

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 June 16, 2020.

**Present:** Roy DePriest, Chairperson; Dr. John McAllister, Vice-Chairperson; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Secretary (Absent); Faith McLaughlin, Board Member (Absent); Susan Pack, Board Member; James Caton, ASBVI Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; Dr. Priya Gupta, ASB Parent Representative; Holley Mott, ASD Parent Representative; Beth Smith and Will Gorum, Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community, Hillcrest Residents

Mr. DePriest called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm. The next meeting was scheduled for July 21, 2020 at Arkansas School for the Blind.

**20-J-011 Motion to Approve Minutes**

Mr. DePriest asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting. Mrs. Pack made a motion to approve the May Joint minutes and Dr. McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action Items**

**None**

**Discussion Items**

**Superintendents' Update on Shared Services**

Mr. DePriest said he had not looked over the preliminary proposal yet. He asked if it was something they wanted to cover. Mr. Caton said they could talk about it and give the board an introduction to the proposal. He said the board could then study the proposal in depth and give the superintendents feedback.

Mr. Caton said he and Janet looked at the proposal from a couple of approaches from the standpoint of making changes to actual departments and making structural changes with supervision, etc. The second approach was to lean toward smaller steps that could be taken to implement some type of shared services model between the two schools. The departments the superintendents were asked to look at for shared services already have established experienced supervisors. They felt that would cause a lot of unnecessary disruption to suddenly start making changes when they could see no particular benefit, efficiency or additional resources that would come from it for the schools.

Mr. Caton said they could begin to make simple changes and take smaller steps to get people working together again building a relationship between the two schools and still realize some efficiencies and additional resources that the schools could share with each other. The areas they looked at that was the approach they ended up with in the preliminary proposal being open to further exploring any of the areas as the board wants moving forward. The one area they felt would lend itself to some type of structural change would be the Business Office and HR mainly because of ASD has not been able to replace their positions. ASB currently has a full Business and HR team and could merge it into one shared service model similar to what it was years ago. He said the other areas with the exception of Transportation as it is already shared between the two schools. There has always been a liaison on the ASB side to work with ASD to coordinate chaperones for the chartered buses. They didn't see a whole lot that they could merge in addition to Transportation, Business and HR. He said they can look at sharing the fleets of the two schools and possibly sharing some staff. Mr. DePriest said when you say fleet you mean vehicles for transportation needs. Mr. Caton said separate from Transportation. He said ASD had always spearheaded transportation between the two schools. When the two schools stopped sharing services and positions were moved around, ASB did have a Transportation person for 3 or 4 years. That person resigned and the position has not been filled. He said they looked at different ways they could possibly begin to share resources between the two schools. He said if later they had attrition and some of the department heads leave then it gives them a further opportunity to look at making some structural changes in those cases. He said he personally didn't want to make changes for the sake of making changes unless it is going to lead to a benefit for both schools. He said he thinks there are ways they can do that on a smaller scale. He said they know there is an expectation at the Department of Education. They hope ADE will take a look at the preliminary proposal and see the direction they are trying to go in implementing things gradually instead of causing disruption from the beginning that is very unnecessary. He said they could go into more detail if the board wanted. He said he would invite the board to review the preliminary proposal and give them their feedback. Dr. Dickinson said they spent many hours in discussion. She said they started the process with a list from brainstorming of departments that could potentially use shared services model. They worked through many issues regarding the transition model. At the last meeting she thought it was felt after they started talking to people they realized it was not a popular decision to move forward with this kind of model. She said she understands and respects the amount and how hard change is. She said because ASD has no HR or Business manager, she has daily conversations with ADE. She said in her conversations with ADE she realizes how strongly they feel about moving forward with the shared services model. She supports this proposal, the concept, the steps they are taking but she wants to make sure they are meeting the needs of ADE as well. She said if they don't ADE will do it for them. She said that is her concern but at the same time she understands where James is coming.

Mrs. Pack said she had no doubt that ADE will do it if we don't. She said she understands how people feel about their jobs but she does not think it has anything to do with taking jobs away. Mrs. Pack said she thought Business and HR was a good start but she does not think that will satisfy ADE. She thinks they do need to look at it. Mr. DePriest asked this is going to address and fix the HR and Business efficiencies. Dr. Dickinson said she was not 100% sure. She and James talked broadly about the concept of starting to take these steps. What this would look like for HR and Business she doesn't exactly know. Mr. DePriest said he would agree there is no reason to make change for the sake of change. Cost savings need to be realized. Dr. Dickinson said maybe she and James need to have another meeting. She said what is important for her is to feel like she has a business person and an HR person and not to have to ask if she can use James's people. She said her only concern was that there will be people who are fully shared equally. Mr. DePriest said if they look at that part for now and that group was 100% shared, she shouldn't feel like she is borrowing or imposing. He asked if that was correct. Dr. Dickinson said that is correct. Mr. Caton said that was the one area we did look at and it would be going back to what we used to know when they were shared between the two schools. He said that is taking the current people and becoming one department to serve both schools. He said they looked at logistics such as a more central location for HR so that people wouldn't have to go to the far end of one campus for their needs. He said they looked at a central location on the ASD side that could possibly work. Dr. Dickinson said Rasnick would not work now because the original plan was to merge Health Services and in that case ASD's nurses would move to the ASB Infirmary which would leave a vacancy in Rasnick so that would become HR. If only business and HR are going to be shared then there would not be a vacancy in Rasnick. Mr. DePriest asked about Health Services – is that an area that needs to be delayed. Mr. Caton said he would not say it was so much pushback on that but that both schools already have two people in place as supervisors for that area. He said the Infirmary is currently undergoing renovations and he hope it will be finished by the first semester of the coming school year so it can be utilized. In that case then that space could be shared. He said they were open to sharing that with each other. He said it would be a benefit to ASB because there is only one nurse on the day shift and they could really use more coverage during the day. He said they saw real benefits. He said where he did not want to go was changing the actual structure of the current supervision (one supervisor put under the other supervisor). He thinks sharing ASB's facility and staff would be a benefit. Mrs. Pack said she thought it was the perfect time to ask about a consulting firm coming in if ADE would pay for it. Mr. DePriest said when this came up last month and we discussed as an option when Ms. Windle was here she did infer they would pay for it. Mrs. Pack said that is what she thought she heard. She said they talked about having someone come in to talk about others ways services could be combined. Mrs. Pack said one thing Ms. Windle assured her of is that no one would be losing their job. Who will supervise who is a hard situation but it would be better if we come to an agreement rather someone else doing it.

Ms. Mott said for clarification this all comes down to budgeting. It is not just about sharing services but because we are trying to cut money. Mrs. Pack said that is correct and there are some things that will cut money like purchasing, supplies, household items, etc. Things like that can be done and would save. She said if help is needed and they offer, then it is something to look into. Mr. DePriest said he agreed they need to take advantage of an independent third party that would be unbiased and have no knowledge of either school. Mr. Caton said overall that is the point of the approach they took. He said someone would need to show him where moving people around is going to do anything in terms of savings for the budget. Mr. DePriest said salaries don't change. Mrs. Pack said it wouldn't the first year. Mr. Caton said it wouldn't for several years unless someone left a position. He said that was one thing they pointed out in the plan that they would look at attrition as an opportunity to make those further structural changes where people are concerned. He said the people part of it is his biggest concern. He said they can share services and resources all day long. He said there are a lot of things they could do and hopefully they made that clear in what they have asked the board to consider in the proposal. He said he was open to a third party input to give further insight into it. He said he respected what Susan was saying because she is right. Who knows how much time we actually have and what will be decided for us. He said he wanted to have the opportunity, along with Janet, to present some type of preliminary approach that they could begin now. Mr. DePriest said it sounds like everyone is okay with Business and HR as the first step toward taking immediate action. Mrs. Pack said she thinks start there but she thinks they need to look at it more and come up with some thoughts to take to ADE and ask about the possibility of getting the consultant firm. Mr. DePriest asked her if she would do that as our liaison. Dr. Dickinson said she had a long talk with Gina today which really hit her hard. First, the good news was that the SCPI is approved by ADE so we can move forward. During their conversation she asked about the discussions at the board meeting. Dr. Dickinson said she told her they were going to be discussing shared services and her comment was "it's not an option it is a directive from Secretary Key". Dr. Dickinson said she feels like they will closely at tonight's results. One thing Gina did say was she has a friend from Mississippi who is involved with the Mississippi School for the Deaf and the School for the Blind. She feels that would be the perfect person to come work with us as part of shared services to help figure out how to move forward. It is someone from the Department of Education in Mississippi. Mrs. Pack said that was not what they indicated to her. She said she would like to talk to Gina about that. Dr. Dickinson said she thinks they can be successful with whatever needs to be done. She said the plan can be made successful and can be worked through. She said her team is very excited about the idea of shared services, maybe not every individual person but in general they were positive about the idea. She said it was important for the board to decide how they want to go with this. Mrs. Pack said there were more things other than the ones that have been looked at such as counseling services, OT and PT. The students need those services badly.

Ms. Mott said before we start doing any movement is why I ask if this was a budget issue or not. She said she did read through the plan and it looks like they put a lot of work into it and it made sense to her. She said she agrees with having a consultant because she knows of something called Six Sigma Black Belt training. These people go into a company, analyze everything, and cut 20% out without causing hardly any chaos and people don't lose their jobs. Before moving people, unless she is missing something, shouldn't we find the places it doesn't hurt or as little pain as possible to the actual schools and function. Mr. DePriest said that is where a third part consultant would help. Mr. DePriest said he thought it was a vital option. Mrs. Pack said she would talk to them about that. She said she would tell them the schools would rather go with a zero biased consulting team. Mr. DePriest said to assess where we are, Mrs. Pack is going to pursue this with ADE. He said he didn't think the board should vote since Dr. Atcherson and Ms. McLaughlin are not present except for the superintendents to take a serious look at making Business and HR shared. Dr. Dickinson said her understanding was that they were to develop a plan and bring it back to the board and the board would meet in Executive Session to determine the leadership for each department. If it breaks down to HR/Business, then the board still has to make some decisions regarding that department. She said she was assuming it would still be under James, so would her staff transfer and be supervised by James. She said she thought it was something they needed to talk about in Executive Session. Mrs. Pack said she didn't know that needed to be done tonight. She thinks she needs to talk to Gina first. Dr. Dickinson said so we are not moving on this until July. Mrs. Pack said she wanted to ask Gina about HR/Business. Mr. DePriest said about moving forward and Mrs. Pack said yes. She wants to get some feedback from Gina. Dr. Dickinson said she thinks the farther they go through the summer the harder it will be to make changes. The reason is that when kids come back there will be a lot of things to consider and figure about because of COVID. It is hard to move a department in the middle of the school year. Mr. DePriest said Gina wants to see the board pursuing something, is that right. Dr. Dickinson said she feels very strongly that they want us to move forward in a variety of ways regarding shared services. She said she thought it was important that the board speak directly to ADE based on her conversation with Gina today. She said it changed her feeling about the whole situation. Mr. DePriest asked Mrs. Pack if that was the conversation she was going to have with Gina. Mrs. Pack said yes if everyone is in agreement she plans to tell Gina this is what was presented, this is what was talked about and we are ready to move forward starting here. Mr. DePriest said there was only one more meeting before school starts. He said they will have a special meeting for shared services so Sam and Faith will be able to attend. Mr. DePriest said the special meeting will be June 23<sup>rd</sup> for the express purpose of hammering down more specifics on shared services.

Mrs. Pack asked what Gina had to say about the SCPI. Dr. Dickinson said she could share that their initial concern was to make sure the policy had been reviewed thoroughly. As mentioned, it had been reviewed by the Attorney General's Office and DFA's Internal Auditors. They were able to read the responses from both of those entities. When DFA previously audited, they wanted some additional information in the handbook regarding the SCPI and that had been done and submitted for approval. It was approved. ADE realized we had been through the process and felt confident it would be fine. Dr. Dickinson said they had one question about who was assessing the SCPI's. That was the one piece of feedback and comment received. She said at one point they had allowed staff to decide if they wanted someone on campus to evaluate their test because it was faster to get results. She said she thought it was 2 years ago they changed to only using off-campus evaluators. She said she appreciated them going through the policy to make sure it was right. They got a lot of calls from a variety of people and written correspondence so they know it is an important policy for the deaf community. She asked Mrs. Pack to ask Gina about the SCPI policy as it would be nice to have ADE and direct communication from the board confirming their support for the SCPI policy.

### **Meeting with Gina Windle**

Mr. DePriest said he appreciated her audience as she did not have to do this for the board. Mrs. Pack said she thought ADE was making progress. Dr. Dickinson said in her personal opinion she thinks they have made huge progress and they are invested in the schools. They want the best for the schools. She said that meant a lot to her. She said they are trying to figure out how to help and their concern about the SCPI was to make sure we were protected. Mr. Caton said he absolutely agreed with Dr. Dickinson. He believes they are very invested in both schools and want to them be successful and want to see how they can carry out their mission and vision. He said that was the intent of the transformation to begin with for state agencies. He said at the same time they have the pressures of the requirements that are required of them from the top on down. He thinks they are very sincere. Mrs. Pack said she didn't think they had any idea about the difficulty of either school being a state agency. They have never had to stop and think about it. She thinks they are finally seeing the problems that arise because of that. Dr. McAllister said he thought the shared model they are doing is a business model and has nothing to do with the children/schools. There is still going to be children on campus that have special needs at both schools. He said HR and Business could easily be shared because that is business. When you talk about specific needs of children with disabilities and there are two different sets of disabilities – to him it is important. Mr. DePriest said they are going to look at the numbers. Dr. Dickinson said she didn't think ever in her conversations with them that they recommend that the programs of the schools be combined. They understand that deaf kids are very different from blind kids. She said outside of educational programming, they are considering the business areas are places that can be shared. Mr. DePriest said to thank her for coming.

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



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Roy DePriest, Chair



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Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Secretary

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 June 16, 2020.

**Present:** Roy DePriest, Chairperson; Dr. John McAllister, Vice-Chairperson; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Secretary (Absent); Faith McLaughlin, Board Member (Absent); Susan Pack, Board Member; Dr. Priya Gupta, ASB Parent Representative; Holley Mott, ASD Parent Representative; James Caton, ASB Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; Beth Smith and Will Gorum, Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community; Hillcrest Residents

**20-B-007 Motion to Approve Consent Items**

Mr. DePriest said under Personnel Items there is one new hire, Christine Stracener. He asked is she filled one of the two positions ASB or was she hired before. Mr. Caton said it was one that they were able to fill after the hiring freeze, but have not filled any of the others. Mr. DePriest asked what that left now for ASB. Mr. Caton said they still had 3 more teacher positions. He said that did not count the Home Life Supervisor due to Mr. Nixon's passing away. He said he submitted the Vacancy Request in hopes that he will get to hire someone. It is a big concern of his especially with the teachers. Mr. Caton said they have lost two good candidates because they could not offer them a position. He said you have to start replacing teachers early on because teachers have to sign contracts with districts by a certain date. He said in the end it will hurt the kids.

Mr. DePriest asked for a motion to approve the consent items to include the minutes, financial statement and personnel items. Dr. McAllister made a motion to approve the consent items and Mrs. Pack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action Items**  
**None**

**Discussion Items**  
**Nurse Survey**

Mr. Caton said this is a survey that is done each year in the Health Services to survey the different needs of the kids and different medical conditions that are being addressed, as well different treatments that relate to the medical needs of the kids. Mr. Caton said he would summarize the survey for the board.



Mr. Caton said the number of students on campus that received scheduled medications daily at the school on a long-term basis (greater than 3 weeks) was 28. The number of students on campus that received medications on a short-term basis (less than 3 weeks) was 12. The number of students on campus that had a health care provider order for over-the-counter type of medication was 102. Students receiving professional mental health services on campus were 15. There were 2 known students getting services off campus. ASB has a licensed certified social worker, Meg Berry. The school counselor along with the social worker provided a team approach to assist 4 students with a mental health need. ASB does not have a school-based health center, but do have a licensed infirmary. In terms of treatments students that were sent throughout the year for medical attention were 1,181. Out of that number, 1,121 were sent back to class after receiving attention. 52 students were sent home. 13 students were sent to the ER. ASB does consult their community health nurse specialist for support, education, training and resources throughout the year. ASB assists in Stop the Bleed training for staff and staff in emergency situations. He said one new question on the survey this year was related to COVID-19 and wanted the school to share any opportunities or activities provided. ASB provided educational tools with teachers to share with the families, shared Arkansas Food Bank resources, plus the school's donated food pantry to meet food needs of the families, providing PPE for staff, sharing COVID info to administration and assisted in planning new protocols and procedures related to the pandemic as well as implement screening of campus employees. The survey always asks for suggestions to help support the needs of the students especially the ones with chronic health needs. The response was to hire an LPN for the day shift. He said that is where he thinks the shared serviced would be a benefit as ASB only has one person on the day shift. He said being a licensed infirmary the school has to have a nurse on each shifts (3). He said it generally works out well for the 4-12 and 12-8 but the day shift sees the largest number of kids coming to the infirmary. He said he could provide the board with a copy if they wanted one.

### **Superintendent Report**

Mr. Caton said the employees working remotely are in the process of transitioning back to the campus for on-site work. The regular year round staff is 29 but from time to time a few educational staff will be brought in to help plan for the school year. He said 80 additional hours of work has been approved for the 10-month that are short on their comp time due to the extended closure. Some will end up being short but this gives them some additional hours to cover their time.

A distribution of PPE equipment from ADE is expected this week. He understands this will be a monthly order for staff. He said when he and Janet meet with Gina on Thursday they will discuss the PPE order for back to school which will be significantly larger.

Mr. Caton said that most of the work this month and next month will be focusing on planning for re-entry back to school if school does start in August. He said they are also planning to have policies and procedures in place for ensuring the safety of staff and students and responding to any COVID-19 issues that arise. He said “Our Ready for Learning Task Force” is planning for the new school year. He said ADE is pushing for schools to begin developing blended learning models and models that will lend itself to students being able to learn regardless of the setting (on/off campus). They are working on that plan along with the things learned from AMI during the closure but that has to be taken a step further because now it will not be minimal learning like it was under AMI (keep the kids involved in learning). Learning has to continue now rather remotely or onsite. The students will be taught standards and all the requirements that normally would be in place for the school day. It is a different approach and they want to make the transition as smooth as possible when it is necessary to move from onsite learning to remote learning. One thing they felt they could do is move toward a one-to-one model in terms of devices for the students. One of the challenges now is being able to obtain Chromebooks as they are in high demand nationwide. An order is placed but not expecting the order until September. He said there is also going to be some waivers that will allow some flexibility. He is looking into opting into those along with other school districts. Mr. DePriest asked what the waivers were for. Mr. Caton said it would be for how the typical school day would be structured in terms of hours, etc. He said he would get the list to them if they choose to opt in. He said it would give them flexibility for remote learning. Dr. Dickinson said a lot of the waivers are directly related to online instruction – time for each class, recess and those kinds of things can be waived when doing online learning, similar to the 1240 waiver. Mr. Caton said if they choose to opt in they have to give certain assurances as a school district that a quality curriculum would be provided.

Mr. Caton said Jennifer Linder, school counselor, was selected to be part of a state mental health training program and she will be able to train others in that program for mental health resources as well as bringing the benefit of the program to ASB.

The ADE Annual Summit has been going on this week virtually. Several staff members have taken advantage of the learning opportunities and professional development that are offered through the Summit.

Campus projects are very exciting. ANCRC funded the remaining phase of the Infirmary project and the first phase of the Cottage project. This will allow the Infirmary to be completed and begin renovations to Hill Cottage that houses our Birth-To-Three Outreach Program and Parent Resource Center. Funding received was \$137,900 for the Infirmary and \$580,000 for Hill Cottage. Mr. DePriest asked if Building Authority puts the RNP together. Mr. Caton said they work through them to coordinate the bidding process.

Mr. Caton said partial renovation to the gymnasium would begin soon. The bidding process for that was done through DBA and the Office of Procurement.

Lightning struck one of the oak trees on the front lawn and it did not survive. The tree will be removed later this summer. He said there is concern for the largest and oldest Magnolia tree on campus. He said the tree is suffering and they have a tree expert looking at it. He said there are pictures of this tree in the archives when it was first planted many decades ago. He said he hoped to be able to preserve the tree.

Mr. Caton said that was all he had unless there were questions.

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



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Roy DePriest, Chair



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Dr. Samuel Atcherson, 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 June 16, 2020.

**Present:** Roy DePriest, Chairperson; Dr. John McAllister, Vice-Chair; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Secretary (Absent); Faith McLaughlin, Board Member(Absent); Susan Pack, Board Member; Dr. Priya Gupta, ASB Parent Representative; Holley Mott, 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

**20-D-006 Motion to Approve Consent Items**

Mr. DePriest asked for a motion to approve the consent items to include the minutes, financial statement and personnel items. Mrs. Pack made a motion to approve the consent items and Dr. McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action Items**

**None**

**Discussion Items**

**Nurse Survey**

Dr. Dickinson asked Vicki to share the survey. Vicki said the survey is mandated by law and they have to complete it. She said their numbers are lower this year due to the shortened school year than they typically are. One think about the survey is the information compiled from it is the Arkansas Department of Education is able to apply for grants. She said the information is really good and the state does use it.

Vicki said she put her student acuity on the top so you wold have some idea of the kind of kids they had to take care of this year and some of them were very time consuming. She said they have many kids with multiple disabilities. She went over the numbers in the survey. She said they did not have as many kids on medicine this year and it was a big change for them. They had a good year overall. She said they also handle a lot of staff. She said their opportunities provided to the school during COVID-19 were similar to ASB. She said when they had their parent pickup date the nurses were there to answer questions from parents. She said she has taken a lot of phone calls during this time. She said she with Ernie and his team have been getting the proper signage up around campus.

Mrs. Pack said one of the last meetings she went to two of the big topics were the E-cigarettes and medical marijuana. Vicki said they cannot do because it is not under their licensure. She said she is not aware they have had a problem with vaping. Ray said they saw it on campus in the fall but the problem was solved. Vicki said they can be very creative. She said one of the vaping devices looks like a sharpie. Dr. Dickinson thanked Vicki for her report.

### **Superintendent Report**

Dr. Dickinson said good things are happening. She said they were successful in receiving the ANCRC Phase 4 grant for Parnell Hall. She said they have six phases and they are currently in phase 4. Phase 4 includes \$480,000. She said they would be renovating the gym and Parnell Hall. She said they are adding new restrooms between the auditorium and the gym. The next phase hopefully next year, they will be renovating the locker rooms and the concession area. She said they need one more elevator inside the gym. She said she toured Parnell Hall today with Ray. Everything upstairs is being repainted, getting new carpet and new Smartboards. Middle school will be moving back into that space. She said in August she would be inviting the board for a ribbon cutting for the auditorium and the elevator addition.

She said last week she went to the Red Apple Inn for the Arkansas River Coop board meeting and she was voted secretary for the board.

She said staff will be back to work on June 22. She said they received a zoom call Friday afternoon from ADE and the governor has decided it is time for state employees to come back to work. She said they had planned for a softer launch for coming back but they will be back on Monday.

She said they have been working on teams to get their Ready for Learning for the fall. They have a variety of teams for blended learning which means you could have some kids deciding to not come back on campus. They will stay at home and join classes on line. It could mean that there will students in the classroom at the same time. She said there have been deep discussions on ideas for the fall. Many people are concerned because we could have students from all over the state of Arkansas coming to the campus, staying for a week in the dorm then going back home. Where there are COVID-19 hotspots they could bring it back in and spread it potentially. Many schools are doing a variety of things. One thing they are considering is for the kids to come back on campus for 3 or 4 weeks including the weekends then go back home so there is not so much back and forth. Then from Thanksgiving till January they would only have online virtual learning. She said there are a lot of ideas being considered. She said she meets with Gina on Thursday on that particular topic.

She said first they thought the blind school and deaf school must have the same schedule. She said James has fewer students from all over the state, but more students local. She said they are working through that, but does not have an answer yet.

The ADE Summit is this week and many people have joined the Summit. Beth has been interpreting all day and still here interpreting. She said Eddie presented two workshops today – Signing in the Classroom. Tomorrow she, Ray, Beth, and Mary Martha will present a workshop – Signs of Success for deaf and hard of hearing kids. They will be showcasing Shannon Varner. Mrs. Pack asked how many have signed up for the workshops and KayAnn said more than 200 people for Eddie's. Dr. Dickinson said the last time she looked 175 had signed up for their workshop.

Dr. Dickinson said monthly you can see stories about statewide services and the Director, Karen Lang, will write stories about students and families. Karen is retiring and starting a Ph.D program in Fayetteville. She will be missed.

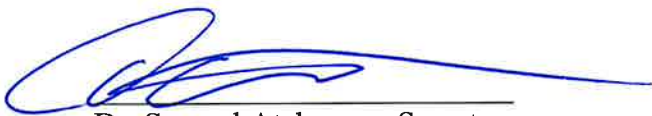
Vicki said on the governor's update today, he read a letter from a seven year old boy from Carlisle. Mrs. Pack said he wrote that he loved watching the show and he loved watching Mr. Eddie. Dr. Dickinson said that was all she had.

Mr. DePriest said they would meet again next. Mrs. Pack asked where were they meeting. Ernie said here would be best. Beth Ballard asked if it was a public open meeting. Mr. DePriest said it would be an open meeting but they may have to go into Executive Session. Dr. Dickinson said if you go into Executive Session people will have to go out to their cars and the gym has no air conditioning right now. James said they could have the meeting in the Multi-Purpose Room. Mr. DePriest said they will meet at ASB in the Multi-Purpose Room at 5:00.

There being no further business for the Arkansas School for the Deaf, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48.



Roy DePriest, Chair



Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Secretary