

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 February 18, 2020.

Present: Roy DePriest, Chairperson; Dr. John McAllister, Vice-Chairperson; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Secretary; Faith McLaughlin, Board Member; Susan Pack; 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

Mr. DePriest called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. The next meeting was scheduled for March 17, 2020.

20-J-004 Motion to Approve Minutes

Mr. DePriest asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January meeting. Ms. Pack made a motion to approve the minutes from January and Dr. McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

20-J-005 Approve ASB/ASD 2020-2021 School Calendar

Mr. DePriest said the calendars show days of instruction. Mr. Caton said there are 178 days of instruction. Mr. Caton said school is starting on August 17 for the new school year. He said the law does not allow school to start before the 13th. Dr. Dickinson said a waiver could be asked for but the 13th is a Thursday and it would not make sense to start then so it was decided to start Monday, the 17th. Mr. DePriest asked if the week prior to the 17th was an in-service week. Mr. Caton said yes. Mr. DePriest said the kids return on the 17th. Mr. Caton said the last day of school will be May 28th and that will be before Memorial Day. Dr. Dickinson said they would probably ask for five (5) AMI days again so if there is less than 5 snow days they should be fine. If there are more than 5 days, then dates will be added to the calendar. Ms. Pack asked when Silent Sunday would be and Dr. Dickinson said October 25th.

Mr. DePriest said they needed to entertain a motion to approve the school calendars. Ms. Pack made a motion to approve the School for the Deaf and the School for the Blind school calendars. Dr. McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

Habitat Management Plan – Lee Avenue Property

Mr. Caton said that is the previous Easter Seals lot where the building was demolished. The last thing that was done to the lot was put up posts and railing to keep traffic out and it has worked very well. He said there is a small amount of money left from money received for the demolition of the building. That money can only be spent on the lot. Mr. Caton said they looked at turning the property back into a natural habitat through some type of management plan that will introduce pollinators and other wild life into the site. It can also become an educational opportunity for the students as well. Realizing that in the future the board may decide to sell the lot but until that time the thought was to do something with it. He said he thought the neighbors would be very open and acceptable to some type of habitat plan for the lot, leaving it a quiet and natural area. Mr. Caton introduced Leslie Fowler and Wesley Tucker with Pheasants Forever, Inc. and Quail Forever. Leslie is Arkansas Monarch and Pollinator Coordinator and Wes is Farm Bill Biologist. They presented their plan for the property over the next 5 years. Wes said he provided Del with a plan of what would be done with the money. He said the vegetation that is there now is non-native invasive vegetation that they would get rid of and replace with native seeds. Leslie said they would put up signs so people would know was taking place on the property. Ms. Pack asked about the cost. Wes said it would be about \$6,000 to get it started. They have provided Del with an invoice. Mr. Caton said one way it was broken down was the \$6,000 would be getting started with the site preparation treatments, planting, monitoring and control; then \$500 each year through 2024 for site monitoring, management activities. Dr. Atcherson asked if there would be an opportunity to walk through it. Leslie said they wouldn't put in a formal walking trail - it could be discussed but she didn't think it would be worth the investment. Mr. Caton said he was also looking at some areas of the school to put in some habitat areas but that would be separate from the Lee Avenue property. He said what was being proposed would cover the \$8,000 over that period of years (5). Ms. Pack said she thought of 2 issues: 1) The neighborhood would need to see the presentation and be involved 2) Because it involves money, ADE would have to approve. Mr. Caton asked if they could get board approval to proceed and then they could take to ADE. Ms. Pack said she didn't see a problem with that. Mr. DePriest said this is money you already have that was allotted just for that property. Mr. DePriest asked if it was bare ground now. Del said it is crushed concrete and asphalt. He said there is some soil but not very much. Del said their plan is adapting to the site. Leslie said they custom created the mix based on the condition of the site. Leslie said she would be happy to do another presentation for the neighborhood. Ms. Packed asked Mr. Caton if he wanted a vote. Mr. Caton said he would like some type of consensus from the board on how they should proceed. He said it is a long-term plan. He said then they could set something up for the neighborhood and get their feedback/response on it and bring it back to the board.


20-J-006 Motion to Approve the Habitat Plan

Ms. Pack made a motion to approve the plan for the Habitat as presented and send to the Department of Education for their approval and involve the neighborhood. Dr. McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

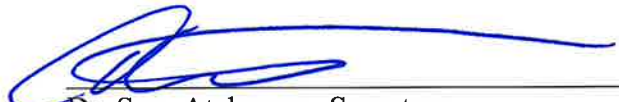
Appoint Susan Pack as Liaison to ADE

Mr. DePriest said he would like to officially appoint Ms. Pack as their ADE liaison. He said she had been involved in all the transformation meetings and he thinks it is to the benefit of the board and school for her to remain in that capacity if she is willing. Ms. Pack said if her appointment was approved that she was willing.

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



Roy DePriest, Chair



Dr. Sam Atcherson, Secretary

OFFICIAL MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF THE
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

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Present: Roy DePriest, Chairperson; Dr. John McAllister, Vice-Chairperson; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Secretary; Faith McLaughlin, Board Member; Dr. Priya Gupta, ASB Parent Representative; Holley Mott, ASD Parent Representative; Susan Pack; James Caton, ASB Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; Beth Smith and Will Gorum, Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community; Hillcrest Residents

20-B-003 Motion to Approve Consent Items

Mr. DePriest asked for a motion to approve the consent items to include the minutes, financial statement and personnel items. Dr. Atcherson made a motion to approve the consent items and Dr. McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Caton said the LPN position (4-12) is still open. The person backed out that was going to be hired.

Action Items

None

Discussion Items

None

Superintendent Report

Mr. Caton said he had received a letter from Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education Commodity Distribution Unit. He said they always do a random review during the year of our commodity distributions which includes how the food is stored and warehouse aspect of food service. They came on February 10th and found all areas were in compliance with the USDA Standards for commodity distribution. Felicia Hart, Food Preparation Coordinator, received her Serve Safe certification. At least one person has to have had that training and pass the exam.

The tenth Braille Challenge is the 20th in Woolly Auditorium. Literacy challenges have been added this year. The Braille Challenge is a regional completion is part of the National Braille Institute. There will be some public school students participating as well.

Mr. Caton said the Annual Black History Program will be February 25th in Woolly Auditorium at 10:00 am. It always a fun event and usually have people from the community come in for it and several public schools that perform in the program.

Mr. Caton said ASB had their kick-off for the Re-Think Your Drink campaign this month. It was for the water bottle refilling station that we received grant money to purchase.

Jay Powell, dentist, is coming to visit with the younger children about dental health. Delta Dental has been donating toothbrushes and floss to the school also.

He said they started work on the Campus Facility Plan by going on-line pulling up the planning tool and entering the information. The director of the Facilities Division with ADE will be out this Friday to tour both campuses.

Mr. Caton said ASB cheerleaders took first place in the Cheer and Wrestling Conference for the Schools for the Blind. There were 10 schools participating. ASB wrestlers came in third place. Channel 7 had it on their Beyond the Game segment and interviewed one of the ASB cheerleaders.

ASB had their first Poetry Out Loud competition. He said he was proud and impressed with the students at how they expressed their emotion through the poems they recited. There were 15 students that participated. It was part of the Arkansas Arts Council. He congratulated Diya Chakraborty for winning the competition and qualifying to go to the state competition.

ASB had students at the FBLA District V conference where one of the seniors placed 5th in the Accounting II division. ASB also had a student participate in the Graphic Design for the first time and she placed 10th. He said he heard the designs were very impressive. The EAST program has placed big yellow boxes around campus as part of their scavenger hunt. It is a fun way to bring learning to their mobility and orientation skills.

Mr. Caton said he attended the School Law Seminar this month. It was very good and had a lot of relevant topics.

He said ASB will be monitored this month by the Arkansas Department of Education on the 25th. They will be monitoring the Special Ed Department and hopefully will get good feedback from them.

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



Roy DePriest, Chair



Dr. Sam Atcherson, Secretary

OFFICIAL MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF THE
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The Board of Trustees for the Arkansas School for the Deaf met for their monthly meeting on February 18, 2020.

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20-D-002 Motion to Approve Consent Items

Mr. DePriest 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.

Mr. DePriest asked if the paraprofessional to teacher promotion was accomplished through the Appel Program. Dr. Dickinson stated that the employee already had the teaching credentials when she was hired but at the time there was not an available position. An ASD teacher resigned to open a position.

Action Items

None

Discussion Items

None

Superintendent Report

Dr. Dickinson reported that ASD had an exciting and busy week. Tomorrow, archeologists are coming to the campus for a geophysical survey. The team will consist of five professionals from universities across the state. They will begin working on the burial grounds at 8:30. At 9:00 the educational specialist from Fayetteville will be on-site to work with students. At approximately 10:00 they will be ready for the media. She said they would not know specific results for about two weeks. She said ADE will have a film crew on campus and ASD staff will be videoing students, showing the progress. Ms. Pack asked if they were going to open the box that is under the ground. Dr. Dickinson said she is not sure if the metal plate on top of it will be moved tomorrow.

Dr. Dickinson said on Friday Chris Hyche from the Harlem Globetrotters will visit ASD to present for students in the gym. She said friends from ADE will join them for that event.

Next week Dr. Dickinson and Ray Boland will take four students to Washington, DC. It is an annual event for ASD. Dr. Dickinson said that there is a National Advocacy Day for the deaf and blind. The group will attend a Leadership Conference at Gallaudet University on Tuesday. While the students are involved in the leadership conference, the adults will learn about recent deaf research and other happenings at the Gallaudet. On Wednesday, the group will travel to Capitol Hill to visit the Arkansas delegation in their respective offices. They will be visiting Helen Keller's burial site and do some site seeing on Thursday. Friday, they will visit the Master's of Deaf Ed Program at Gallaudet to recruit new teachers for ASD.

IT Director, Faysal Ahmed, flew home to be with his father who is very ill. He will be gone for a few weeks. Nathan Burleson is filling in for him during his absence.

Dr. Dickinson said the Tornado Shelter has a new name, The Leopard Spot. She said the board except for one member voted for that name.

Silent Sunday recently received an award. Dr. Dickinson asked Stacey to explain. Stacie said a couple of weeks ago, staff attended a presentation at the Department of Heritage for the Arkansas Food Hall of Fame. Silent Sunday was recognized as a nominee for the Hall of Fame as one of the premier events in the state.

Dr. Dickinson reported that ASD has had a large number of cases of the flu. She asked Ernie Northup to talk about what steps they were taking to combat it. Ernie and Clay fumigated all day on Friday, using a special sanitizing sprayer. Ernie said they bought 10 gallons of a chemical and that the machine they bought is very good relatively easy to use. Dr. Dickinson asked Vicki to explain other ways ASD is fighting the flu. Vicki said there is a lot of hand washing. Nursing staff are trying to send home sick individuals as soon as possible. Vickie said her staff ordered rapid flu tests and are waiting on delivery. The rapid tests will let staff know quickly if kids have the flu, allowing them to begin receiving treatment. Vickie said nurses are trying to keep a handle on the flu and keep everything clean. She reported that the school physician estimates that the instances of the flu would peak this week, but would not completely be eradicated for three more weeks. If you get Type-A this time, you may get Type-B next time. She reported that ASD has had about 42 students diagnosed. She said she doesn't have a number for how many staff has been diagnosed.


Dr. Dickinson reported that ASD had some big celebrations recently. The Middle School robotics team placed first in the programming and driving skills earned the Excellence award, which is the highest award in the tournament. The tournament was held at the Texas School for the Deaf. The team has qualified for the Vex IQ World Championship. This will be the first deaf middle school that has been able to go the World Championship. Dr. Dickinson said ASD is very excited for their Robotics team.

Dr. Dickinson said the ASD Special Olympics Team won the bronze medal for floor hockey. The cheerleading team won first place in the dance and cheer competition at the GPSD tournament.

There being no further business for the Arkansas School for the Deaf, Mr. DePriest adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm.



Roy DePriest, Chair



Dr. Sam Atcherson, Secretary