

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 December 12, 2017.

Present: Dr. Doug Watson, Chairperson; Faith McLaughlin, Vice Chairperson; 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-027 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. McLaughlin made a motion to approve the consent items and Dr. McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Watson asked Mr. Caton about the personnel items. Mr. Caton said Abigail Jones is the new 2nd grade teacher. Lonnie Czak is the new inventory person that just started. He has been helping out painting in the dorms as well. Kim McGraw was moved to the IRC. The other two were transfers of paraprofessionals.

Action Items

Withdrawal of Wells Fargo Funds

Mr. Caton said they were going to pursue the purchase of the two 15-passenger vans. He said they were asking the board for approval to withdraw up to \$140,000 from the account. He said it would probably be February before they would have them in place. Dr. Watson asked if there was a reason ASB was not asking the state to purchase the vans. Mr. Caton said they are using the contract through the Highway Department. Ms. Bonifas said the vans were ADA accessible and the Highway Department is the only one that has ADA accessible on a contract. She said she would love the state to give the funding for the vans. Mr. Caton said the last few years the fleet program has not been funded. Ms. Bonifas said that size vehicle cannot be purchased under the fleet program. She said you have to use agency funds to purchase ADA vans. Ms. McLaughlin asked what the pros and cons of buses versus vans. Mr. Caton said these vans were classified as buses because they have the larger door. Ms. Bonifas said they were trying to get away from having to have a CDL driver. Dr. Watson said about a year ago he saw a new ASD van – is that the same as ASB is buying. Ms. Bonifas said yes and ASD's van purchase was also Highway Department Contract.

Mr. Krenn said the biggest difference was that ASD used federal funds (Title 6B) to purchase that bus. He said mainly because of the ADA compliance. He said the state law has special language for 1-Ton vehicles so if you don't have the special language to buy out of general revenue you have to use cash or federal funds. He said they tried to introduce it in the last session but didn't get any support from the governor's office.

Mr. Caton said he was asking for approval from the board to withdraw up to \$140,000 for the purchase of the two vans.

17-B-028 Motion to Approve Withdrawal of Funds

Mr. Elam made a motion to approve the withdrawal of up to \$140,000 to purchase two new vans for ASBVI. Dr. McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Watson asked what percentage the \$140,000 was in the fund. Mr. Caton said he thought there was \$150,000. Ms. Bonifas said the current amount in the cash line is \$151,255. She said there was \$1.1 million all together. She said they were not touching principle or what they started with. Ms. McLaughlin said that is what it is supposed to be used for. Mr. Caton said the account has grown from the initial investment but we are not even touching the amount that it has grown. He said they are drawing from the cash that is sitting there as opposed to taking that cash and investing it further. Ms. McLaughlin said she thought it is going for an excellent cause. Mr. Elam asked if ASB would be responsible for the repairs. Ms. Bonifas said ASB would be responsible. Mr. Elam asked if there were any upkeep programs available. Mr. Krenn said typically with the state contract on vehicles they are getting the cheapest of the cheapest vehicles and because of the state's low value they never put any type of warranty. He said they are responsible for upkeep, maintenance and any repairs that need to be done. He said ASD has not had many issues with the van they purchased last year that he is aware of. Mr. Elam said at the last meeting they had talked about the kids getting stuck out on the highway in faulty vehicles. Ms. Bonifas said the state has a contract for emergency road assistance. Dr. Watson asked how much money has the Wells Fargo account made since we have had it. Mr. Caton said he knew the initial investment was \$793,000 and has grown to well over a million. This account was initially set up to be used for our students. Mr. Caton said he thought it was time they used some of it.

Discussion Items

None

Superintendent Report

Mr. Caton stated since the last meeting ASB has been busy getting ready for the Christmas season. He said he wanted to mention that Thursday there is a Christmas lunch at 11:00 if you are able to drop by. He said he was at Cookies with Santa last Saturday and there was a great turnout of parents. One family of a perspective student drove several hours to be there. It was nice to see families from our Birth to Three Program. The elementary Christmas party will be at 1:30 on the 14th. He said he attended the Arkansas School Board Association Conference. Dr. Bill Daggett of the International Center for Leadership in Education was the keynote speaker. Dr. Daggett shared insight into present and future educational trends that gave us all much room for thought on how we are educating and preparing students for the 21st Century. Mr. Caton said the campus improvement projects are making good progress. Roofing continues on several buildings, dorm bathroom renovation is 99.9% complete. Upgrading of fire panels is also in progress. Dr. Watson asked if there would be people working during the Christmas break. Mr. Caton said yes there would be a few people working. The roofers will continue to work during the break. Mr. Elam asked if Dr. Daggett is going to push for more trade school oriented curriculum. Mr. Caton said not specifically, he presented the need to look at the kids still need the academic foundation and growth of all of the basics. Mr. Caton said they do need to get more creative with how the students are prepared for the future. Dr. Daggett gave good statistics on jobs that the kids are being prepared for now that will not be there in the future because technology is going to make them obsolete. Things are changing rapidly and schools have to be ready to address those changes even schools for the blind and deaf. Dr. Watson said one of the points of emphasis is that schools are training for jobs that used to be instead of jobs that are coming.

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

Dr. Doug Watson, Chair

Susan Pack, 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 December 12, 2017.

Present: Dr. Doug Watson, Chairperson; Faith McLaughlin, Vice Chairperson; 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-023 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. McLaughlin made a motion to approve the consent items and Dr. McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Watson said there were six new hires and asked if Dr. Dickinson could tell about them. Dr. Dickinson said ASD had 14 positions the week before school started. She said they have been searching to fill the positions and it hasn't been easy to do that in the middle of the school year. She said they had some great people to choose from. She said one was here tonight, Lauren Boehmke who is the PE teacher. She is a graduate of Gallaudet. Dr. Dickinson asked Ms. Boehmke to tell about her background. Ms. Boehmke said she was from Minnesota. She said is now in Arkansas. This is her first PE position and she is very happy to be here. Dr. Dickinson said ASD finally found a new librarian. They also have a new director for mental health department. They have a new receptionist, Justin Billingsley. He is a very friendly young man who signs.

Action Items

None

Discussion Items

None

Superintendent Report

Dr. Dickinson said the news of the day is that the Singing Fingers went to perform at the Capitol today. She asked Stacey to report on the performance.

Stacey said the kids performed at the Sound of the Season where they bring in all the school choirs. They had been practicing for almost a month. They did great. The governor came in while they were getting ready to perform. He made pictures with the kids. They left there and went to Briarwood Nursing Home and it was a nice experience for the kids. The kids hugged everyone in the room. Briarwood does a lot for ASD. Thursday they are going to the State Board of Education at Commissioner Keys' request. Dr. Dickinson said in the middle of all of that they were carrying cinnamon rolls to a lot of people. She thanked everyone involved in it. She said it had been a short month from the last meeting until now. She said they were getting close to rapping up their campus wide plan. They have been meeting with the architects to make sure they have all the specifics clear. She said they would be distributing their final plan in January. She said in Arkansas they have an early intervention, the Arkansas State Inter-Agency Coordinating Council. This is a group that advises early intervention agencies. She said their Statewide Services Director, Karen Lange, is the chair of that committee. They met on campus and it was a wonderful opportunity for many of them to join in the discussion on how we can better structure early intervention services. She said she has been meeting with other departments. She met with the lower school, middle school, high school teachers separately. She said their biggest concern is the fastest growing group of students that are using spoken English as their first language and many of them are almost on grade level. She said they wanted to make sure they are serving them well. They established a new task force for anyone that would be interested in working with her in developing a structure to make sure ASD has a good program for those students. She said they had the SCPI last year and passed the policy for people that have already worked here for 3 years and met a minimum level, people who were just hired had one year and now we have hit that one year mark. They have been working hard to make sure they have clarified the policy as far as the implementation plan. She said they have had a lot of meetings in regard to that and thinks this is a great policy. She said this Thursday ASD would have their Christmas lunch and performance. She invited everyone to attend. The time is 12:30. She said in every board report she writes about a story that the Statewide Services sends to her. She thinks it is interesting to see the story from a family perspective. This one is about a family from Flippin, Arkansas. The family has been struggling to get services. She said she would not go through the story at this time but encourages the members to read the story in her report. She said she was looking forward to Christmas break. Dr. Watson said she had hired a lot of people since they talked about SCPI. Quite a few of them sign when they come in so are they automatically qualified for the 10% increase. Dr. Dickinson said yes. They have to pass the test or bring in results from another state or school showing they have an SCPI level. She said that it is a nice recruiting tool.

Dr. Watson asked if ASB has the equivalent for teacher of the blind that are skilled in braille and O&M. Mr. Caton said ASB has educational differentials for certain certifications. Dr. Watson said it was good that both schools had that incentive.

Dr. Dickinson said that she and James decided to do something different this year for Christmas for the board. She said they decided to go in together and plan for a gift. She said there were gifts on the table for board members. Mr. Caton said they appreciate the board's support and this is a small token of their appreciation. Ms. McLaughlin said the two superintendents had done an excellent job this year and she is very proud to be on the board.

Mr. Elam thanked Dr. Dickinson for the invitation to tour their new kitchen.

Dr. Watson asked for a motion to adjourn.

17-D-024 Motion to Adjourn

Ms. McLaughlin made a motion to adjourn the December meeting and Dr. McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Dr. Doug Watson, Chair

Susan Pack, 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 December 12, 2017.

Present: Dr. Doug Watson, Chairperson; Faith McLaughlin, Vice Chairperson; 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 January 16, 2018 at Arkansas School for the Blind.

17-J-014 Motion to Approve Minutes

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

Action Items

None

Discussion Items

ASB Parent Rep – Jeannie Tribett

Ms. Tribett reported that the wrestling team participated in two meets and did very well. ASB had five students attend the Family Career Community Leaders of America District Fall Meeting at Maumelle High School. The theme of the meeting was “I’m FCCLA Possible”. The guest speaker was former Razorback D.J. Williams. He encouraged the students to be resilient, overcome obstacles, never give up, to work hard, and to always show respect for yourself and others. The students expressed how encouraging the meeting was and they also got to take photos with Mr. Williams. This month the high school learning center students went to Target, went out to lunch and then took a walk at Two Rivers Park. ASB had a schoolwide spelling bee this month. The Birth to Three Program hosted the annual “Cookies With Santa” on December 9th. This Thursday afternoon ASB will have its annual Christmas Party with Dr. McAllister playing Santa. That evening will be the Parent dinner and Christmas program

ASD Parent Rep – Harry Pompeo

Mr. Pompeo reported that ASD's Thanksgiving Box Program was a great success. They provided Thanksgiving dinner for 17 ASD families. ASD's annual Christmas program and lunch will be Thursday. Singing Fingers have been preparing for upcoming performances to include Sounds of the Season at the State Capitol. The ASD kitchen provided cookies to the Hands and Voices Candy Cane Christmas Event. The Deaf Fellowship Church invited the middle school and high school students to a hayride and cookout. Chenal Valley Church of Christ provided a wonderful Christmas for the lower school students. Each child was adopted by a church member that provided the child with \$150 worth of gifts. The families came to the school and ate dinner with the students and then watched them open their gifts. The high school concurrent class attended a special day at University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The students attended various workshops. Alerys Henriquez made the 2017 Deaf Digest Sports Volleyball All-American Team. This past weekend students went to Oklahoma for the Indian Classic. The girls took 2nd place and the boys took 3rd place. The Special Olympics Team has been busy winning gold and silver medals in golf, volleyball and bowling. The Academic Bowl Team went to Iowa for competition. ASD was chosen by Gallaudet for the Midwest Regional Competition February 15-18.

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

Dr. Doug Watson, Chair

Susan Pack, Secretary