

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 15, 2017.

**Present:** Dr. Doug Watson, Chairperson; Susan Pack, Secretary; Everett Elam, Board Member; Dr. John McAllister, Board Member; James Caton, ASBVI Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; Jeanne Tribett, 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

Dr. Watson called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2017 at ASBVI.

**17-J-010 Motion to Approve Minutes**

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

**Action Items**

**None**

**Discussion Items**

**Update on Easter Seal Landscaping/Program Goals**

Mr. Caton said he learned that the grass is Rye grass and it is doing pretty good in the shaded areas. He said they also learned there is not a lot of soil left and basically dealing with crushed up rock. Dr. Watson said they thought dirt would have to be brought in. Mr. Caton said it would be really expensive. He said they have thought about trying Bermuda grass to see if it would take. Ms. Coleman said they would work together and her husband is a Master Gardner and wants to help the school. She said St. Augustine might work. She said maybe they could get a grant to help with the cost.

Mr. Caton said he would bring up Easter Seals again in his Superintendent report. He said there is a project that needed to be talked about in relation to the property.

## **Update on Riverfront Property**

Dr. Dickinson stated that the board approved ASD to investigate how much someone would pay for that property. She said her understanding is that no one is interested in buying the property. Mr. Krenn said as of now there were no takers. He said it is running in the paper on Sundays and there is a sign up so people can see that it is for sale. The end of this month is the close on it and will then find out if anyone is interested. Ms. Pack asked if that was the close for any state agency being interested or the close for anyone. Mr. Krenn said anyone. Ms. Pack asked if he had heard anything from the gentleman that came to speak to the board and he answered he had not heard from him. Dr. Watson said he was interested for the board to explore marketing the land with the idea of getting something back for the school/students. Ms. Pack asked if he meant the board trying to sell the land. Dr. Watson said yes. Ms. Pack said she did not think they could do that because it has to go through ABA. Mr. Krenn said all state property is required to go through ABA.

## **ASB Parent Representative – Jeanie Tribett**

Ms. Tribett stated the teachers reported back to school last week and participated in a variety of professional development.

ASB has successfully hired teachers in to the three positions that were open. There is still one position to be filled (Instrumental Music).

The EAST Lab is continuing to be set up. The final equipment is being delivered Thursday and the students will be involved in this process.

The current enrollment is 94 students. It is fun to see them come back after summer – inches taller and ready to learn. Back to school activities are being planned for the near future.

## **ASD Parent Representative – Harry Pompeo**

Mr. Pompeo stated ASD's registration day was last week. ASD had one local registration day and also had registration online. There was training July 31 – August for the Residential Advisors on different topics including communication and collaboration.

The Athletic Department had a Summer Sports Camp the first week of August. There were 26 student athletics participating (Football & Volleyball). Vicki Crump, ASD nurse and Jonathan Elrod, Trainer from ACH, trained our coaches on CPR, First Aid, concussions, preventing MRSA/Staph, sudden Cardiac arrest and environmental safety. Coaches will be ready to help and assist student athletes.

ASD has hired new coaches for football, volleyball and cheerleading. The football head coach is Tommy Varner and his two assistant coaches are Nathan Burleson and Zachary Abbott. Jann Prail is the volleyball head coach and her assistant is Julie Tobin. The cheerleading head coach is Judy Brint-Murphy and her two assistant coaches are LaHollis Hill and Connie Jones. ASD's first varsity football game will be in Mississippi Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. The pre-season varsity volleyball team will go to Magnolia at Columbia Christian School for three days beginning August 24<sup>th</sup>.

ASD's parent meetings will start back for the 2017-2018 school year. It will be every first Thursday evening of each month. Pizza and child care are provided. It is a time for families to discuss initiatives at the school, get feedback from parents and also provide support for new families. The first meeting is scheduled for September 7, 2017.

Dr. Watson said the ASD Museum will be celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> year anniversary with an open house September 9<sup>th</sup>.

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



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Dr. Doug Watson, Chair



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Susan Pack, Secretary

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**Present:** Dr. Doug Watson, Chairperson; Susan Pack, Secretary; Everett Elam, Board Member; Dr. John McAllister, Board Member; Jeanne Tribett, 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

**17-B-017 Motion to Approve Consent Items**

Dr. Watson 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.

**Action Items**

**Approval of Adult Meal Price Increase to \$3.50 (from \$3.00)**

Mr. Caton said ASB would like the board to approve an increase for the adult meal price. He said they have been at \$3.00 for many years and are way below the recommended price by the federal government.

**17-B-018 Approval of Adult Meal Price Increase to \$3.50**

Ms. Pack made a motion to approve the adult meal price increase to \$3.50 and Dr. McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion Items**

**Easter Seals – Water Line**

Mr. Caton said there was one remaining project (other than the posting/cabbling). In terms of the actual specs for the project there is a remaining part which is the water line. Included in the specs originally was that Central Arkansas Water wanted the line to be cut at the property line and he wanted to know how the board feels in terms of future use of the property. If the line is cut then that means you would have to rerun it at a future date if anything is done with the property. This was part of the specs submitted to the Building Authority and stipulated the line would be cut. Mr. Caton asked Mindy if she wanted to add anything.

Ms. Bonifas said it was going to be closer to the rock wall. She said when originally submitted they said it was fine but later came back and said they wanted it cut closer to the rock wall. They said that they would let us go through with that part with the stipulation that after the demolition and finish that part. Ms. Pack said so you promised them that you would. Ms. Coleman said it was probably in the best interest in case it started leaking. She said it would not take that much to extend it and where it is located now might not be where you want it when something is done to the property. Ms. Bonifas said they wanted to take into consideration all of the ideas that had been suggested regarding the property and wanted to check with the board before proceeding. Dr. Watson asked what size pipe it was. Ms. Bonifas said she would have to look at the specs. Ms. Pack said she was hearing two different things about gardens. She said community garden was one of the suggestions that the neighbors might have a garden there. Dr. Watson said no it would be a school garden. Ms. Pack said James had talked about having it go back to its natural state. She said a garden for the kids sounds wonderful but the kids are gone. Ms. Pack said she would say do as promised. Mr. Caton said that would be his suggestion also to complete the project as it was laid out.

### **17-B-019 Motion to Cut Waterline per Specs**

Ms. Pack made a motion to cut the waterline per the original specs and Mr. Elam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Superintendent Report**

Mr. Caton said ASB is getting started with the new school year off the ground. Everything is running smoothly – working through getting things ironed out. The kids have returned and we got everyone back and have gotten some new students. He asked Mr. Rasnick how many new lower grade students ASB had. Mr. Rasnick said he thought it was 3 or 4. Mr. Caton said he thought enrollment was at 94 and hopefully will get a few more as the year unfolds. Dr. Watson asked how many students were residential. Mr. Caton said overall it would be about 30 with the remaining students coming in from local areas.

Mr. Caton said he included a couple of handouts. One was the Agency Strategic Plan for 18-19 that was submitted to the Governor's office as a state agency. He said he hoped the board would provide feedback and discussion as they move toward implementing the goals for the agency as well as the school to make a more efficient agency and more effective school. The other item was a presentation by Commissioner Key that he heard when he attended the AAEA conference this summer. It was the clearest presentation he has heard yet in terms of the direction Arkansas is going as a state with their educational plan. He encouraged the board to review the presentation for a good overview of where things are headed.

Mr. Caton said basically what they are looking at is on the Federal level you have Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which replaced No Child Left Behind. Under ESSA the state has to submit a plan to the US Department of Education on the direction that the school is going to go. He said it was his understanding that the third draft is on ADE's website and has been submitted to the Governor's office for review then it will be submitted to the US Department of Education September 1<sup>st</sup> after hearing public comments. He said it was a very long draft probably close to 200 pages. He said it gives the state more flexibility in the way that education is approached in public schools and he hopes it will work out for state schools as well. The state has two different Acts he is paying attention to on the state level. Act 930 is the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act and Act 744 which is the School Rating System. One thing they are looking at is what is commonly known as the fifth indicator instead of just looking at the annual state test scores they will look at some of the other areas of the school to determine a school's rating and how the school is doing in being successful. They may look at graduation rate, how many students are in AP courses or how many students are in concurrent courses or computer science. There are a number of areas they can look at in determining the overall quality of a school. He hopes to be able to give input on what would be a good indicator for ASB.

The EAST program is getting underway this week and the EAST representatives will be on campus. He said the school is excited to get this going and will be inviting the board to come take a look at this program.

Mr. Caton said ASB has new staff: Joe Reynolds, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher; GT Coordinator, Michelle Tull, and Birth to Three Outreach Program, Mindy Bess. ASB is still looking for an Instrumental Music teacher. We hired an RN Supervisor, Susan Nash, for the Infirmary. She comes with 30 years' experience as a nurse as well as 12 years' experience as school nurse at Harmony Grove.

Campus improvement projects continue to unfold. Woolly Auditorium is almost completed. With all the recent rain we have had several new leaks in different areas but none at Woolly. That is what a new roof will do for you.

The website should be up and running real soon. The mobile app will take longer to finish.

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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Dr. Doug Watson, Chair



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Susan Pack, Secretary

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The Board of Trustees for the Arkansas School for the Deaf met for their monthly meeting on August 15, 2017.

**Present:** Dr. Doug Watson, Chairperson; Susan Pack, Secretary; Everett Elam, Board Member; Dr. John McAllister, Board Member; Jeanne Tribett, 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

**17-D-016 Motion to Approve Consent Items**

Dr. Watson 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.

Dr. Watson asked about the number of resignations. Dr. Dickinson said three moved out of state, some had certification issues, many different reasons. She said they had replaced most of them.

**Action Items**

**None**

**Discussion Items**

**None**

**Superintendent Report**

Dr. Dickinson asked Brian Staggers to set up the new website for the board to see. She said while he is getting ready she would continue. She said the new website was live yesterday. There are a few pictures that slide left to right. When you first go in there is a popup window that asks for contact information so community news can be sent out. There is video, a nice calendar, and student highlights. There is a lot more that can be done but this is a good start. Mr. Elam asked if there were plans to link the two schools so if a parent accidentally goes onto ASD but wanted to go to ASB they could toggle between the schools. Dr. Dickinson said that was a good idea and would be very easy to add a link to each other. Ms. Pack said there are pictures of the staff and you can click on that person to send an email. That is one of the best things on the website.



She said ASD has 133 students enrolled. She said they have a new 2 year old class. Registration came with a few issues, a pipe burst in the dorms two days before students moved in. She said they had online registration this year. She said they have new programs: Agri-Business program and a Culinary Arts program. They are working hard to become a Google school. The High School will receive their Mac computers. The Chrome Books will be given to the Middle School soon and iPads to the Lower School.

Dr. Dickinson said she had given them a flyer on the Arkansas Conference on Deaf Education and Career Readiness to be held September 22<sup>nd</sup>. She encouraged and invited the board members to come and will pay their registration. Ms. Pack said she was going to contact the School Board Association to see if it can be counted as training hours. Dr. Dickinson said there were some wonderful speakers coming.

Dr. Dickinson said she had asked the architect to come tonight and talk about the campus wide plan. Wesley Walls with Polk Stanley Wilcox gave presentation on the development. He said they were in the middle of the develop phase. The Campus Quad scheme was the most liked. Mr. Walls said he wanted to give an additional update on the development. Mr. Walls said the develop phase is where they take the plan into a lot of metrics and put into a comprehensive document. They are still in the middle of working on that. Mr. Walls said he wanted to share the feedback and show the results on a final plan they wanted to propose. He shared the significant feedback: increased feeling of separation; create further separation between early childhood and daycare; segregate vehicular pedestrian circulation to have a walkable campus; increase security; more student amenities; and allow for future development. He showed the revised quad scheme. After going over his presentation, he asked for questions or comments. Ernest Northrup said with athletics it looks like there are two places. Mr. Walls said no. Mr. Pompeo said his opinion is that it is a lot better than before and makes more sense. Ms. Pack said when you said daycare and early childhood is that the daycare that is here now. (I could not understand the answer – too much talking in background.) Ray said with the cafeteria and CTE Building – would that be the main cafeteria for all of the dorms and school. Seems like a long way for dorm students to have to go to get to cafeteria. Maybe you could flip those two to make it a shorter time. Mr. Walls said to remember that they have to think about the convenience to the school and that is why it is located next to K-12. He said there were points to be made both ways. Dr. Watson asked about the capacity for student numbers. Mr. Walls said that is the metrics they are working on. It would have more than enough square footage for the current enrollment. He said the purpose of this exercise was to gather all the information from all the constituents and address those issues. As far as the exact size it will be adjusted by this more detailed ???? they are doing with Dr. Dickinson on student enrollment, square footage per student, etc. The buildings will be multi-level.

Dr. Watson asked about timing to tear down what is there and build what is projected in the plan. Mr. Walls said it would not happen all at once. It will happen in phases over time. Dr. Dickinson thanked Mr. Walls.

Dr. Dickinson said she was asked if there was information regarding other deaf schools. She said she had a lot of information and has shared some of it with Wes. Common cost per square foot for other deaf schools such as Ohio, Maryland, Washington State and she has the information at home. She said it is interesting that often you will have a 30% increase in enrollment immediately after the new is built. Dr. Watson asked where the money was coming from. Dr. Dickinson said she was working on it. She said she had a good meeting with Ann Laidlaw and thinks it is doable. She feels very positive.

Dr. Watson asked if they had given much thought to streaming football games and other athletics on the new website for the community. Stacey said it was possible to do that now. Dr. Dickinson said she thought the key was finding the hidden talents of the staff.

Mr. Krenn said he wanted to let everyone know that transportation has been modified on campus for buses and cars dropping off kids. You will see people redirecting traffic. He said one of the big things was for kids to be dropped off at door side. In order for them to be dropped off at door side on our campus they have to come from the Blind School first. He said they are coming in from the Blind School side. He said it is for the students' safety that they are redirecting traffic. Mr. Caton said it has impacted ASB very little and seems to be working okay so far from his observation in the mornings.

There being no further business for the Arkansas School for the Deaf, Dr. Watson asked for a motion to adjourn.

#### **17-D-017 Motion to Adjourn**

Ms. Pack made a motion that the meeting be adjourned and Dr. McAllister seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.



Dr. Doug Watson, Chair



Susan Pack, Secretary