

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 January 23, 2018.

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

18-D-001 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 motion to approve the consent items and Dr. Watson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

None

Discussion Items

None

Superintendent Report

Dr. Dickinson said they have had an interesting few weeks with the snow, closing of school and like the Blind School have had some new experiences with AMI. She asked Ray Boland to talk about how that process went. Mr. Boland said it was an interesting experience with the teachers. They wanted to make sure the teachers were responsible for doing their work, logging in and communicating with the students via email and making sure the students were doing their work. If the students didn't do their assignments it would count as an absence. It puts the responsibility and motivation on the students. It was the first time to use this method but all the feedback was positive.

Dr. Dickinson said they have several interns this semester – currently two on campus. One of them is here tonight and she asked Eddie to introduce him. Eddie said the intern was from the University of North Florida. He will be here for about 3 or 4 months. His name is David. Dr. Dickinson said they also have a student teacher from RIT.

Dr. Dickinson said they had an exciting Homecoming weekend. She said their museum had their 150th anniversary. Susan Pack was in attendance and she presented at the celebration. She said the community looks back to Susan Pack's era as the "glory days". There was a lot of excitement when Ms. Pack was on campus. Ms. Pack said there were 111 that signed in at the museum.

Dr. Dickinson said Governor Hutchinson mentioned ASD in his Christmas radio announcement. She asked Stacey to talk about that. Stacey said the Singing Fingers went to the Capitol for the Sounds of the Seasons Concert. She said as soon as they got there they ran into the governor. He talked to the kids and took pictures with them. He mentioned all the kids by name on the radio.

Dr. Dickinson said they had been working very hard on their accreditation for AdvancEd. That will be the first week in May and the first step to that is to clarify how many LEA numbers we have. They are going to be looking at other schools for the deaf and with other schools for the deaf it would be considered one school. Here under the ADE they view ASD as their own school district with three different schools. She said they have to do four times the work. It is a lot of replication of work and data. They asked ADE would there be a way they could be incorporated into one LEA to use. She said there would be nothing negative but would have a lot of positives. She said they are hoping ADE will approve it.

She said they had a meeting with Virtual Arkansas and they are teaching ASL classes. They have an ASL class with 260 students. They have a waiting list of 800. In the middle of the school year their ASL teacher resigned and they wanted to know if we would be able to help them. She said they met to discuss. ASD has accepted taking on those classes for the rest of this school year. They are going to be paying ASD for their time. It is around \$15,000.

There being no further business for ASD, the meeting moved to the agenda for 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 January 23, 2018.

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

18-B-001 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. 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

Transfer of \$1,564.00 from MM07123-State Treasury Money Management Trust Fund to the Service Account-Trebing Memorial Fund

Funds were used to purchase violin and cello equipment and supplies.

Mr. Caton stated this was on the agenda to make the board aware of the transfer. He said Mindy might add to this. Mindy said the board had asked for prior approval for \$25,000 and up and anything below \$25,000 was to be reported to the board.

Report on Board Member Training

Mr. Caton said the Report on Board member training was required to be given in January. On behalf of both schools, he said everyone completed their required board training hours. Mr. Elam earned 9 hours, Dr. McAllister earned 9 hours, Ms. Pack earned 6 hours, Ms. McLaughlin earned 6 hours, and Dr. Watson earned 14 hours. Mr. Pompeo earned 6 hours. Mr. Caton said that new rules were in the process of being adopted for board training and as soon as the new rules were released he would share with the board.

Ms. Pack said that she and Janet attended the School Board Law Conference. She said it was one of the better ones she had attended and things applied to ASD/ASB more than in the past. In the past it would be things that applied to public schools. This was training on discrimination, sexual abuse, and IDEA and it was all pertinent to them. She said she kept all the information if anyone wanted to see a copy.

Superintendent Report

Mr. Caton said the annual Financial Statement is due January 31st. He said Betty can notarize them for you and can mail them in for you if you want.

The Foundation for the School for the Blind received some very good news recently. A trust is being transferred to the Foundation for the Arkansas School for the Blind that is valued over a million dollars. He said he wanted to make the board aware of the current Foundation members. They are Dr. Doug Watson, Jim Hill, Roger Fitzgibbon, Mary Weeks, Alan Berry, Dr. Bill Payne and Dr. Kenan Doan. Mr. Caton said he serves as an Ex Officio Trustee on the Foundation. We look forward the Foundation being a benefit to the school as well as other organizations.

He said we did get a new exchange student, Ernest. He has not had the opportunity to meet Ernest but have heard he is adjusting very well. It will be a great experience for him as well as for the ASB students.

Mr. Caton said ASB has a new UALR O&M Intern that recently arrived from Puerto Rico. She was here during the summer program and has come back to be with us for the rest of the school year. He said she is very happy to be somewhere that has lights and water. He said ASB is working on another internship out of UALR for a teacher.

Dr. Watson and his wife, Myra, are going to be honored Friday by the Arkansas State Independent Living Council. It is the second Annual Circle of Service Awards and Dr. and Mrs. Watson who are owners of Communications Plus have been selected as one of the honorees to be recognized. The guest speaker will be Governor Hutchinson. The event will be held at the Governor's Mansion starting at 11:00 am.

Mr. Caton said this is Board Appreciation Month. Ms. Doan and student, Darren Parks, presented the board with stuffed guide dogs. Ms. Doan said she was contacted by someone whose grandparents attended the School for the Blind. They offered to make stuffed dogs that looked like guide dogs for the school.

Mr. Caton said in recognition of Board Appreciation Month he and Janet had put together a reception for them. Dr. Dickinson presented the board with their famous cinnamon rolls.

Mr. Caton said they also wanted to recognize Dr. Watson for his many years of service on the board as well as to people with disabilities. He said Dr. Watson's term ended the last of December. Dr. Watson was presented a plaque for his service.

Dr. Dickinson said Dr. Watson was very well known for his work all over. She said he had been wonderful to work with. She thanked him for all his help.

Ms. McLaughlin introduced Jim Hill. Mr. Hill said he spent a lot of his years as Superintendent of ASB working with Dr. Watson. He said Dr. Watson had been a great inspiration to him and had become a good friend. Mr. Hill said Dr. Watson had been one of the better board members he had worked with – he cares about the kids at both schools; he cares about keeping educated through board activities and education; he keeps up with education in general and is a great asset to both schools. He is going to be missed. Mr. Hill thanked Dr. Watson for all he did for the School for the Blind and him personally.

Ms. McLaughlin said if there was any other business for the School for the Blind. There being none, she adjourned the meeting at 4:45. She invited everyone to stay and enjoy the food.


Faith McLaughlin, Chair



Everett Elam, 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 January 23, 2018.

Present: Faith McLaughlin, Chairperson; Susan Pack, Vice Chairperson; Everett Elam, Secretary; Dr. Doug Watson, Interim 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

Ms. McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. The next meeting was scheduled for February 13, 2018 at ASD.

18-J-001 Motion to Approve Minutes

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

Action Items

18-J-002 Motion to Approve 2018 Board Stipend Amount, Up to \$85

Ms. Pack made a motion to approve the board stipend amount, up to \$85 and Mr. Elam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**18-J-003 Motion to Approve 2018 Superintendent Residency Expenditures
(ASB/ASD)**

Ms. Pack made a motion to approve 2018 Superintendent residency expenditures for both schools (ASB/ASD) and Mr. Elam seconded the motion. The motion pass unanimously.

Discussion Items

ASD Parent Representative -- Harry Pompeo

Mr. Pompeo stated ASD had a wonderful Christmas lunch and program on December 14th. The kitchen staff cooked a delicious meal for staff, students and visiting family.

Mr. Pompeo said January 5th and 6th was Homecoming. Mississippi School for the Deaf and Kansas School for the Deaf participated in the basketball games. The varsity girls lost but the varsity boys won. During half time of the boys' game the Homecoming Court was presented and the King and Queen crowned. After the games, there was a dance.

ASB Parent Representative – Jeannie Tribett

In the absence of Ms. Tribett, Mr. Tyrone Williams presented ASB's report.

Mr. Williams stated ASB had a fantastic Christmas Program on December 14th. Each year it seems to get better. Dr. McAllister did a fantastic job of playing Santa Claus at the elementary Christmas party.

ASB wrestlers had their third big tournament of the season in North Little Rock. Two students placed first in their weight class and one placed third. As a team, ASB placed 4th out of 14 teams.

This month two students participated in the Pulaski County Spelling Bee. There were 68 students from Pulaski County that participated. One ASB student came in 8th place. ASB will host its annual Braille Challenge on February 1st.

The ASB campus was closed two days due to the weather but that did not stop the students from learning. ACT 862 of 2017 allows a public school district to develop a plan for alternative methods of instruction to be used when the school is closed due to exceptional or emergency circumstances. This past week ASB was able to put their plan into practice.

ASB had the privilege of welcoming a new foreign exchange student, Zhan Feng (who wants to be called Ernest). He is from Peninsular, Malaysia and is a senior. He will be staying on campus in the dorm during the week.


The EAST program has approximately 45 students throughout the week. Many are becoming experts in technologies, while others are working on projects for the school and community. The 6th grade EAST students are partnering with Roberts Elementary EAST students to design and print a 3-D tactile picture book for the younger elementary classrooms. The elementary and high school EAST students are working on a joint project called "Walk a Day in My Shoes". The project will educate students and adults in the area on how individuals with visual impairment or blindness are able to live independent lives. Hopefully, incorrect and harmful stereotypes will be changes. A 3-D tactile map of the campus is also being designed for the O&M Department.

Mr. Williams said in March, ASB will take 8 EAST students to the EAST Conference in Hot Springs to represent the program and present some of the more creative and beneficial projects. Around 2,500 students, facilitators, and community/business leaders from around the state attend this conference.

Ms. Pack said she would like each school to give the board a report on how the bus transportation is going for weekend transportation since it is a new company providing this transportation.

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


Faith McLaughlin, Chair



Everett Elam, Secretary