

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 November 28, 2017.

**Present:** 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; 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 was scheduled for December 12<sup>th</sup> after much discussion (because school will be out on the 19<sup>th</sup>).

**17-J-013 Motion to Approve Minutes**

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

**Action Items**  
**None**

**Discussion Items**

**ASD Parent Representative – Harry Pompeo**

Mr. Pompeo reported Silent Sunday held on November 5<sup>th</sup> was another successful event. It really helps fund ASD technology needs throughout the school. He thanked everyone for their hard work on Silent Sunday.

ASD held their annual Thanksgiving lunch on November 16<sup>th</sup> for students, family and staff. The staff also participated in the Thanksgiving Box Project giving boxes to the students needing help for Thanksgiving.

The dorm staff cooked breakfast last month for the students. The students seemed to really enjoy and it also gave them the opportunity to learn to cook. There was a Halloween party for the Lower School that included pumpkin face painting. The kids had a lot of fun. Lower School went trick or treating in the Hillcrest neighborhood.

Middle School and High School students (and staff) attended a football game at Jacksonville High School game November 2<sup>nd</sup> to support Shaq'ke (ASD student) on Senior Night. High School dorm students are reading books to sign stories for Lower School dorm students.

ASD students that received good behavior points attended the Arkansas State Fair. Lower School students took a field trip to the Pumpkin Patch.

Mr. Pompeo said ASD has a basketball game tonight against the Falcons (girls and boys varsity). December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> ASD will be going to Oklahoma School for the Deaf for the annual classic. Next year will be ASD's turn to host the classic.

Ms. McLaughlin said wanted to tell them Silent Sunday was wonderful. She asked when they would know how much they raised. Staci said the money was still coming in.

### **ASB Parent Representative – Jeannie Tribett**

In Ms. Tribett's absence, Mr. Williams gave the ASB report.

Mr. Williams reported on October 18<sup>th</sup> both elementary and secondary students along with staff attended the Arkansas State Fair. It was a great opportunity for staff to enjoy time with the students and there was also good parent representation.

October 27<sup>th</sup> ASB had their AR Rally for elementary and middle school. 81% of elementary students (1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades) have met their 25% AR goal which means they are on track. Two students have reached their 50% goal. 52% of middle school students have met their 25% goal. This is a big improvement over last year.

ASD celebrated Red Ribbon Week the week of October 30<sup>th</sup>. Each day the students participated in a different theme and dressed accordingly. On the 31<sup>st</sup>, the theme was "Say Boo to Drugs". The students participated in trick or treat stations all over the school campus. This year there was a small carnival set up in the library for elementary. That evening there was the traditional Halloween Dance.

31 staff members attended the annual AER Conference in Little Rock on November 6<sup>th</sup>. . On November 7<sup>th</sup>, the middle school students went on a field trip to the Pecan Orchard in Mayflower. Homecoming was November 6-10<sup>th</sup>. Homecoming activities included themed dress up days, crowning ceremony, pep rally, dance, parade, tailgate lunch party, annual chili cook off and good wrestling matches. ASB students represented the school well in their respective weight classes with a first place and three second places

November 13<sup>th</sup>, some students participated in the Special Olympics bowling competition. The students did very well bringing home two 5<sup>th</sup> place ribbons, two 4<sup>th</sup> place ribbons, four Bronze medals, six Silver medals and seven Gold medals. The students showed good sportsmanship and team spirit.

Third through tenth grades took the ACT Aspire interim test and first through eighth grades participated in grade level spelling bees.

Mr. Elam said the Alumni are selling Christmas trees in front of the school close to Markham. He said he and his wife were going to play Christmas carols one evening and he will let everyone know when they will be there. He said the Christmas trees were already half way gone.

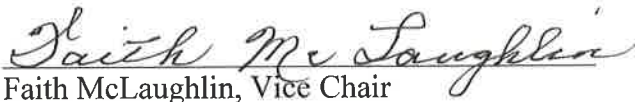
Ms. Doan said there was bulletin board highlighting Special Olympics outside in the hall. She hopes everyone will take time to look at it before they leave.

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



---

Dr. Doug Watson, Chair



---

Faith McLaughlin, Vice Chair

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 November 28, 2017.

**Present:** Faith McLaughlin, Vice Chairperson; Susan Pack, Secretary; Everett Elam, Board Member; Dr. John McAllister, Board Member; 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

**17-D-022 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. Mr. Elam made a motion to approve the consent items and Ms. Pack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action Items**

**None**

**Discussion Items**

**ASD Internal Control & Compliance Assessment – Arkansas Legislative Audit**

Dr. Dickinson asked Mr. Krenn to address the audit discussion item. Dr. Dickinson stated the audit report is an annual event. He said this happened during the year when ASD did not have a business manager. She said Mr. Krenn has come in and done a fabulous job cleaning up and making sure the audit report looks better than ever. She thanked him so much.

Mr. Krenn said there was a total of three findings. The first finding was concerning mileage. The maintenance supervisor transports back and forth with his truck and per the IRS there should have been a \$1.50 per trip to his paycheck and the other issue was they were not keeping accurate logs. From what he found out prior to Steve taking over transportation, the log books were removed. There is now log books in every vehicle and maintained on a daily basis. He said that was the biggest finding because we were not in compliance with the vehicle regulations. The second two findings they said there was a lack of approval on transactions but they did not understand our approval process. There is a separate process that ASD uses for the approvals. They want to see his signature on every invoice and there is not enough time to do that.

The state requires three quotes when it is over a certain dollar amount. He said ASD bought a tractor that was over \$30,000. Instead of putting the quote that was already completed by the state onto the purchase requisition, we improperly documented it. He said that was his first two weeks at ASD. He said the one question they asked ASD was concerning the three quotes. The legislator made the remark that everyone should know that because it is statewide. Ms. Pack asked if the auditor still comes and stays on campus during the audit. Mr. Krenn said yes they were at ASD about 3 weeks. Mr. Krenn said the goal was to not have any audit findings for FY 17. He said they should start in April with ASB but it depends on their staffing abilities. You get a phone call saying they are coming so you do not get a lot of notice.

### **Superintendent Report**

Dr. Dickinson said each department head submits their news and there is a lot happening. She said in the past month, Staci and herself went to NTID because that is one place that has a lot of young deaf professionals and are graduating with deaf education degrees. She said they had students sign up for interviews. They came back with 6 interns who will be coming in the spring for their internships. Ms. Pack asked if there were many other schools there interviewing. Dr. Dickinson said not many schools were there. There were more businesses than schools that attended.

Dr. Dickinson thanked the board members for attending Silent Sunday. She said they appreciated the support.

She said they went to the Arkansas Legislature Council and were able to get approval for an exchange of four very low level positions. Three are cooking positions and were able to exchange those for dorm positions that we really need. The dorm is growing and has around 90 students.

She said she had been attending Lead K meetings and it is led by members of the deaf community. Many other states have passed a Lead K law so there is pressure on Arkansas to pass a Lead K law. Lead K is a focus on assessing language in early childhood. Many deaf children arrive in kindergarten and have no language skills. The Lead K group is advocating for assessing and providing those interventions at an earlier age. There is another group (AG Bell) and they have a law they are working to pass. Both laws are focusing on language but are two separate groups. Dr. Dickinson said she developed their own law that will include both laws. She said she sent it to the Lead K group and they are in the process of reviewing it and will provide feedback. She will send to AG Bell also. The goal is to have one law.

Dr. Dickinson said ASD has Christmas cards for sale. Staci said the Arkansas School for the Deaf Foundation is selling cards this year. She brought cards to look at and buy. All the cards are designed by students and there are four different designs. You get 20 cards and 25 envelopes for \$20.

Ms. Pack asked if they could back up to the Lead K – who is Lead K? Dr. Dickinson said in other states Lead K is led by the deaf community. She said there were wonderful people on the Lead K panel who are very knowledgeable. Elaine Boling is chairing and Dr. Glen Anderson has been attending.

Dr. Dickinson said their enrollment continues to rise and as of today there are 140 students.

Ms. Pack said back to the staff hires. She said she notice some former students on the hired list. She said that is a good thing.

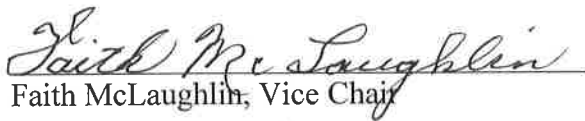
Ms. McLaughlin said she noticed they are still having the parent meetings and asked how they were coming along. Dr. Dickinson said they have them the first Thursday night of the month. She said they were having pretty good attendance. She said they tried to have one in north Arkansas but no one showed up this time. They are going to try again.

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



---

Dr. Doug Watson, Chair



Faith McLaughlin, Vice Chair

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 November 28, 2017.

**Present:** Faith McLaughlin, Vice Chairperson; Susan Pack, Secretary; Everett Elam, Board Member; Dr. John McAllister, Board Member; 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

**17-B-026 Motion to Approve Consent Items**

Faith 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 Dr. McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action Items**

**Approval of Wells Fargo Investment Fund Withdrawal**

Ms. McLaughlin asked Mr. Caton to explain the action item listed. Mr. Caton said it was his understanding that if ASB was going to withdraw over \$25,000 that board approval was needed. He said he was in the process of researching the possibility of purchasing a new bus. He said they were really looking more at purchasing two 15 passenger vans. He said they were still in the process of researching the cost and availability and do not have an exact amount at this time. He said at some point they would be withdrawing a significant amount of the cash out of that fund. He said when the fund was originally set up it was to be used for the kids as it earned money. He said he didn't have the exact figure but there was approximately \$130,000 to \$140,000 in cash in the fund that is available. Ms. McLaughlin said knowing the history of the bus and the breakdowns, bad weather and kids being stuck on the side of the road, she strongly approves of purchasing the bus. Ms. Pack asked if the Wells Fargo account was like a foundation or is it cash that has been donated to the school. Mr. Caton said he did not know where all the sources have come from but a large part of it when it was set up was taken from the treasury account that was in place. Ms. Pack says the school oversees it? Ms. McLaughlin said she thought originally Mary and Doug oversaw it. Mr. Caton said that was right, but currently it is him, Mindy and Doug. Ms. Pack asked if the state came in to do an audit would they audit that account. Mr. Caton said yes, you will see it on the financial reports. It is considered school funds and subject to audit. Ms. McLaughlin said she thought the purpose of it was to use that money to go back into the school for the things the kids needed.

She said you can always keep investing but if there is a need at the school then that money should be available to you. Mr. Caton said this would come from the cash account not from the actual investment. Ms. McLaughlin asked if the board needed to vote on it. Mr. Caton said he didn't know if they needed to vote it tonight but he did want to alert the board that in the very near future they would be withdrawing a sizeable amount.

**Discussion Items  
None**

**Superintendent Report**

Mr. Caton said Mr. Williams had mentioned quite a few things that are in his report. He said he did want to make the board aware that even though the Alumni is a separate organization from the school, they give a significant amount of support to the school and its programs. They give financial support in several ways – scholarship for graduating senior every year and they help cover the cost of the year book as well as many other projects throughout the year. Buy a Christmas tree.

Mr. Caton said recently the Department of Education Gifted and Talented Division conducted their 5-year audit of the Gifted and Talented program. He said ASB continues to be the only blind school in the US that has a Gifted and Talented program. He said they have been rebuilding the program from the ground up with the help of Michelle Tull, coordinator of the program. He said the review went very well. They were pleased with the direction the school is headed and the progress that is being made. He believes it is going to lead to a much stronger and effective GT program. He said along with that ASB is starting to expand the AP and Pre AP programs and course offerings for the students which work along with the GT program. He said they had the ACT Aspire interim test this past month. He said it gives a lot of good data on student weaknesses and strengths in preparation for the annual state assessment coming up later in the spring. He asked Ms. Doan if she had anything to add. Ms. Doan said Mr. Williams is working with UALR to become a practicum teaching site through their Special Education Department. Dr. McAllister is helping with the mobility and work with some of his interns who are local and coordinating with one from Puerto Rico. It is exciting to have young professionals continue to want to work at the school. UALR no longer has a Teacher of the Visually Impaired program so now they have to go out of state to make sure all our teachers are certified to work with blind and visually impaired students in addition to orientation and mobility. She said UAPB is sending interns and ASU Beebe also. She said the EAST program Mr. Caton has mentioned before is really exciting. She said they have managed to work magic and are able to Bluetooth braille printers. It is amazing to see the things the children are doing. They are the driving force behind it. It is not part of the GT program. It is student focused learning and is a lot of hands-on learning.



She said as Athletic Director she was thrilled to get a new bus. She said ASB is participating this weekend in the Central Classic Wrestling Tournament at Central High School.

Mr. Caton said he wanted to give an update on the facility projects that are going on at the school. He said many of them are starting to happen at once. The Main Building roofing project is moving toward the West Wing and will move to the middle part of the building. Tomorrow they will start on the gym roofing project. The cottage roofing project is almost complete. The Shults House and Business Office roofing projects are complete. The Prewitt Hall bathroom renovation is nearly completed. The boys will be moving back after Christmas break. Shults House bathroom renovation will start after Prewitt is complete. A sprinkler system will also be installed in Shults House. Ms. Pack said she wanted to applaud what had been done in the Multi-Purpose room.

The Christmas Concert will be December 14<sup>th</sup>. The parent dinner will be at 5:00 and the program will begin at 6:30.

Ms. Doan said Dr. McAllister has agreed to be Santa Clause for our elementary Christmas party. Cookies for Santa will be December 9<sup>th</sup>. That is for our little bitty kids and they come from all over the state. They get to do some activities and it is a lot of parent education. Parents get to meet each other and talk about blindness.

Mr. Elam said they had put him on the board of AER along with Eric Yarberry (former student). If anything needs to be done at AER he would be one of the people that can be contacted. That is beginning next year.

Ms. McLaughlin adjourned the meeting at 5:00



---

Dr. Doug Watson, Chair



Faith McLaughlin, Vice Chair