

OFFICIAL MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF THE
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

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 March 16, 2021.

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

Chair Dr. John McAllister called the meeting to order at 5:00. The next meeting was scheduled for April 20, 2021 at the Arkansas School for the Deaf.

Joint Agenda

21-J-005 Motion to Approve Joint February, 2021 Minutes

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

Action Items

Mr. Caton said the calendar shows school starting on August 16th and ending on May 27th. There are standard PD days and snow days built in as well as the holiday breaks.

21-J-006 Motion to Approve 2021-2022 School Calendar for ASB & ASD

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

Discussion Items – None

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

Arkansas School for the Deaf

21-D-004 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:

Dr. Dickinson said they were thrilled to have the Governor's executive staff last Friday to tour the facilities. It was worse than they expected. Dr. Dickinson feels that they were increasing the amount of support for their campus plan. Discussion on how to get the funding for the new campus plan. Don't have an answer for that yet. Will see what happens and hope for the best.

ASD has their strategic plan – trying to make sure their goals align with ADE's goals

ASD had a Town Hall meeting in March – first one in person in a long time

Discussed the future and what to expect in the spring

Planning to have prom and graduation

Education Leadership team has been discussing standards; have all students back on campus; no virtual learning. Students thrive better when they attend in person and have social interaction.

Keeping up with bills for the Deaf community: 1) Using clear masks; 2) Turn on closed captioning in public places; 3) Establishing an office for Deaf & Hard of Hearing

Bill that is trying to change language from hearing impaired to deaf and hard hearing

Eddie Schmeckenbecher received accommodation from the Legislature show their appreciation for interpreting for Governor during pandemic

Selected the word for the year – it is Believe

76 staff fully immunized for COVID; 11 staff to receive second dose soon

Vicki working to get more clinics set up for staff and deaf community

New Receptionist – Stacy Harmon

Received \$12,000 worth of books from Books A Million

Will be asking for more appropriation-General operating fund starting to decrease

There is a lot of salary savings this year

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

Arkansas School for the Blind

21-B-003 Motion to Approve Consent Items (Minutes, Financial Statement, Personnel Items)

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

Action Items

21-B-004 Motion to Approve ASBA Model Policy Renewal to be Paid in 3 Installments

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

Discussion Items – None

Superintendent Report:

Mr. Caton reported on the board training hours for 2020

Roy DePriest – 0; Dr. McAllister – 6; Faith McLaughlin – 7.25; Susan Pack – 8.5; Dr. Atcherson – 10
James Caton – 16; Dr. Dickinson – 10.25

Mr. Caton said there have been a lot of changes in the requirements. It is important for the board members to have their required training hours. Law requires that the member has to be removed from the board if required training hours are not attained. Also, there can be citations on the cycle reports for accreditation. Dr. Dickinson said this was the first time they have had the citation for board members not having the required hours. Mrs. Pack asked if they still come to the school to do an evaluation. Mr. Caton said they do not unless it becomes necessary. There is much done online now. Will keep board aware of upcoming training

Dr. Roberts toured ASB facility

ASB Science Fair held – 4 students qualified for the State Regional Competition – 2 placed Honorable Mention; still waiting to hear on the other 2. Each year the students improve.

Participated in the Poetry Out Loud Competition which is an art education program – 1 student qualified for State Competition

Annual East Conference starts tomorrow through Friday. It is virtual this year. Several students participating and 5 projects will be showcased – Playground project; Orientation & Mobility Scavenger Hunt, ASBVI Archives, Spreading Art to people Who are Unable to Leave their Homes, and Helping the Elderly Visually Impaired.

11th Annual Regional Braille Challenge was a virtual event this year.

ACT exam for 11th grade students

Received a free year Solution Tree Programming

Principals are meeting with different groups of educators each week to assess their needs

Talent show will be a Talent Share event by videos

ASB had their second dose vaccine clinic

Superintendent Report continued:

Campus projects progressing – Experienced flooring issues in the Infirmary and have to install exterior emergency lighting. Cottage project progressing well.

Dr. Atcherson asked what exactly is the Infirmary. Mr. Caton said ASB is licensed by the Department of Health as an Infirmary to have 10 beds to house students overnight if necessary. It is manned 24 hours a day. It is the only one in Arkansas still operating as an Infirmary.

Still having mechanical issues to resolve from the winter storm. There was a lot of damage.

Mrs. Pack asked Dr. Dickinson about the progress on the gym. Dr. Dickinson said they were going to have a formal ribbon cutting at Parnell Hall on May 18th. She said the gym would be finished by the end of April.

Dr. McAllister said if there was no further business the meeting was adjourned

Dr. John McAllister, Chair

Faith McLaughlin, Secretary