

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 January 10, 2017.

Present: Dr. Doug Watson, Chairperson; Faith McLaughlin, Vice Chairperson; Susan Pack, Secretary; Everett Elam, Board Member; Dr. John McAlister, Board Member; 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-001 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 Ms. Weeks seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Items - None

Discussion Items - None

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Caton said it was a short month with the meeting being a week early. Mr. Caton welcomed Dr. McAllister and said he looks forward to working with him on the board. As soon as Dr. McAllister gets his official letter from the governor, Mr. Caton will take to get sworn in so he can begin his duties on the board. Mr. Caton stated he appreciated very much having the opportunity to work with Mary. He said her help and assistance had been tremendous especially to a new superintendent.

Mr. Caton said the Vocational Building project is nearing completion and may possibly do a walk through this Friday. He said there were two completely renovated bathrooms as well as a sound structure in the wall behind. Dr. Watson asked why there was that problem. Mr. Caton said it was a combination of the way the building was built originally - it was jacked up in the back many years ago and he believes that possibly had an impact on it. He said a very sound wall had been built behind the bathrooms and did what was necessary. He said they think it may take care of the leak downstairs as well. Ms. Weeks asked if anything had to be done outside. Mr. Caton said no, what was done on the inside took care of that.

Mr. Caton stated this was Board Appreciation Month and he wanted to recognize the members' service with cake and punch from both schools.

Ms. McLaughlin said she knew ASB was minus a Secondary principal and asked if it was posted. Mr. Caton said the plan for the present was to use internal options to get through the remainder of the year then look at where they need to go from there with that position. He said at this time, Teresa Doan was assuming the Secondary responsibilities along being the Elementary principal. Dr. Watson asked what the market was like for a principal. Mr. Caton said it was very challenging because of the specialization. He said you may be able to find someone that is qualified and licensed as a school principal but doesn't know anything about blindness. He said that was where the challenge comes in being able to integrate that person into not only the administration operation but into the culture and climate of working with the blind and visually impaired. He said his own opinion has always been to grow your own in house but at the same time recognizes that there are other people out there than can make contributions.

There being no further business for the School for the Blind, Dr. Watson said the board would go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. (4:58 – 5:10)

Dr. Watson stated they reviewed the personnel issue and no action was taken.

17-B-002 Motion to Adjourn

Ms. Weeks made a motion to adjourn and Ms. McLaughlin seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.



Dr. Doug Watson, Chair



Susan Pack, Secretary

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Present: Dr. Doug Watson, Chairperson; Faith McLaughlin, Vice Chairperson; Susan Pack, Secretary; Everett Elam, Board Member; Dr. John McAlister, Board Member; 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-001 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. Mr. Elam made a motion to approve the consent items and Ms. Pack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

None

Discussion Items

Riverfront Property

Dr. Watson said he didn't know if everyone knew but the schools own 80+ acres of property around here plus property down on the riverfront. Mr. Krenn gave out 2 pictures of the property in discussion. He said this gave a better idea of the property outline. Dr. Dickerson asked Mr. Krenn to summarize the property and what they had been discussing. Mr. Krenn said this property came to his knowledge in September. He said they lease the property now to the storage facility and the section leased is about 37 square feet. He said that was the only part of the property that was useable. The rest is hillside that goes down to the river or creek. You can see how the river comes into the creek and that is trees/woods around it. The total square footage is almost 4 acres but only about 37 square feet useable. Mr. Krenn said they had a company do an appraisal of the land to see what the value would be and they came back with a figure of \$60,000. He said in the past it had been valued at approximately \$140,000. Ms. Pack said that was because there was more land but it has eroded over time. She said when she was superintendent they had discussed making a marina so they could teach the students how to fix boats, etc. She said it is not nearly as big as it was when she was there.

Mr. Krenn said if you actually go on Google Maps and expand out you will see the sand has built up against the little island and when he went to see the land the first time there was a grill and beach chairs on the sand that has built up. He said Dillard's asked who was responsible for the land. It is outside ASD's property. The only access point is through the storage facility property to get to ASD's property. Ms. Weeks asked if ASD was considering selling the property. Mr. Krenn said that was the reason they had the appraisal done. He said the people that lease the property have asked if the school would be interested in selling it. He said the state process has them get board approval, approval from the governor's office and ABA. He said it goes up for state agencies first and maybe Game & Fish would be interested, otherwise we put it out for bid. Mr. Elam asked what it was used for in the past and why was it bought. Ms. Pack said it was part of the school from day one when they moved to the campus. Ms. Pack asked what the rent was. Mr. Krenn said \$325 a month. Ms. Pack asked if ASD was asking for permission from the board to start the selling process. Dr. Dickerson said they are trying to figure out if there is any good use for the school that would benefit the kids. She said that there seems to be so many barriers that she can't figure out how it would be useable. Part of the problem is there is no access to the property. You have to go through the storage units and ask permission to go in. She said they are in the process of interviewing architectural firms to do a campus wide plan to see where buildings could be built and what would be torn down as ASD is developing a plan for the future. She said they realized they need to economically grow the campus. The buildings are starting to wear down and they are struggling with that so the best use of this property might be to get the revenue to reinvest into the buildings on campus. Ms. Weeks asked if the board needed to vote. Mr. Krenn said if not this meeting the next meeting so ASD would have approval to go to the next step which is asking the governor's office for permission to sell the land. Dr. Dickinson said she thought it might be best to take a month to think about this and for the board to have the opportunity to go look at and see if that would be the best decision for the school and students. Ms. Pack said she walked it one time a long time ago. She said it used to be a camping place for the homeless people but since the storage facility is there she did not know if it was still that way. Mr. Krenn said the storage facility put a fence around that section of the property and if we do decide to do something their fence would have to be moved. He said they have extended the lease for a few months so ABA wants ASD to make a decision. Ms. McLaughlin said she would like to see the property but she thought if you took that money and reinvested into the current campus that would be the most responsible thing to do. Mr. Krenn said he had an appraisal he could send to the board for review. Dr. Watson said we would have to advise them if it is decided to market it and first option goes to state agencies.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Dickinson said she had a lot of fun news. She said ASD had a great holiday program. She said they recently hired a dance teacher to teach the kids to dance. They sign and dance at the same time. She said Singing Fingers performed at the State Capitol and for ADE. The kids delivered cinnamon rolls to ADE and they asked them to sing but they didn't have the music with them so Lynn got the music from her car and they took the kids into a large meeting room. They waited for the music to start and finally someone asked if they could sing for them. All the people in the room sang Silent Night and the kids performed.

Harry already mentioned that we have homecoming coming up and GPSD coming up. She said they are working on a GPSD app so all the teams participating can download and keep up with what is going on.

She said they are in the process of purchasing an Apple device management system. The teachers have their laptops and this spring the high school students will have laptops. The management system will help them to know where the device is at all times and what is on it as well.

They are finishing up their door access system so no one can come onto campus and walk into any building. The buildings will require key card access.

She said ASD has several new staff and students this week. They have a new librarian and a new position, almost like a behavioral specialist.

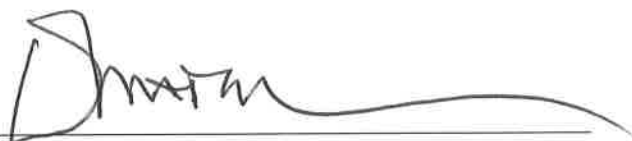
She said the prison couldn't build beds for them so they had to go to Missouri's prison and have them build them.

She said she wanted to applaud the deaf community for working and painting the gym. Big news – ASD just got \$5,000 from Lowe's and will use that money to build a greenhouse.

She said she had mentioned they were working on a campus wide plan and they asked ABA for recommendations for architect firms they felt would be good. ABA recommended five firms. ASD has a selection team working to look through those firms. She said they would interview soon.

She said they kicked off their new ASL class with about 70 students.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Watson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Doug Watson, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Pack", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Susan Pack, Secretary

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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 January 10, 2017.

Present: Dr. Doug Watson, Chairperson; Faith McLaughlin, Vice Chairperson; Susan Pack, Secretary; Everett Elam, Board Member; Dr. John McAllister, Board Member; James Caton, ASBVI Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; 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 4:06 pm. The next meeting was scheduled for February 21, 2017 at ASD.

17-J-001 Motion to Approve Minutes

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

Action Items - None

Discussion Items

Update on Easter Seal Progress: Mr. Caton and Ms. Bonifas gave the board an update on the progress to this point. The bids have not been sent out as of this date. ATOKA has to review all information received from Snyder Environmental. We are probably still looking at 4-5 months without any other issues coming up.

ASD Parent Representative – Harry Pompeo

Ray Boland, Principal's Report – School picture day was December 12. ASD Students took the ACT December 13, 14 and 15. ASD will have 4 new student teachers from RIT. The ROAR bowling celebration for good student behavior was December 16th.

Athletic Director's Report (Ernest Northup) – There are 4 home games, 4 away games plus AACS District and State Tournament and GPSD Basketball Tournament and Cheerleading Competition. Homecoming will be January 19th. ASD Senior Night will be January 26th. The GPSD tournament will be February 9-11th with 8 schools attending, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Wisconsin.

ASB Parent Representative – Jeanne Tribett

Ms. Teresa Doan gave ASB's report as Ms. Tribett was not in attendance. Ms. Doan reported that school had only been in session two days since the Christmas break. ASB had a very successful Christmas Music Program. Cookies With Santa was also a huge success. Infants and Toddlers are brought in from all over the state as well as local children. They get to interact with each other as well as the parents interacting with other parents. The Elementary Santa Claus party was also successful. The kids had a great time. Middle School students had an outing at Blaze Pizza and got to make their pizzas and played arcade games. They have an upcoming ice skating outing also. ASB's Pee-Wee wrestlers will have their debut on January 26th with the annual Candy Bar Meet in the gym. The high school wrestling team has a meet this Thursday in Hot Springs and a later one in Arkadelphia. The Conference meet will be January 27-29th in Kentucky with the wrestlers and cheerleaders attending. The annual Braille Challenge is set for February 2nd.

Dr. Watson told Ms. Weeks how much the board appreciated all the work she had done during her term. He introduced Dr. John McAllister, the new board member replacing Ms. Weeks. Dr. McAllister works at UALR in the O&M Department and worked at ASB for 15 years.

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



Dr. Doug Watson, Chair



Susan Pack, Secretary