

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 a special meeting on June 23, 2020.

Present: Roy DePriest, Chairperson; Dr. John McAllister, Vice-Chairperson; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Secretary; Faith McLaughlin, Board Member; 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, Interpreter; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community, Hillcrest Residents

Mr. DePriest called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm. He said at their last meeting, they decided to hold this special meeting for the purpose of dealing directly with shared services.

Mr. DePriest asked Mrs. Pack if she had met with anyone. Mrs. Pack said she finally met with Gina today. Gina was involved all week in the Summit. She reported to Gina what was being done and wanted to know about the consultant. Gina did mention a woman who is now a consultant and does not work for the State of Mississippi or the Mississippi School for the Deaf or Blind. She was there when they consolidated. Mrs. Pack told her there was hesitation about that. She said she did not know about the blind community but the deaf community has talked about problems that the Mississippi school has had. Gina said the woman has not been there in several years. Mrs. Pack said she could tell they were leaning toward that. She told Gina they didn't accomplish much in the June 16th meeting and decided to hold a special meeting so all board members could be present. Mrs. Pack said if we don't do this they are going to do it for us meaning you/ADE. Gina said exactly we will and they don't know as much about it as you do and it would be a lot better for you all to do it. Mr. DePriest said he appreciated that. The reason they did postpone addressing this issue head on was because two members were out and wanted for everyone to be in attendance. Mr. DePriest said a large part of putting together shared services involves an organizational chart and discussion of key personnel to those positions it has to be done in Executive Session. He asked if there was a motion at this time.

20-J-012 Motion for Board to Go into Executive Session

Mrs. McLaughlin made a motion that the board go into Executive Session to deal with Shared Services issues. Dr. McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Pack asked if the superintendents needed to stay now or call them in later. Mr. DePriest said they would start with just the board and call the superintendents in later. Mrs. Pack said they had not settled the issue of parent reps as to whether they stay for Executive Sessions or not. She said she can remember in the past they did. Mr. DePriest said he thought they should be present to provide their input.

Executive Session – 5:15 – 7:29


Mr. DePriest said after much debate and discussion they agreed to accept the Shared Services Draft put together by Mr. Caton and Dr. Dickinson. He said he needs a motion to accept/approve of the plan.

20-J-013 Motion to Accept/Approve Shared Services Plan

Dr. McAllister made a motion to accept/approve the proposed Shared Services Plan A and Dr. Atcherson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. DePriest said the superintendents will now hammer out the particulars and pertinent details to get this off and running. He said they would assess where things are at the July meeting and continue to move forward.

Mr. DePriest adjourned the meeting at 7:35.



Roy DePriest, Chair



Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Secretary