

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 13, 2018.

Present: Faith McLaughlin, Chairperson; Susan Pack, Vice Chairperson; Everett Elam, Secretary; Dr. John McAllister, Board Member; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Board Member; , 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-003 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 had received a good group of potential applicants for the Fiscal Support Manager position and has scheduled several interviews for next week and will be doing more after Spring Break. Ms. McLaughlin asked where they were coming from. Mr. Caton said he received 14 qualified applicants and more than half come from a variety of state agencies.

He said they are preparing for the annual state assessment, the ACT Aspire, in April. As the end of the school year approaches, there are a lot of activities going on. Everyone is excited about Spring Break.

He said both schools got exempt from receiving a designated letter grade. He said he was very pleased with that outcome because there is no way it would have ended up reflecting the schools accurately based on the data used. He said they would continue to work with the kids to improve and grow because they can achieve just like their sighted peers.

Mr. Caton said they are still waiting on the passenger buses to come in and hoping they will arrive in May with any luck.

He said he attended the State Wrestling Meet. He said when you see the wrestlers achieve and stand on the podium, it makes you really proud. It is amazing when you see the competition there is from all over the state and they hold their own and manage to get on the podium out of all those schools. He said a trip to the national competition in Missouri is being planned for 4 wrestlers. That competition is in April. He said this would be a whole other experience for them to go to the national competition.

There is a team of EAST students currently in Hot Springs attending the annual EAST Conference. It is amazing to see these kids from all over the state doing things from seating people to running the cameras and lighting.

This was the third annual Science Fair and it gets better each year. The projects are getting more in-depth and developed.

Our annual student talent show is this Thursday and hope that you can make it to see the students perform.

He said a lot of campus projects are being finished. Nearly all the roofing is completed. They are still working on the Main Building roof. Renovation work on the Infirmary Building has started. Shults House renovations should begin during Spring Break. The driveway leading down to the back of the Fine Arts Building has finally been repaved and has improved transportation to the back of the building.

Ms. McLaughlin asked if anyone had anything to add. Mr. Elam said the Little Rock Montessori School where his wife worked closed a couple of weeks ago due to low enrollment. One of the teachers of the upper elementary has volunteered to home school approximately 20 kids out of her home. They normally do fundraising during the school year for a field trip. He and his wife decided to put on a concert to raise money for these kids because the money they had raised for their trip is gone. The money was absorbed back into the school. Mr. Caton has agreed to let us use Woolly Auditorium for the concert. The concert will be April 19th. He said he would send out an email and would appreciate everyone being there.

Ms. McLaughlin said if there was nothing else, the meeting would adjourn.

Faith McLaughlin, Chair

Everett Elam, 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 13, 2018.

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-003 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 accept the consent items and Dr. McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

None

Discussion Items

Facility Rentals on ASD Campus

Dr. Dickinson said they have a group that is working together to develop and clarify a policy for renting out facilities. She said she thought they had talked about this before but she is confused about where they are right now. They have been in discussion with the deaf community. They talked about ASD's buildings. She said they have many requests to rent these buildings. At the same time, they are trying to prioritize for ASD students. She said on weekends it could be the deaf community, EStem School or many other groups who want to rent the facilities and it pays well. They have a task force that meets together but thought she would ask the board if they had any strong opinions before they get too far. She said they do not charge the deaf community or other state agencies that need to use the facilities. They do charge other outside group-sometimes they leave a mess. Sometimes they will ask for IT or capabilities to do a power point and on Saturdays our employees are not on campus. She said they have looked at UALR's policy and they have a technology fee and a cleaning fee. She said they thought they might develop something similar. Ms. McLaughlin said she thought they should have deposits, tech fee and cleaning fee. She asked about insurance and liability. Ms. Pack said that was the big thing. Dr. Atcherson asked who benefits – does it go back to the students for awards and scholarships.

Ms. Pack said public schools have the same situations and they do have policy set up. She said she was with Faith on the liability of it and she didn't care what group it was even if it was the deaf community. She said there was a one-time overall insurance that a group can take out. She remembered in the past they had national groups come in and they provided transportation and that was the issue – insurance and liability. She thinks that the insurance issue should be investigated. Dr. Dickinson said they would investigate the issue. She said they would send out a draft next month. She said she did not think there was a rush to make this decision. They want to make sure it is done the right way. Mr. Pompeo said the deaf community is a little upset to see trash on campus. They are okay with the facilities being rented as long as the property/campus is respected. Dr. Dickinson asked Mr. Caton if ASB had a policy and if so to send to her. Mr. Caton said ASB did not get a lot of groups asking to use the auditorium or other facilities. He said ASB does have a use agreement that was drawn up because things would be moved around and not put back. The agreement has been working well. It is mostly community based groups, another state agency or someone in the blind community that asks to use the auditorium. He restricts the use of the auditorium for two weeks in advance if there is a school/student event coming up so no one can use it. Ms. Pack asked if the symphony still used the auditorium. Mr. Caton said the Youth Symphony, Little Rock Wind Symphony and the Rosen Band uses it. Ms. Pack asked if they were charged. Mr. Caton said no because they help the school out in different ways. He said it was his way of participating with the community outside the school. He said the students come first and devised the use agreement to reflect that. Mr. Elam said so many opportunities come as an accident and he thinks it is good to have the insurance but so many relationships between students and outside entities are fostered by people that come to the school and a student meets someone and may get a summer job. Mr. Elam said go for it with the agreement and insurance but make it as approachable as possible. Ms. Pack said so many times that will be the first time a person has been on the school campus and it is eye opening for people and they remember. Ms. McLaughlin said she thought it was a good idea.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Dickinson said she would start with this morning's event at the Capitol. It is Deaf History month and was celebrated with a variety of organizations. She asked Stacey to give a brief synopsis. Stacey said it was a joint partnership between several state agencies. The theme was DEAF-the D for diversity, E for education, A for Achievement and F for Future.

Dr. Dickinson said they had a state Oratorical Competition and the winner was Shannon Varner. She did a beautiful job this morning with her speech.

Dr. Dickinson asked Kara to stand. Kara is an instructional coach and doing a wonderful job. Kara also works with the STEM program. Kara said they were recently selected by the Museum of Discovery to be a part of Stem ??? of Excellence – you evaluate your school and work toward excellence. A group of teachers have been going and bringing back different ideas and ways to increase standards to ASD.

Dr. Dickinson said they have awesome teachers. Recently they have been going out to public schools to observe to see how their curriculum works.

She said she had a wonderful trip to Washington, DC last week with four students. She had the four students introduce themselves and tell something special they learned last week. Dr. Dickinson said they went to the Leadership Workshop at Gallaudet and to the Capitol and met with every member of the Arkansas Delegation or their staff. The kids represented the school very well. They are great kids. Mr. Elam asked who interpreted for the kids. Dr. Dickinson said they went as part of the CEASD and they had interpreters for us.

Dr. Dickinson said they have been working with the staff, students and parents on revisiting their Mission Statement. She said they would be sending out a link this week and asking them for their feedback on the final draft of the school's Mission Statement. She said they should be getting the ASD News every week and if not to let her know.

Dr. Dickinson said last Monday afternoon she was running late to a meeting with Nurse Vicki and was trying to hurry. She said somehow she missed the last step, fell and broke her ankle. Today was her first full day without crutches.

There being no further business for the Arkansas School for the Deaf, the agenda moved to 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 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 13, 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; , 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 April 17, 2018.

18-J-005 Motion to Approve Minutes

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

Action Items

None

Ms. McLaughlin took this time to introduce and welcome the newest board member, Dr. Sam Atcherson. Dr. Atcherson thanked her for the kind introduction. He said he was an audiologist by trade. He said he had hearing loss most of his life since he was three. He said he currently works at UALR as the Director of Audiology. He said in various phases of his life he has been involved with the Deaf Community and Deaf Culture. He knows sign language. He said he was very interested in doing what he can to assist both schools and looks forward to working with the Board of Trustees and both communities.

Ms. McLaughlin asked the board members if everyone had the Rules for Board Government and Operations. She suggested they go through it if not already done so they would know why the board is here. She said they have two very good superintendents and they are in charge of running the schools. The board is here to oversee finances and keep things rolling along unless there is a major issue within the schools. She encouraged them to go through the rules and if there were any questions they could be discussed at the next meeting.

Discussion Items New Superintendent Evaluation Process

Ms. McLaughlin stated Bonita Nash from Personnel was here to go over the new State of Arkansas 2017-2018 Performance Evaluations. Ms. Nash said the state of Arkansas had implemented a new performance evaluation system for all state employees. She said they should have received a copy of the new evaluation. She said there were new rating categories and they could look at them and the descriptions for each on page 3. Pages 4 – 10 are groups/measurements and will be up to the rater to decide which groups the employee will be rated on according to the measurements. The physical year 2018 rating dates will be July 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018. All employee evaluations are to be completed by April 30th and is an online system. Ms. McLaughlin asked if this would be for the superintendents also. Ms. Nash said yes. Ms. McLaughlin said so the board will evaluate the superintendents based on this model. She asked if there were any pages that would not be relevant for the superintendents. Ms. Nash said that would be a decision for the board to make. Ms. Nash asked if there were any questions. Mr. Caton said he thought they would find that the categories and groups are very broad. He said what they are doing with their employees is the supervisors are going through the current evaluations to see how the new categories line up with the current evaluations and standards. He said you choose the ones that are applicable and relevant. He said he could choose specific ones that he might want everyone across the school to be evaluated on but other than that it would be the individual supervisor that choose areas. Ms. Pack said it would be helpful if the board could get a copy of the one we used so they could make comparisons. Mr. Caton said this was an online system now not a paper system. Ms. Nash said the board will complete the paper copy and send to the HR office to be put in the system. Ms. Pack said they would need to complete the superintendent evaluation at the next meeting (April 17th) since the deadline is April 30th. Ms. Pack asked if they would send each evaluation to the appropriate HR at each school and Ms. Nash said that was correct.

ASD Parent Representative – Harry Pompeo

Mr. Pompeo said there was a parent meeting last Thursday that focused on sharing information, as well as discussing the new mission statement. The next meeting will focus on the 2018-2019 school year.

ASD had Black History month in February. Elizabeth Eckford was invited to the school. The students watched a movie about the Little Rock Nine and Central High School. She talked about her experience as part of the Little Rock Nine.

February 15th ASD attended the Gallaudet Midwest Regional Academic Bowl. ASD was 3 – 3 posting one of their best performances at Regionals. Top scorers were Shannon Varner and Ethan Pompeo with over 30 points each.

Special Olympics (SOAR) have been busy planning for the state basketball tournament in Russellville on March 15th and 16th. 34 athletes participated in track and field at Forest Heights Middle School and it was a very good competition. There is a big event this weekend which is the Deaf Teen America Pageant. There are 3 schools competing – Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, California School for the Deaf and the Arkansas School for the Deaf. The winner of the event will represent as the national Mr. and Miss Deaf Teen America. Dr. Dickinson thanked Mr. Caton for the use of ASB’s auditorium for the event on Saturday.

He said they had an announcement from Deaf Digest today who selected Mikka Coburn who is here tonight as a high scoring athlete.

ASB Parent Representative – Vacant

Ms. Doan reported that the ASB wrestlers did a great job at the State Tournament against all sighted wrestlers. ASB took six wrestlers and three of them placed. The coaches said they received a lot of feedback that our wrestlers were very polite on and off the mat.

Six students are at the EAST Conference in Hot Springs this week. Two are on the communications team, two on the technology team and two on the booth team.

GT students have been attending sessions at the Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub which offers field trips and classes in the areas of Video Game Design, 3D Design, Laser Cutting, Arduino, Engineering, Flight, Electricity, Screen Printing, Printmaking, Ceramics and Image Transfers.

Dance classes are being offered after school on Thursdays. There are 17 participants ranging from kindergarten to seniors. A community dance instructor is volunteering her time to teach the students.

ASB’s Talent Show is this Thursday evening 6:30 – please come. There was a Black History program in February. Science Fair projects are around the room – please take a look at them. Read Across America week was celebrated along with Dr. Sues’s birthday. The kids had green eggs and ham and they loved it.

ACT Aspire testing will be April 16 – 20. The end of the quarter is March 14.

Ms. Doan was contacted by Independent Industries for the Blind to see if ASB would host a “Blind Idol” competition. This would be for adults. She is talking with them to see what can be worked out.

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

Faith McLaughlin, Chair

Everett Elam, Secretary