

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 11, 2018.

Present: Faith McLaughlin, Chairperson; Susan Pack, Vice-Chairperson; Everett Elam, Secretary; Dr. John McAllister, Board Member; James Caton, ASBVI Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; , 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

Ms. McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2019.

18-J-015 Motion to Approve Minutes

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

Action Items

None

Ms. McLaughlin said Stacey would introduce the entertainment for the evening. Stacey introduced ASD's Singing Fingers. She had the children introduce themselves. They performed three Christmas songs. Dr. Dickerson thanked the children for coming. Ms. McLaughlin said they were wonderful.

Discussion Items

ASB Parent Representative – Vacant

Mr. Caton said he had made contact with Boards & Commissions on the parent representative opening. They said they would take it to their next meeting with the Governor.

Mr. Caton reported ASB had their annual spelling bee today and it went well. The student that took first place is in the 8th grade and this will be her last year to get to participate.

Mr. Caton stated the wrestlers attended the Central Classic in which two of ASB's wrestlers placed. One placed first and one fourth.

The installation process for the new pool liner has begun. The crew showed up today and they are expecting to complete the project in approximately two weeks. Ms. McLaughlin asked if the kids use the pool all year round. Mr. Caton said yes, the facility is used year-round.

Last week the first phase of the new door security system was finished which included the Main Building front entrance, East Lobby exit door and the cafeteria East exit door. There is also an outside camera system on front entrance so whoever is in the main office can see who is outside before letting anyone in. Mr. Elam asked if there was braille to let people know to push a button. Mr. Caton said he was looking at braille overlays to be used there. Mr. Elam asked how the people were doing it now. Mr. Caton said cards were given out to staff or they can punch in an access code.

Two ASB students participated in the State Special Olympics on December 6th and both came back with gold medals. They represented ASB well and they appreciated the opportunity to participate. The 4th and 5th graders attended The Nutcracker at Robinson Auditorium then went to Larry's Pizza for lunch.

Today there was a meet and greet with ASB students' DSB counselors from around the state. This gave the students an opportunity to meet with their counselor face-to-face and discuss any transition, college/career, or needs that the students have.

This Saturday ASB will be hosting their annual Cookies with Santa in the cafeteria. Next week will be the elementary, middle and high school Christmas celebrations. Thursday will be the annual parent Christmas dinner and Christmas Concert. Mr. Caton said he hoped everyone could make it by.

ASD Parent Representative – Harry Pompeo

Mr. Pompeo said as mentioned last month, ASD's academic bowl team went to Wisconsin. Two of the academic bowl members are gone on another trip. There were 8 teams at the GPSD Academic Bowl in Wisconsin. He said the players were here tonight to share their experience. It was the first time in ASD history that they were champions at GPSD. It was live streamed so everyone could watch. He asked the team to stand and introduce themselves. First was Ethan Pompeo – he said he had a wonderful time in Wisconsin. He said he was very proud of how they did as a team. Second was Shannon, Senior – she came to ASD as a sophomore. She said she was really proud of the team.

Ethan said if ASD is in the top 4 at Regionals, they will then go to Nationals. Next was Layla, sophomore; Cody, Senior, Hamad, Senior. Mr. Pompeo asked if their coach was there. The coach said they played 6 matches the first day. She said they won the first match and there was hardly anyone watching them, then they won the 2nd match and a few more people came in, won the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th. She said they were so excited. She said by the last match people were coming to watch them and rooting for them. She said for the weekend, Shannon scored a total of 37 points and that is a lot of points. Ethan scored 20 points, Cody scored 8, HD scored a few – the point scoring was such an improvement from 5 years ago when she first started coaching.

Mr. Pompeo said he wanted to mention the Battle of the Books. ASD is involved in this for the first time. This is a reading competition that is run by Gallaudet University and there are three divisions. ASD is part of the blue division. The competition has 82 teams. ASD is competing against three schools. ASD earned enough points to be in the playoffs. He said they are very proud of the team, Mia, Levi, Tymari and the alternates. The basketball team went to Kentucky on November 30 – December 1. They competed against Ohio, Kentucky and South Carolina. They were chosen for the all-tournament. ASD hosted the Leopard Classic this past weekend for basketball and cheerleading competition. Three schools participated – Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana.

Mr. Pompeo said the Christmas celebration would be December 20th. 11:00 – 1:00 is the luncheon, 12:00 – 1:30 is the museum open house and 1:30 – 2:45 is the Christmas program. Chenal Valley Church comes to ASD campus every year to give gifts to the students and give them the opportunity to meet Santa Clause and have their picture made. ASD is very thankful to Chenal Valley Church for this partnership. Lower dorm students went on their annual Christmas light tour in Sherwood and to eat at CiCi's Pizza. Middle School and High School students are going to Garvin Woodland Gardens in Hot Springs.

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


Faith McLaughlin, Chair



Everett Elam, 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 December 11, 2018.

Present: Faith McLaughlin, Chairperson; Susan Pack, Vice Chairperson; Everett Elam, Secretary; Dr. John McAllister, Board Member; Vacant, 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

18-D-016 Motion to Approve Consent Items

Ms. McLaughlin 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

None

Superintendent Report

Dr. Dickinson said they had a very nice VIP Christmas Party last Thursday night. They received gifts from Santa. She thanked Michelle for making that happen.

The Arkansas Children's Hospital Dental Van came to the ASD campus. She thanked Vickie for making that happen.

Dr. Dickinson said ASD's enrollment numbers are looking good at 144 students. She said next month she would try to have a comparison for the last 20 years. She said she thinks they are equal to the 2005 enrollment.

She said they are working hard on their accreditation process. The teachers are involved and are doing eight observations of other teachers working. She said they have had over 150 observations done in the last 2 or 3 months.

ASD had an employee from the food service department (Darryl) pass away. She said they had a very hard time with that. They had a memorial service and a balloon release. She said ASD has a lot going on.

Discussion Items Children's First Contract Update

Mr. Krenn said ASD submitted the request to Children's First and they have come back with some potential changes. He said they are adamant to keep their space to the 3000 it states in the original contract. He said he was going to have to sit down with them and figure out exactly what space they want to use and remove the areas they no longer want to use. He said it has been a benefit to them and they are a little shocked that ASD wants them to start paying for the actual space they use. DBA did another 3-month extension to the end of March so negotiations can be completed.

Ms. McLaughlin asked about the electrical problem that happened about a week ago. She said she thought that it was taken care of several years ago. When she first came on the board for the first couple of years, it was an issue. She said she asked Mr. Caton about it and he said it had not solved itself yet. Mr. Krenn said it has not. He said when he first came on board there were discussions about ASD joining in with ASB. He said it took a while for him to go through it and talk with the AG's office and at that time, he thought they brought it to the board that they would join with the Blind School moving forward. He said the last email between them, Mindy and Sara Farris (AG's Office), they were waiting on Entergy because they had several things going on with the board and so it pushed them back. He said the last email he thought was December, 2017 and Entergy said to wait until after the holidays and they would get back with them. They have never gotten back with them. He said he has reached out to Sara to see if she heard anything and she said there has been no movement. He said as far as he knew the last time Mindy reached out to them, they were waiting on their attorney to run numbers. He said the last thing that was sent to Entergy was an agreement for both schools. He said he has a copy of that email. Mr. Krenn said the line snapped and was on the ground. If it would have hit anything dry, it would have spread quickly. Ms. McLaughlin said it sounded serious. Mr. Krenn said they do have insurance on the power lines but it has a \$10,000 deductible. Both schools have insurance on the utilities due to the fact that the utilities are owned by the schools. Ms. Pack said she thought that when this was discussed before that it was totally two different situations with the School for the Blind and the School for the Deaf because ASD had made changes years ago. Mr. Krenn said he knew that if ASD went through with the Entergy contract that was negotiated that the Blind School would not be connected with ASD's utilities any longer. They would put a new meter in for the Blind School and would have their own meter instead of having to split the utility bill. He said the biggest thing with ASD was the expense because they have more of the powerful items on ASD's campus. ASD would be spending more money if Entergy took ownership. He said he has made contact with a company called Higher Grounds. They are retired or former Entergy employees that went out on their own and do independent contract work. He said Higher Grounds is the first one on Entergy's list if they cannot handle themselves.

Mr. Krenn said it is a headache because if something happens now, Entergy will come out and cut the power and say get it fixed and they will turn power back on. Mr. Caton said if you have multiple lines snap the schools would be in real trouble. He said they would have to get someone out to repair. Mr. Caton said ASB wants to pursue Entergy taking over the ownership of the lines. He said they did send that communication to the contact they had. Mr. Caton said he didn't know if ASD had talked to Paul Bruster – he was Mindy's last contact. Mr. Krenn said when they were working on the paperwork he was the point of contact. Mr. Krenn said he had not reached out to him recently. Mr. Caton said Entergy got the impression that ASD was dropping out of the agreement and weren't sure if ASB wanted to move forward or not so that delayed it further. Mr. Caton said ASB reassured Entergy ASB wanted to move forward. He said it might be good if ASD sent him an email. Mr. Krenn said he would reach out to him and tell them ASD has been waiting on response from Entergy. Mr. Caton said he was unaware that the insurance covered the electrical lines. Ms. Pack asked if it could be that ASB's does not have a contract and ASD does. Mr. Krenn said he didn't know and he would look into the insurance part more. Ms. McLaughlin said Mr. Hill was rolling along on this for quite a while and she thought it was taken care of. Mr. Caton said the last they heard it was held up in Entergy's accounting and that is what was said every time an inquiry was made.

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


Faith McLaughlin, Chair



Everett Elam, 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 December 11, 2018.

Present: Faith McLaughlin, Chairperson; Susan Pack, Vice Chairperson; Everett Elam, Secretary; Dr. John McAllister, Board Member; Vacant, 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; Hillcrest Residents

18-B-016 Motion to Approve Consent Items

Ms. McLaughlin 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 Mr. Elam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

None

Discussion Items

None

Superintendent Report

Mr. Caton said he attended the Lions Club meeting in Benton December 4th. He said it was a good opportunity to thank them for their support of the ASB. Lions Club International through various chapters has supported the school over the years in many different projects. They renovated the playground that is in front of the main building and it was over \$100,000 project. They have been really good supporters of the school. They invited him back to speak.

Mr. Caton said the school has started a community service partnership with the organizers of the Pre-Miss Arkansas Pageants. He said he has learned a lot about pageants. He said there are 44 pre-pageants before the big one. Four of the pre-pageants are going to be held in Woolly Auditorium. The first one was the first of December and Beverly was a judge at that one. It is a long, hard day being a judge. He said he is going to judge the one coming up in February. Miss Arkansas and a former Miss America will be at that pageant.

Mr. Caton said he is always selective with the use of the auditorium. He said he wanted the community to be involved with the school and they have a lot of educational outreach through that organization (scholarships, etc.). He said the organization is really big on community service. The contestants came and did makeovers on the high school girls and spent quality time with them. He said he thought it was going to be a good partnership for ASB.

Mr. Caton said he attended the School Board Conference December 5-7th. He said there was a good legislative panel at the conference and they said academics don't correlate to intelligence. Students need to be educated on the basics – reading, speech, grammar, civics, government and citizenship, not just on the STEM areas. Some made the comment that schools need to look at enabling students to be able to choose their own paths. One mentioned the importance of recess time and that it is being studied with the possibility of increasing the recess time. They are looking at the repeal of what is known now as Student Support Services Plan. They are going to replace it with a more comprehensive counseling program. He said the counselor often ends up doing a lot of different things other than direct counseling. They mentioned some have concerns over the Teacher Retirement System for state employees. They said they do not think there is any support for revamping it. He said he got to hear the Governor and he spoke about support for his transformation plan. He mentioned the schools as being part of ADE in that plan. He talked about his highway bill and tax reductions as well as they are looking at a teacher salary increase over the next four years. Reading initiatives, computer science and coding is still a big thing. The school safety recommendation – Mr. Caton included a copy of the final 30 recommendations. The key note speaker, Michael Dorn, spoke on school safety. He said there is a need for schools to be really broad in their training and to train your people that way especially with specific scenarios and see how they respond. Give them a situation and tell them they have 20 seconds or less to make a decision then you see where the weaknesses are and what other training is needed to get everyone comfortable in responding to a wide variety of situations.

He said he hoped everyone could make it to the Christmas concert on the 20th.

Ms. McLaughlin asked if there were any other discussions or concerns.

Ms. Pack said she would like to say thanks to the people who worked on the Giving Tuesday Campaign. The Foundation realized more than \$2,000 from that one day. She said the card everyone got is what was sent out to people (from names ASD had that have donated in the past). The cards tell how one can donate to the Foundation. She said they are going to continue doing things like this and continue writing personal notes to people.

Dr. Dickinson said that she and James really appreciate all the support through the year and all that the board does for both schools. Santa presented gifts to the board members from Dr. Dickinson and Mr. Caton.

Dr. Dickinson said Hazel (ASD's new bus) is outside for anyone that wants to take a ride around the block.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:10.


Faith McLaughlin, Chair



Everett Elam, Secretary