

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 March 14, 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; Jeanne Tribett, ASB Parent Representative; Harry Pompeo, ASD Parent Representative; Beth Smith and Eddie Schmeckenbecker, 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 April 18, 2017.

17-J-003 Motion to Approve Minutes

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

Action Items

Approval of 2017-2018 Calendar for ASB and ASD

Dr. Watson opened the floor to Mr. Caton and Dr. Dickinson. Dr. Dickinson said she wanted to thank James for the long hours they worked together on the calendar. She said they felt good about the outcome. They tried to follow the three big districts (LR, NLR & PCSD). Mr. Caton stated they tried to align the calendar as close as they could to those districts. The biggest change is when we will end school bringing the kids back for two days after Memorial Day in order to get the 178 days in for the year. They looked at things like the kids being able to have Easter and Mother's Day without having to ride the bus back on those days. New Year's Day will fall on Monday and didn't want them on the bus on New Year's Day so lost a day there. They had to go back and forth a lot before finally settling on it. He said they think that was going to be the best approach for both schools and the community. The calendar has the five snow days built in and the required 10 days of professional development.

17-J-004 Motion to Accept the 2017-2018 Calendars for ASB & ASD

Ms. Pack made a motion to accept the 2017-2018 calendars for the Arkansas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired and the Arkansas School for the Deaf. Ms. McLaughlin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Discussion Items

**ASD Parent Rep – Harry Pompeo
Absent – No Report**

ASB Parent Rep – Jeanne Tribett

Ms. Tribett reported the Health Committee met recently and received training on healthy offerings for students through our school lunch program.

ASB celebrated Black History month with their annual Black History Program on February 28th. There were many special guests from the community present including ASB's own alum, Rodney Clemmons. The program was very powerful and enjoyable.

Grades 4 & 5 went to Central High School Museum on March 8th and the curator asked if the school would come back and try their additions of tactile graphics, Braille and auditory description for them.

Home Life held a Spring Fling Dance for all students on March 9th. The students enjoyed a variety of hors d'oeuvres, dance music and photo-ops.

Professor Michael Munro from Stephen F. Austin State University visited the campus on March 14th to meet with teachers who are currently working to obtain certification as a teacher of the visually impaired.

A team of teachers and Mr. Caton are headed to Hot Springs tomorrow evening to receive their EAST initiative award. ASB is very excited and can't wait to be able to engage the students in a wide variety of new learning experiences.

ASB will hold their 2nd annual Science Fair on Thursday, March 16th. The annual Talent Show will also be that evening. The Science Fair projects will be on display in the lobby of Woolly Auditorium.

Everyone is ready for Spring Break.

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

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 March 14, 2017.

Present: Dr. Doug Watson, Chairperson; Faith McLaughlin, Vice Chairperson; Susan Pack, Secretary; Everett Elam, Board Member; Dr. John McAllister, Board Member; Jeanne Tribett, ASB Parent Representative; Harry Pompeo, ASD Parent Representative; James Caton, ASBVI Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; Beth Smith and Eddie Schmeckenbecker, Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community, Hillcrest residents

17-D-005 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. Pack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

None

Discussion Items

None

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Dickinson asked Ray Boland to introduce the student teachers. Mr. Boland said they have had four student teachers from the Rochester Institute of the Deaf. The first semester they had two student teachers and this semester they have two. The first introduced herself as Demji and will be mentored by Tommy Varner (Math). Demji is from Nigeria. The second is Rachel and will be mentored by Regina (English). Rachel is from Michigan. Dr. Dickinson said when she went to RIT in the fall she tried her best to sell Arkansas. She said this summer ASD will have interns from the Technology Department. She said she was communicating with the head of UAMS and they will accept placement of one of the intern students.

Dr. Dickinson said they are in the planning stages for hosting the Deaf Ed Conference in Little Rock. The conference is not just for Arkansas. They are looking at having the conference at the Embassy Suites on September 22nd.

Dr. Dickinson and three students just got back from Washington, D.C. They went for CEASD and to support the Cogswell Macy Bill. They visited local monuments and the Smithsonian Museum. She said she personally met Senator Tom Cotton and Representative Rick Crawford. She met with all of the Arkansas legislatures. Senator Tom Cotton wants to visit the school. They also had a booth at the Gallaudet Job Fair. ASD has signed a contract with Arkansas Vocational Rehabilitation. Mr. Krenn said the contract is to educate the students for job readiness. ASD will receive \$100,000 a year for 11th & 12th graders. The contract is for up to seven years. Dr. Watson asked how the funds would be allocated-what categories? Mr. Krenn said they have 4 sections they want the school to focus on. They allocated \$25,000 to each of the sections. Dr. Watson asked what the four sections were. Mr. Krenn said Job Readiness, Transition and he will have to get back with the other two. Ms. McLaughlin asked if there would be an assessment for each of the sections. Mr. Krenn said he was not sure how they would assess. Dr. Dickinson said it was not all on ASD as they are collaborating with VR. She said there would be a VR counselor on the campus. Dr. Dickinson said it is a new process and we will be working together to figure out everything. Dr. Watson asked how much time would be needed from the school staff. Mr. Krenn said it would be ASD's staff's time but they are already paying that with the programs now. Dr. Watson said he would encourage them to set up an accounting system of ASD's contributions and track it. He said it would benefit them with management and reporting. Mr. Krenn said they did have a system that could be set up to track it. Mr. Elam said in billing VR it would take the pressure off of the grant. Dr. Dickinson said it really is taking the pressure off of the school budget.

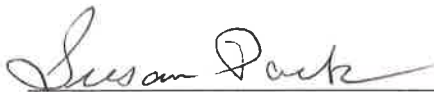
Dr. Dickinson asked Ray to tell about Special Olympics. He said last Saturday Team Ready went to state-wide competition. ASD won gold with a 3-pointer at the buzzer. Ray handed out a newsletter that the Journalism Class is producing.

Ms. McLaughlin said she wanted to commend ASD on all the grants they had received.

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



Dr. Doug Watson, Chair



Susan Pack, 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 March 14, 2017.

Present: Dr. Doug Watson, Chairperson; Faith McLaughlin, Vice Chairperson; Susan Pack, Secretary; Everett Elam, Board Member; Dr. John McAllister, Board Member; Jeanne Tribett, ASBVI Parent Representative; Harry Pompeo, ASD Parent Representative; James Caton, ASBVI Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; Beth Smith and Eddie Schmeckenbecker, Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community

17-B-005 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 Mr. Elam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

None

Discussion Items

None

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Caton stated regarding the Vocational/GT position that ASB does have an approved waiver from ADE for a long-term sub for the GT portion until replaced. For the Vocational teacher position, ASB has a licensed teacher in that position that worked for the school some years ago. She is working as Extra Help filling that need until the position is filled. He said he is hoping to find someone that has both licensures. Ms. McLaughlin asked where they look for people for these positions. Mr. Caton said all openings are posted on the Arkansas Job Site and anyone can access it. Ms. Pack said in the deaf community there is a deaf website for positions and asked if there was anything like that in the blind community. Mr. Caton said there is AER, National Federation for the Blind and several you can list positions on especially when looking for teachers.

Mr. Caton said there are so many things happening now but the biggest news is the \$100,000 grant to implement the EAST (Environment and Spatial Technology) program.

It is real world problem solving based and immersed in technology and the school gets a really cool array of technology equipment that becomes the school's property. Dr. Dickinson asked if it was from the foundation. Mr. Caton said no each year you can apply to the EAST program to be accepted into it. Ms. Pack said it is computers. Mr. Caton said it is not just computers but a broad range of technology that they use in it. They come in and set it up for you – it is like the students become involved in setting up their own lab so they can initiate projects based on real world issues and community issues. One example is Robinson Elementary School – their 3rd grade group has been doing a project with ASB involving 3-D printing projects. Ms. Pack said it was developed in Greenbrier years ago. One of the first things they did was the 911 listings for the Fire Department of Greenbrier. She said it was a fantastic program. Mr. Caton said the school was really excited about the program. He said they had been researching and looking into it for some time. He thanked Ms. Doan, Lori Cole and Maranda Cole for helping him with the work involved in the project. It has the potential to open up some great opportunities for student learning and future career skills/paths. Dr. Watson asked how the funds would be used. Mr. Caton said it goes to purchase the equipment and we will own the equipment. He said they will go Wednesday night to the banquet in Hot Springs and they will recognize ASB as one of the new programs. Mr. Elam said it was amazing what the kids are doing. Ms. Pack said they are doing things that are worthwhile and making an impact on the community. Mr. Caton said these kinds of programs build in the skills that the kids can use for the future. Mr. Elam asked if any other schools for the blind have an EAST program. Mr. Caton said to his knowledge there is no other blind school in the program and it is groundbreaking for us and will be pioneering work for them as well to work with the school's population. Mr. Elam said so we will be the first? Mr. Caton said yes and that was the case with ASB's GT program also. He said the school has had the only GT program in the nation for blind schools.

Mr. Caton said there were several campus projects going on – roofing projects are moving forward.

Regarding Easter Seals – approved to set pre-bid meeting which is a big milestone. We are expecting that meeting to take place later this month depending on everyone's schedules. He said he had passed by there on Monday and they are getting carried away with graffiti on the building. It has been painted over already once and now it needs to be painted over again for some of the more offensive portions so the neighbors do not have to endure it. He said all the "No Trespassing" signs have been torn down and those are being put back up. Ms. McLaughlin asked if it was vandalism from the neighborhood. Mr. Caton said they think it is neighborhood kids on weekends and nights when no one can see them.

Mr. Caton said they are replacing classroom furniture in this building as well as replacing the carpeting. It has been some time since they have had any updates. We are also moving forward with the renovations for eight bathrooms in Prewitt Hall which will be a big improvement for those living spaces.

The school received their initial Accreditation Report and he is in the process of reviewing it and will respond by April 7th to the ADE. There wasn't anything on the report that you would not typically see. Anyone you have on an ALP shows up on it so documentation will be provided for that. The other thing that usually shows up is course offerings where there might not be a student in that particular course for the school year or no student wanted to take that particular course and we are able to provide documentation for that. Other than that he did not see anything that caused concern.

Mr. Caton stated he wanted to mention the new state pay plan which impacts both schools. It is Act 365 if anyone wants to research it. They did go back to taking the merit increases for employees and putting it back into the base pay whereas before they were giving lump sum payouts and it was not going toward the annual salary base. That will make a difference for many of the employees that have stayed over the years in terms of their salaries. Basically overall it will set new minimums for different classifications so if an employee is not at that minimum their pay will increase to that particular minimum and the ones that are at the minimum will get 1%.

Mr. Caton said he has been following a lot of bills from the Legislature Sessions. There are over 1500 bills filed this session. Dr. Watson asked if there were any particular bills the board needed to be aware of or look at. Mr. Caton said he had sent the ones that were specifically related to the board in his report. One has been signed by the Governor regarding the volunteering of board members in schools. The law was that they could not volunteer in public schools nor could their spouses, but now with board approval they can volunteer.

17-B-006 Motion to Adjourn

Ms. Pack made a motion to adjourn and Ms. McLaughlin seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:00.



Dr. Doug Watson, Chair



Susan Pack, Secretary