that had been on the books a while. The bus was named Hazel after the estate the money came out of. He will bring Hazel to the next meeting for board to see. Ms. McLaughlin said she couldn't wait to ride in Hazel.

Dr. Dickinson said the October meeting would be at ASD and she wanted to invite the board members to annual autumn house.

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


Faith McLaughlin, Chair


Everett Elam, Secretary

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 September 18, 2018.

Present: Faith McLaughlin, Chairperson; Susan Pack, Vice-Chairperson; Everett Elam, Secretary; Dr. John McAllister, Board Member; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Board Member; James Caton, ASBVI Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; , ASB Parent Representative; Harry Pompeo, ASD Parent Representative; Beth Smith and Will Gorum, 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 is scheduled for October 16, 2018 at ASD.

18-J-012 Motion to Approve Minutes

Ms. McLaughlin asked for a motion to approve the minutes from September board meeting. Mr. Elam made a motion to approve the September minutes and Dr. McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items
None

Discussion Items

Ms. McLaughlin asked Mr. Caton about the ASB parent representative. Mr. Caton said he really thought it would be after the election.

ASD Parent Representative – Harry Pompeo

ASD had a VIP Parent meeting September 6th and had some new parents join and parents join via ZOOM. There was very good discussions and look forward to future meetings.

Mr. Pompeo said Jay Paul Gold, friend and co-worker, passed away on the 25th. Mr. Gold made a huge impact on the students. ASD had a memorial service to celebrate his life. The Oklahoma School for the Deaf joined us also. After the memorial service, there was good fellowship with Oklahoma School for the Deaf. On Wednesday evening after the volleyball game there was cake and ice cream.

On Friday ASD had a homecoming parade. There were several participants in convertibles, trucks pulling trailers, police cars/motorcycles and ASD coaches riding Segways. Saturday was ASD's homecoming. The homecoming queen was Tanya Florian.

ASB Parent Representative – Vacant

First graders finished reading the book Ribbit by Rodrigo Folgueria, a book on friendship. With the help of the media specialist, they are writing a cereal box book report, they use the cereal box as a template. Friday afternoons first through third grade join as a group to participate in a science story and activity. Each story is accompanied by experiments that provide hands-on activities for the children. The secondary English teacher has started a new program with the students – each month she is placing a “I Have Read/I am Reading/I Will Read” sheet on her door where students and staff can fill in what they are reading. She follows up with a mini book talk on what she is currently reading. The Pen Project is going great. There is a display of pens for everyone to see what the students are producing.

The Wellness Committee met for the first time this year. The committee is looking at planning some healthy events this year. Some students have already signed up for the Little Rockers Kids Marathon. The students (1st – 5th grades) have an opportunity to complete 25.2 miles by running, jogging or walking over a period of time, then on the day of the marathon run the last mile of the actual course and cross the official finish line.

The track team had its first meet in Tennessee this past weekend. It was an invitational so team results were not sent out but coach added up points and said if points would have been awarded, ASB would have won.


Home Life had a welcome back to school dance. Everyone had a great time. They also had a big screen movie night featuring “Wonder” while enjoying cookies and popcorn.

ASB is looking forward to working closer with the Alumni Association this year. The alumni have expressed a desire to be more involved with the students. This past month they provided pizza for dinner one night.

Next month the students/staff will be attending the State Fair on A Day of Caring. ASB will also participate in White Cane Safety Day at World Services for the Blind. ASB will be hosting the annual Cane Quest on campus. Ms. McLaughlin asked what Cane Quest is. Mr. Caton said it is sort of like the Braille Challenge. It comes under the umbrella of the National Braille Association. The students learn more about using the cane and mobility. We started last year with 1st – 6th graders.

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


Faith McLaughlin, Chair


Everett Elam, Secretary