

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 Blind and Visually Impaired and the Arkansas School for the Deaf met for their monthly meeting on November 17, 2020.

Present: Roy DePriest, Chairperson; Dr. John McAllister, Vice-Chairperson; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Secretary; Faith McLaughlin, Board Member; Susan Pack, Board Member; James Caton, ASBVI Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; Dr. Priya Gupta, ASB Parent Representative; Holley Mott, ASD Parent Representative; Beth Johnson and Eddie Schmeckenbecher, Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community, Hillcrest Residents

Mr. DePriest called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Next meeting - December 15, 2020 at the Arkansas School for the Deaf.

Dr. Dickinson asked if the community could attend the zoom meeting

Mr. DePriest said it is a public meeting – yes

Joint Agenda

20-J-019 Motion to Approve Minutes for October

Mr. DePriest moved to approve, Ms. McLaughlin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Caton presented an award to Faith McLaughlin from the ASBA for Outstanding Board Member Award for 25 hours of continuing educational credit.

Action Items – None

Discussion Items – None

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

Arkansas School for the Deaf Agenda

20-D-022 Motion to Approve Consent Items to Include the Minutes, Financial Statement and Personnel Items

Ms. McLaughlin moved to approve, Mr. DePriest seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Items – None

Discussion Items – None

Superintendent Report

Flu clinic today – 52 injections
Virtual learning plan approved for December by ADE
Students will go home for Thanksgiving and not return until January 4th
Staff will be involved in different projects
Meeting with Dr. Anderson & Dr. McAllister about Celebrating Diversity
Had a few COVID issues – Lower School closed last week
Today someone in the ADC staff tested positive-students sent home
Vicki has been working double shifts for 9 weeks due to nurse vacancies
Vicki is Point of Contact for COVID
Child Nutrition received grant money for new dishwasher to be installed in December
Media Team meets every Friday for Social Media, Facebook, Website, ASD News
Media Team leading the Silent Sunday social media campaign
Michele discussed the Silent Sunday program for this year
Thanksgiving dinner for students & staff
Starting Phase 4 in Parnell Hall - Wagner General Construction won the bid
Having facilities issues – no heat in several areas on campus
Appreciate the meetings every Friday with Secretary Key
Working with Sparkfund on preventative maintenance
Using their General Fund money to pay for repairs that cannot wait
Maintenance replaced 50 old cracked windows/New water heater in CTE/Replaced 100 ceiling tiles
Mock elections held in High School

Ms. Pack recognized Eddie for being named as one of the 250 Outstanding Arkansans by Arkansas Business Magazine.

The meeting moved to the Arkansas School for the Blind agenda.

Arkansas School for the Blind

20-B-024 Motion to Approve Consent Items to Include Minutes, Financial Statement and Personnel Items

Ms. McLaughlin moved to approve, Mr. DePriest seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Item

Mr. Caton explained the Tuition Support for TVI. He said ASB has been struggling with the tuition reimbursement for the teachers that enter the Teacher of the Visually Impaired Certification program. The state criteria reimbursement changed taking a lot longer for the teachers to get reimbursed versus them being reimbursed as they go through the program (which is how it was previously). After much thought and discussions with the Foundation, the Foundation was interested in helping support the teachers in this endeavor. He said they wanted the board to approve ASB using their cash investment account to help support the tuition cost for the teachers going through the TVI program. At some point, the teacher will get reimbursed and when that happens that money will come back to ASB and the Foundation for their contributions. The program through Stephen F. Austin University total cost for the 21 hours is \$11,655. Currently there are 3 teachers enrolled. The spring projection enrollment is 6. ASB would pay half and the Foundation would pay half. Mr. Caton said he has talked/cleared with ADE. Discussion followed.

20-B-025 Motion to Approve Tuition Support for TVI (Using Investment Accounts)

Dr. McAllister moved to approve, Ms. McLaughlin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items – None

Superintendent Report

Budget hearing on the 12th
Category D Reserve Funding restored
Campus Facility meeting this month with Secretary Key & other personnel to discuss options for funding larger facility projects.
Meeting with Mary Claire Hyatt today
Celebrated Employees Years of Service by zoom
ASBA Conference December 9-11/Early Bird Discount deadline is December 1st

Superintendent Report (Continued)

Will not have traditional Thanksgiving lunch – will be grab & go

Flu Clinic held today

Wellness Committee met this month

High School switched to virtual due to 2 teachers testing positive

Wagner Construction removing old windows to be ready for new ones for Infirmary

Installing lighting inside the building, flooring and other finishing touches

East end of gym renovation nearing completion

ANCR grant funding for Hill cottage renovation – will open bids soon

Tree planting from the Forestry Service tomorrow – Shade Trees for Playgrounds

Dr. Dickinson asked the board to go into Executive Session 6:06 – 6:53

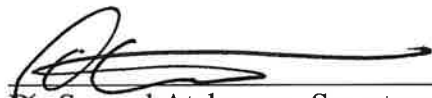
Mr. DePriest stated no action taken in Executive Session.

20-B-026 Motion to Adjourn

Ms. McLaughlin moved to adjourn, Mr. DePriest seconded. Motion passed unanimously.



Roy DePriest, Chair



Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Secretary