

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 Blind and Visually Impaired and the Arkansas School for the Deaf met for their monthly meeting on February 16, 2021.

Present: Dr. John McAllister, Chair; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Vice-Chair; Faith McLaughlin, Secretary; Susan Pack, Board Member; James Caton, ASBVI Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; Dr. Priya Gupta, ASB Parent Representative; Holley Mott, ASD Parent Representative; Rose Burluson and Will Gorum, Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community

Chair Dr. John McAllister called the meeting to order at 5:01. The next meeting was scheduled for March 16, 2021 at the Arkansas School for the Blind.

Joint Agenda

21-J-004 Motion to Approve Joint January, 2021 Minutes

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

Action Items - None

Discussion Items – None

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

Arkansas School for the Blind

21-B-002 Motion to Approve Consent Items (Minutes, Financial Statement & Personnel Items)

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

Action Items – None

Discussion Items – None

Superintendent Report:

Students virtual last week, 2/22 & 2/23 due to winter storms & repairs caused by the winter storms
Water restored. Heat restored to most areas. Students will return 2/24
Additional repairs to be done – boiler issues, etc.
Governor will be giving ASB & ASD \$1,000,000 for infrastructure needs (not to each school). It is a sum of money to be used by both schools in terms of their needs.
Happy to get and will stretch as much as they can
ASB will be receiving additional ESSER/CARES funding-will use for HVAC/air quality needs
Welcomed a new 4th grade student from DeWitt, AR
Welcomed new hires-Malika Barnes, SanTina Young & Savannah Mobley
Braille Challenge will virtual this week
Second dose of vaccine will be Thursday
Infirmary windows have been installed – very close to being completed
Hill Cottage work has started this week
Additional projects: Upgrading fiber optics; bell system; electronic entry for doors
EAST program launched a News Briefing each morning
House Bill 1144 will allow both schools to carry over funds

Mrs. Pack asked if there was anything on a new board member. Mr. Caton said one person is interested. Mr. Caton will be talking with him to make sure he knows how to apply. It is a person from the blind community. Mr. Caton will let the Governor's office know that there will be someone applying.

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

Arkansas School for the Deaf

21-D-002 Motion to Approve Consent Items (Minutes, Financial Statement, Personnel Items)

Mrs. McLaughlin moved to approve, Mrs. Pack seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Items – None

Discussion Items – None

Superintendent Report:

Three employees resigned and went to Middle Creek
Noah Wilson transferred to ADE
ESSER/CARES funding – they will be able to replace every computer on campus
Carry over funds will be used for updating building/facilities in the future
5 positive COVID cases on campus & almost 50 quarantined

Superintendent Report Continued:

Students have been very engaged in virtual learning
She and James attended a session on ADE's Ready for Life – it is a statewide initiative
Involved in ADE's Strategic Plan
Grant for 41,954.47 to upgrade the Plant System for the Agri business
New contractor teaching Braille for one of the High School students
New partnership with ASB for a GT teacher
New facelift for gymnasium floor

Dr. Dickinson asked Vicki to do a report on status of ASD vaccines and new COVID quarantine guidelines.

Vicki said ASD had their first clinic and immunized 95 people. Three weeks later was February 12th during the winter storm. The 2nd dose is Friday for those 95 people and 40 people signed up for their 1st dose. She said they will have another clinic for the new criteria the governor opened today.

Quarantine Guidelines-the CDC will put out guidelines but the Arkansas Department of Health take the CDC recommendations and decide what they need to do with those recommendations to meet the needs of the Arkansas population. That board met Friday afternoon and accepted those recommendations for quarantine. That means once you receive your 2nd dose of COVID vaccine – two weeks after that you are considered fully immunized. Vaccinated persons who are exposed to with COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they meet the following criteria: 1) Are fully vaccinated; 2) Are within 3 months following receipt of the last dose in the series; 3) Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID -19 exposure.

Dr. Dickinson asked the board to go into Executive Session for personnel issues. Board returned from Executive Session. Dr. McAllister said no action was taken.

21-D-003 Motion to Adjourn

Dr. McAllister made a motion to adjourn, Mrs. McLaughlin seconded. Motion passed.



Dr. John McAllister, Chair



Faith McLaughlin, Secretary