

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 June 19, 2018.

**Present:** Faith McLaughlin, Chairperson; Susan Pack, Vice-Chairperson; Everett Elam, Secretary; Dr. John McAllister, Board Member; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Board Member; James Caton, ASBVI Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; (Vacant), 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 is scheduled for July 17<sup>th</sup> at Arkansas School for the Blind.

**18-J-009 Motion to Approve Minutes**

Ms. McLaughlin asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting. Mr. Elam made a motion to approve the May meeting minutes and Ms. Pack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action Items**

None


**Discussion Items**

**ASD Parent Representative – Harry Pompeo**

Mr. Pompeo said High School graduation was in Parnell Hall. There was a great turn out and Dr. Atcherson was the keynote speaker. Eighth grade graduation, Middle School Awards, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Step-Up Celebration were held in May. Mr. Pompeo said the first football game would be August 30<sup>th</sup> at ASD. ASD hosted Geek Week which was a professional development offered to the teachers. The training focused on Google education preparing the teachers for next fall. ASD was chosen as “School for the Year” by the state Director for Special Olympics of Arkansas because of ASD’s willingness to host the event. Summer camp started last week going through this week. Middle school and high school have gone to Shepherd of the Ozarks. The students were complaining about not having access to the internet.

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

  
Faith McLaughlin, Chair

  
Everett Elam, Secretary

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**Present:** Faith McLaughlin, Chairperson; Susan Pack, Vice Chairperson; Everett Elam, Secretary; Dr. John McAllister, Board Member; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Board Member; , (Vacant), 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; Hillcrest Residents

**18-B-007 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 a motion to approve the consent items and Mr. Elam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action Items**

None

**Discussion Items**

None

**Superintendent Report**

Mr. Caton said he would work ASB's parent report into his report. The students' last day of school was May 30<sup>th</sup>. School ended with an Athletic Banquet, an award's ceremony, Kindergarten graduation, Pre-school award's ceremony, Middle School celebration and Senior graduation. He thanked the board for attending senior graduation. An all school outing to Pinnacle Mountain was held May 29<sup>th</sup>. He thanked ASD for helping out with the busing for that activity. School ended on Wednesday and on Sunday 32 students came for ASB's 3-week Summer Camp program and 27 students for the Jump Start program. Eighteen orientation and mobility interns also arrived Sunday from UALR and SFA. This week ends the 3-week Summer Camp and Jump Start programs. Summer Camp students participated in travel classes, Painting with a Twist, Mid-America Museum and many other places. He said Thursday they would enjoy a formal dining experience in the cafeteria (which will be transformed in to a formal restaurant). The students will be served by waiters/waitresses (aka kitchen staff and admin volunteers). The end of year celebration will also be Thursday.

Mr. Caton said Jump Start participants toured Pulaski Tech College and received a cooking lesson from the Pulaski Tech Culinary Department. They toured UALR, UCA, and National Park College. They participated in a community service project at Our House, enjoyed fine dining at Sonny Williams' Steakhouse, Riverfront Steakhouse and other restaurants. Jump Start will have graduation and a talent show Thursday at the Governor's Mansion. The First Lady will be the guest speaker. The students work at different locations during the summer program, giving them work experience and a little pocket money. Mr. Caton said after the summer programs end, the Alumni Association will host their annual convention at ASBVI and he looks forward to visiting with them.

He said during the summer break, the full-time staff stays very busy finishing up projects and preparing for the approaching new school year. They are in the process of preparing and planning for the new Biennium budget related to fiscal years 20-22. There are many different reports that have to be worked on including the Parental Involvement Plan, Professional Development Plan, Student Handbook revisions as well as the teachers' first week back beginning August 6<sup>th</sup>. He said a Student Support Services plan also has to be completed this year and is due on the website by August 1<sup>st</sup>. He is also in the process of reviewing the school improvement plans (elementary & secondary).

Mr. Caton said he has been at Arch Ford Educational Coop this week. ADE & Commissioner Keyes attended Monday giving updates for the upcoming year. The Department of Education is working really hard to transform student learning in Arkansas and to support schools in what is being done locally versus handing down mandates. There is still the accountability part built in but he thinks it is going in a good direction and both schools will benefit. Today he attended a session on Professional Learning Communities overview. He said it was something the school had started this past year and the teachers seemed to be excited. He plans to explore and develop it more. He brought back a lot of good information from the session. He is going to put together a team of people that can commit to the trainings throughout the next year. On Thursday he goes for Tier I training – most will not apply to ASBVI but it is required. That afternoon there will be a session by the Attorney General's Office on human trafficking, dangerous apps and social media safety.

He said he met with the representatives from the Capital View Stiff Station Neighborhood Association. He said he is working to build that relationship. The Association helps both schools with traffic issues. They have put up signs on Markham. The schools are located between Stiff Station and Hillcrest neighborhoods.

Mr. Caton said he will be attending the Proclamation for Helen Keller Deaf Blindness Week at the Governor's Office.

Mr. Caton said the school has a number of vacancies for the school year and they are doing everything possible to get the positions filled quickly for the new school year. Ms. McLaughlin asked what positions were vacant. Mr. Caton said an English position is open due to the loss of Ms. Olson; the Family Consumer Science teacher is retiring; and a math teacher position. At this point, there have not been a great number of applicants.

Campus projects are going well. Shults House is experiencing some delays with the sprinkler system being installed due to Central Arkansas Water rerunning their models and changing the pipe size required. A small portion of the line will go on the Deaf School property so he will be meeting with Dr. Dickerson. The majority of the line is on ASB's property and runs close to the Mr. Caton's house.

Ms. McLaughlin asked if the school had gotten the new vans that were ordered. Mr. Caton said the vans are still being manufactured. The manufacturer ran into a problem with getting a major part. These vans are built on demand by Ford. The latest date he has been told is that it may be August, if at all. Ms. McLaughlin asked if he had to get a special manufacturer for the vans. Mr. Caton said they are basically like the one ASD has, but they have to manufacturer them and there were plant issues. Mr. Caton said it may end up that the school has to go another direction.


Metro Disaster was successful in getting the walls dried out from the water damage incurred in the main building. The only repairs will be patching the holes where Metro had to drill to help dry the walls and some repainting.

Mr. Caton said he mentioned the swimming pool in his report and that they are working on funding for that project. Ms. McLaughlin asked when these things happen, is there an emergency fund available. Mr. Caton said there is always the option of looking at the school's cash. Ms. McLaughlin asked if the pool already had a liner. Mr. Caton said the pool does but in the past it has always been repainted approximately every 5 years. He said the chemicals do a great job keeping it clear but when there are a lot of kids in it, it gets stirred up after a time and needs repainting. He said the Health Department has allowed the school to keep the pool open because there is not a health issue. If you get the liner being looked at they are expensive (\$80,000). He has learned there is a difference between a liner for an indoor pool and an outdoor pool. He said pools are very expensive to maintain, but the kids love swimming and always have. They swim all year.

Mr. Caton introduced Breonda Hodges as the new Business Manager. He said they had been busy closing out the fiscal year. He said she is doing a great job.

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

  
Faith McLaughlin, Chair

  
Everett Elam, Secretary

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**Present:** Faith McLaughlin, Chairperson; Susan Pack, Vice Chairperson; Everett Elam, Secretary; Dr. John McAllister, Board Member; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Board Member; , 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-007 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 Dr. McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action Items**

None

**Discussion Items**

None

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Dickinson said ASD had a wonderful graduation. She thanked Faith, Susan, John and Harry for attending graduation. She said the last day teachers were at school the winner of the Suzie Award was announced and this year the award went to Eddie Schmeckenbecher. Other awards given were Awesome Team Award, Service Year Awards, and Organizational Value Awards. There was also a kick-off for summer camp.

Middle school and high school students have gone to Shepherd of the Ozarks. She said the most exciting moment this summer was when ASD was announced as one of the top growing high schools in the state and received a growth award.

She said they have a few interns this summer. They have one from Gallaudet who will soon be moving to Finland and another one who is on the baseball team at Gallaudet and he is doing his internship in the Business Office. We have a young woman from RIT and she is working with an architecture firm in town. Her degree is in engineering.

Dr. Dickinson said ASD has new mission and vision statements. They also have a new slogan. These are in her superintendent's report.

Dr. Dickinson attended the Capital View Stiff Station Neighborhood Association meeting. She said there were so many political people in such a small room. She stood between Baker Kurrus and Warwick Sabin (both are running for mayor).

She said they are working on the online registration and thinks it will be ready by August. She said they recently received a grant for elevators for Parnell Hall so the middle school students will have to move while that is being completed. They are trying to renovate Adcock so the students can move there for the school year and move back when the elevators have been installed.

Dr. Dickinson stated ASD had received notice that they are being sued and wanted to inform the board. They have 30 days to respond and are working closely with the litigation attorney assigned to them. She will give the board more information as she receives it.

She said they have been working hard on the Intranet which means it is not available for outside people. She asked Nathan to show the board how it works.

Ms. McLaughlin asked about the student enrollment and that they are going to have 6 new elementary and 3 pre-school. Rick said it changes daily and currently he has prospective students at 16. Ms. McLaughlin said that is really good news.

Dr. Dickinson recognized Morgan Aldridge from the Governor's office in the audience.

Ms. McLaughlin said she could not say enough about Dr. Dickinson's achievements. She said she loved their new slogan: Dream It-Believe It-Achieve It.

Ms. McLaughlin asked if anyone had any other business to bring up. Ms. Pack asked if anyone else was going to the ASBA board training on Thursday in Hot Springs. She said one of the topics was going to be on Executive Sessions and she hopes to bring back more information on that topic.

Ms. McLaughlin said if there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



  
Faith McLaughlin, Chair

  
Everett Elam, Secretary