

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 12, 2019.

Present: Susan Pack, Chairperson; Dr. John McAllister, Vice-Chairperson; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Secretary; Everett Elam, Board Member (Via Phone); Faith McLaughlin, Board Member; James Caton, ASBVI Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; , (Vacant) ASB Parent Representative; (Vacant) , 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 4:00 pm. The next meeting was scheduled for April 16, 2019 at Arkansas School for the Deaf.

19-J-005 Motion to Approve Minutes

Ms. Pack asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February meeting. Dr. McAllister made a motion to approve the February, 2019 minutes and Ms. McLaughlin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (with one correction to the ASB minutes).

Action Items

None

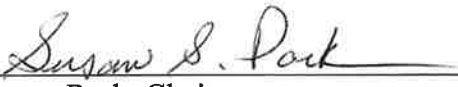
Discussion Items

None


Mr. Caton said he wanted to mention that Superintendent evaluations are due next month and the School Calendar will need to be approved.

Ms. Pack asked Mr. Caton to talk about the meeting with Entergy. Mr. Caton said he managed to get a meeting set with Entergy Arkansas for both schools on April 4th at 1:00 in the ASB conference room. Ms. Pack said she talked with Stan and she is going to send him the timeline that Mr. Caton made. Stan is going to look at it and get back with any information he might remember from that time.

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



Susan Pack, Chair



Dr. Sam Atcherson, Secretary

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ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

The Board of Trustees for the Arkansas School for the Deaf met for their monthly meeting on March 12, 2019.

Present: Susan Pack, Chairperson; Dr. John McAllister, Vice Chairperson; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Secretary; , Everett Elam (Via Phone), Board Member; Faith McLaughlin, Board Member; Vacant, ASB Parent Representative; Vacant, 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

19-D-003 Motion to Approve Consent Items

Ms. Pack asked for a motion to approve the consent items to include the minutes, financial statement and personnel items. Dr. McAllister made a motion to approve the consent items and Ms. McLaughlin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

Request an Investment Withdrawal

Dr. Dickinson stated she wanted to give some background information for this request. She said Michael Krenn was ASD's Business Manager and he recently took a position with the Department of Labor. She said at that time she asked for a replacement for that position but presently no replacements reporting to the Superintendent can be replaced due to the transition. DF&A said they would come to help ASD in the meantime. DF&A said they would have someone take over that role until June 30th. The same thing happened for the HR Manager position - Kristi, HR Manager resigned. At this point, OPM has taken over the HR role. ASD is working with one person from OPM for HR and one person from DF&A for the finance. She said at first she was concerned about the situation but now she is very appreciative of both people. They are very knowledgeable and supportive. When DFA took over the budget, they found there were some things that needed addressing. In February and March, ASD had very low disbursements but in April will increase again. It just happened at the same time ASD had a low amount disbursed, they had an emergency situation happen at the school. There was a sewage backup that cost a lot of money to be resolved. The DF&A point person, Melanie, has been working with ASD and highly recommended that they ask the board if they could move some funding from cash to address the emergency situations/bills.

The intention is that in April, May and June the money will be moved back and this would resolve the cash flow problem they are having now. In order to do that, Dr. Dickinson said she would like to ask the board if they could move \$100,000 from cash to another line so it could be used to pay for the things that need to be addressed with the intent to return. Ms. Pack said she had met with Janet and Beth and they said they know more about the budget now than they have ever known with having the DF&A person there. It is at the DF&A's suggestion that ASD does this and it is necessary that it is done. There are other factors that have been involved as Merit raises that weren't figured in. Ms. Pack said Janet would be happy to meet with any board member individually and talk to you if you have more questions.

19-D-004 Motion to Approve Withdrawal for ASD

Dr. McAllister made a motion to allow the \$100,000 withdrawal from cash to move to another line to be used to pay the emergency situations with the intent to return the money back to cash in April, May or June. Mr. Elam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Pack said she wanted to tell both superintendents how much she enjoys getting their reports every month so they know everything that is going on at the schools. Ms. McLaughlin said she agreed that it gives them a complete picture of what is going on at the schools that they probably wouldn't necessarily know about.

Ms. Pack said she had contacted the Attorney General's Office about Faith and Everett continuing to serve until a replacement has been named and it is fine and they would have voting privileges. Mr. Elam asked what the status was on making the new appointments. Ms. Pack said James has written a letter and nothing has been heard.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Dickinson said there were a lot of good things happening on their campus. She said she had asked a few people to share information. First was Staci. Stacie said that tomorrow ASD would have two of their students going to the legislature to serve as pages for Representative Gary Deffenbaum. Ethan Pompeo and Shannon Varner are going and they will represent ASD very well. Next, Ray shared information about their Washington, DC trip. He said they took six students on the trip. They toured Gallaudet University and they went to Senator Cotton's office. They were there for the Senate vote. They met Senator Cotton and had photos made with him. The Cogwell Macy Act was put in to the legislature and now waiting on a vote. The kids had a wonderful time and it was a wonderful opportunity for them.

Dr. Dickinson asked Rick to talk about the meeting with ADE. Rick said they were invited to have a meeting to discuss the NASD Standards for outcomes for deaf and hard of hearing. They look at deaf education certification, deaf education training programs, and the licensure areas. He said it was a good meeting and they are going to meet more. Dr. McAllister asked if he had data and Rick told him not now since this was their first meeting. Rick said it would be coming soon.

Dr. Dickinson asked Eddie to talk about ASL classes. Eddie said they just finished their 10-week course and had about 50 students in the class. He said another class would be starting the week after Spring break on Tuesdays from 3:30 – 5:00. In July he will teach another class every Tuesday from 6-8. He said in the fall he would start ASL 1, 2 and 3 – the Monday after Labor Day. Ms. McLaughlin asked what the hours were. Eddie said Monday from 6:00-7:15; Tuesday from 3:30 – 5:00 and during the summer 6:00 – 8:00.

Dr. Dickinson said they have been working hard on Parnell Hall. They had the opening construction meeting this morning and they started working on Parnell Hall this afternoon. On the back side of Parnell when you go in there will be an additional building and there will be an elevator in that stair area.

Dr. Dickinson said an ADE team came and looked at the buildings and asked a lot of questions. It was a good opportunity to show the buildings and the positive programs ASD is doing

Last week she had a Community Town Hall meeting and they had a good turnout, about 40 – 50 people. They were able to show them about the transformation and what is happening with ASD. She also had a Staff Town Hall meeting on Friday afternoon. It was very similar. She said with both DF&A and OPM taking over, there has been a lot of scrutiny. There have been no concerns just ideas and things that could be done differently.

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



Susan Pack, Chair



Dr. Sam Atcherson, 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 12, 2019.

Present: Susan Pack, Chairperson; Dr. John McAllister, Vice Chairperson; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Secretary; , Board Member; , Board Member; Vacant, ASBVI Parent Representative; Vacant, 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

19-B-003 Motion to Approve Consent Items

Ms. Pack 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 Dr. McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

None

Discussion Items

None

Superintendent Report

Mr. Caton said he would start with what we know as the parent report. He said the annual Black History Program was February 30th. Mayor Scott was the speaker. He is a very good speaker and very cordial. Mr. Caton said he was presented a Black History T-Shirt, as well a school annual. This was the first year there has been a t-shirt made for the assembly. The theme was Faith & Courage All Year so they will be worn on Fridays once a month till the end of school. There were also performers from Parkview Magnet Arts & Science, NJROTC did the Presentation of Colors, Joe T Robinson High School Choir and Mabelvale Middle School Dancers. There were special guests from the UAPB and Philander Smith College. Stacey McKinney showcased his artwork.

ASB took an AMI day on February 26th due to the increased illness/sickness at the school. The absence list has gotten shorter.

Dr. Jay Powell and his team visited the school to present a dental health awareness program for the Pre-K and Elementary students.

ASB had Read Across America week. There were different themes each day as well as Dr. Seuss Day

Pulaski Tech came and gave ten students the Accuplacer test which is a college entrance test. There were immediate results and the students did quite well on the test. ASB is looking at a future partnership with Pulaski Tech for the students to earn college credits.

The EAST students are currently in Hot Springs at the annual EAST Conference.

Thursday will be the Student Talent Show. Administration decided to host an Open House before the talent show. Mr. Caton welcomed anyone to drop by during this time (3:00 – 5:00). Dinner will be at 5:00 and the talent show at 6:00.

ADE Division of Public School Academic Facilities & Transportation toured the campus on March 5th to tour the school buildings. The visit went very well and they showed quite an interest in the school, buildings and facilities. The team looked at a lot of different things and asked lots of questions. Several made comments to Mr. Caton that they were impressed with ASB's facilities. Ms. Pack asked if they would send a report back. Mr. Caton said he did not think a report will come back. He thinks part of it was judging where ASB is in terms of public schools and compliance with different regulations in the facilities.

Mr. Caton said the main driveway lights leading from the auditorium have been replaced with nice LED's. He said it should help the guards and traffic on Woolly Drive. He said next week the auditorium/stage lights will be replaced.

Mr. Caton said several of the wrestling team participated in the State Competition. ASB had one wrestler make it to the platform. He came close to getting first but ended up second place. The team made a very good effort and held their own. Tomorrow Special Olympics will be held at ASD and ASB will be participating in that as well.

Mr. Caton said next month the school calendar will be ready for the board to approve. He said the first day of school had to be decided. Public schools cannot start before August 13th which is a Tuesday. He said last year public schools requested a waiver to start early and it was approved. He thinks the waiver is for 5 years. Mr. Caton said he didn't see an issue with the school starting classes on a Tuesday because registration could still be done on Sunday. It would just be the out of town dormitory students that would remain Sunday – Monday. Dr. Dickinson asked if he had LR School District's calendar. He said he had Pulaski County and Little Rock and they are both starting on the 13th.

Ms. McLaughlin asked when graduation dates were for both schools. Mr. Caton said ASB Senior Graduation will be May 17th at 10:00 am in Woolly Auditorium. Dr. Dickinson said ASB is going to let ASD use their auditorium for graduation on May 15th at 6:00 pm in Woolly Auditorium because Parnell will be closed.

Ms. Pack asked if ASD had the date for their carnival. Michelle said the carnival will be April 25th from 5:00 – 8:00.

There being no further business for the Arkansas School for the Blind, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40.


Susan Pack, Chair


Dr. Sam Atcherson, Secretary