

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 September 17, 2019.

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

Ms. Pack called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. The next meeting was scheduled for October 15, 2019, to be held at ASD at 5:00.

19-J-014 Motion to Approve Minutes

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

Action Items

None

Discussion Items

ASB/ASD Shared Services Update

Mr. Caton said they are continuing to have additional meetings and there is a Directors' meeting later this week. There has not been one since July. The Action Team Committees have continued to meet weekly. Each school has representatives from the staff on those committees. He said as far as any changes, they haven't seen much but recently they began exploring sharing HR services between the two schools. One way that is being done is Bonita (ASB HR) has started meeting with ASD to explore their needs. No final decision has been made on that, it is being done on a trial basis to see how it would work for both schools and how effective it would be. Dr. Dickinson said she would agree. She said there have been a lot of discussions and idea sharing, but no action taken yet. She asked if there were task representatives present. Michelle, Beverly and Del were in attendance. She asked someone to comment on their experiences.

Michelle said she and Del are on the same committee for Asset Management. She said their group had been looking at how they could consolidate or have shared services which would mean things like the fleet, facility usage and procurement. She said their job is to have a report which is due October 1st to give their recommendations with the information they have. She thinks everyone from the other divisions are feeling the bumpy road they are on with it. She thinks it is trying to smooth out that process – seems less of shared services but more of how they can streamline the process so it is the same for all divisions under ADE. Del said he would agree and that one of the primary objectives was building space. The ADE incorporated quite a few satellite agencies into acquired state properties. Several agencies are being moved into areas that have been leased by the state and Building Authority has purchased the Verizon building on Riverfront Drive and the Department of Commerce is moving into there. Del said he and Michelle have been asked to gather vehicles, available meeting spaces that we have such as this room and the auditorium, etc. to be shared (in the future) with other agencies that need it. One of the bullets we have is personnel – the people are the greatest asset the state has and there is no concrete app to approach that subject. Michelle said that was one of the things they were talking about for their group to put in their report. It doesn't seem something that is feasible and doesn't seem to be the most efficient when looking at the broader aspect of the divisions under ADE. Del said they hope to make suggestions that benefit both schools and hope they take it to heart. Ms. Pack thanked them and said it was a good report. She said the main thing is they are gathering ideas and are listening. Michelle said she and Del have fought hard to make sure there is a true understanding that ASD and ASB are different than other agencies because they are also schools. She said they talked about the fact that they have students on campus that have to be protected when talking about the facility usage part. Ms. Pack said so often when people have not been connected with the school they are not program oriented and hope they learn. Del said the schools also have residential students. Mr. Caton said this shows there are a lot of moving parts that do not just involve the two schools but a lot of other different agencies as well that are under the larger umbrella of the Department of Education as along with them. He said he and Janet will continue in their meetings to advocate for the needs of the schools and the needs of the students.

Ms. Packed thanked everyone serving on the committees.

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

Susan Pack, Chair

Dr. John McAllister, Secretary