

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 August 18, 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 and Will Gorum, Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community, Hillcrest Residents

Chair Roy DePriest called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2020 at Arkansas School for the Blind.

**Joint Agenda**

**20-J-015 Motion to Change Format of Minutes**

Ms. Pack stated she had gotten the format that the State Board of Education uses for their board meetings. It is not a complete transcript of what everyone says. It has a different format – topic and what that topic means. Ms. Pack moved, Ms. McLaughlin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**20-J-016 Motion to Approve July Minutes**

Ms. McLaughlin moved, Dr. McAllister seconded to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

**No Action Items**

**Discussion Items – Update on Shared Services**

Mr. Caton and Dr. Dickinson met with the department heads of the shared services. They think it has gotten off to a good start but a slow start. IT is sharing resources and the ground crew working on both campuses. Health Services has not started sharing services. There are still logistics to work through but both schools have been communicating with each other (Vicki & Mary). The contract for a cleaning service was discussed – waiting on ADE.

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

### **Arkansas School for the Blind Agenda**

#### **20-B-014 Motion to Approve Consent Items**

Dr. McAllister moved, seconded by Dr. Atcherson to approve consent items. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Minutes
2. Financial Statement
3. Personnel Items

#### **Action Items**

#### **20-B-015 Motion to Approve Ready to Learn Plan/Frequently Asked Questions**

Ms. Pack moved, Dr. McAllister seconded to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Caton explained the Ready to Learn Plan/Frequently Asked Questions. Plan includes safety guidelines, masks required and screening protocol. Included are frequently asked questions to help the parents.

#### **20-B-016 Motion to Approve District Support Plan**

Dr. McAllister moved, Mrs. McLaughlin seconded to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Caton explained the District Support Plan. New addition this year is support for Arkansas Ready for Learning (ASB opted in), implementing blended learning K-12, Renaissance Star 360 as the diagnostic assessment for K-8, Lincoln Learning, Google Classroom, and provide training for teachers.

#### **20-B-017 Motion to Approve Revised School Calendar**

Dr. McAllister moved, Mrs. McLaughlin seconded to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Starting/Ending dates for the school year

Mr. Caton stated that ASB decided to add days on to the end of the school year instead of using PD days. June 4<sup>th</sup> will be the last day for students and teacher's last day is June 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Discussion Items**

#### **Update on Spark Fund**

Mr. Caton stated this is combined for both schools and he included the progress report on this. Monthly payment for ASB looks to be approximately \$10,625. Mr. DePriest said normally Spark Fund is a subscription service over about a 15-year period or an indefinite period. He has learned that this is a year-long contract. Discussion followed (both schools).

#### **Annual Bullying Report**

Mr. Caton gave ASB's annual report on bullying.

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

### **Arkansas School for the Deaf Agenda**

#### **20-D-011 Motion to Approve Consent Items (as corrected)**

Ms. Pack moved, seconded by Dr. McAllister to approve consent items. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Minutes
2. Financial Statement
3. Personnel Items

### **Action Items**

#### **20-D-012 Motion to Approve Student and Employee Handbooks**

Ms. McLaughlin moved, Dr. Atcherson seconded to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

Employee handbook added pornography on school grounds/disciplinary actions to align with state policy. Page 26 talks about pornography, page 27 talks about child pornography. Student handbook has minor changes regarding disciplinary actions.

## **20-D-013 Motion to Approve ADE Statement of Assurances**

Ms. Pack moved, Dr. Atcherson seconded to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Discussion Items**

#### **District Support Plan**

KayAnn Varner summarized the plan. Added Ready to Learn Support, operational goals, teachers and staff need a lot of support this year. Need to work with ADE to make sure they are part of the new technology plan. ASD has made changes to their meal plans, facilities and transportation, enhanced cleaning, masks required, no visitors on campus unless necessary, limit use of facilities to others, lot of PD, Class Tag instead of Class Dojo, on-line self-reporting form for staff screening, and temperature checks for students before getting on bus. There is concern about emotional health of students and plan to address these emotional and social needs.

#### **Superintendent Report**

Dr. Dickinson reported ASD has 124 enrolled with potential for 8 more.  
ASD had drive through registration Thursday and Friday  
ASD held graduation for 2020 seniors  
Hired new Director of Curriculum  
ASD Organizational Chart

The board went into Executive Session from 7:00 – 7:30 pertaining to a personnel issue.  
No action taken.

#### **20-D-014 Motion to Adjourn**

Mr. DePriest moved, Dr. McAllister seconded. Motion passed unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned.

  
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Roy DePriest, Chair  
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Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Secretary