

OFFICIAL MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF THE
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

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 October 12, 2021.

Present: Dr. John McAllister, Chair; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Vice-Chair; Susan Pack, Board Member; Rob Fagan, Board Member; James Caton, ASBVI Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; Holley Mott, ASD Parent Representative; Jaime Bilancione, Will Goram, Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community

Absent: Faith McLaughlin, Secretary

Dr. John McAllister called the meeting to order at 5:02. The next meeting was scheduled for November 16, 2021 at the Arkansas School for the Blind.

Joint Agenda

21-J-018 Motion to Approve Joint September, 2021 Minutes

Mr. Fagan moved to approve, Mrs. Pack seconded. Motion passed.

Action Items – None

Discussion Items

Mask Mandate Review

Mr. Caton said his recommendation is to continue through next month
The issue is to go before the Arkansas Supreme Court next month also
Feedback from parents is positive especially since there is not a virtual learning option this year
Should have vaccine for 5 – 11 age children soon
Entering cold and flu season and it will help with that – it helped last year

Dr. Dickinson said she supports continuing the mask requirement
She believes it will look different in the next month

21-J-019 Motion to Extend the Mask Requirement for Another Month

Mrs. Pack moved to approve, Dr. Atcherson seconded. Motion passed.

Shared Services

Dr. Dickinson said they have a meeting with different shared services leaders

Assessing the procedures and policies to possibly streamline

Recommendations have been made – gave board copy of recommendations

Mr. Caton said transportation has been shared for decades – policies & procedures in place for a long time. Dr. Dickinson said Transportation has written their policies.

Mr. Caton said he likes the idea of the branding – will go a long way in building a team concept

ASB does have on-line registration – looking at paperwork to try to streamline (i.e., medical forms)

Wanting to implement School Dude – Roy working to help get this up and running

ASB working on getting more doors keyless to help with key management

Dr. Dickinson introduced Kevin – he takes care of safety, asset management and RAVE

Mike Miller takes care of ASB's asset management and will continue to do so

Mr. Caton went over recommendations for Maintenance, Safety and Health Services

Mrs. Pack asked Vicki what is being said about how soon you can take a flu shot after the vaccine. Vickie said you can get them at the same time. Dr. Gupta said she had heard the same thing.

Mr. Caton said they are working on additional things that will possibly be brought to board in November in coordination with the Low Vision Clinic – working to streamline (Eye reports, emergency in Low Vision, Emergency Prescription filled, Training/Education on blindness and eye conditions)

Custodial – Team climate and shared equipment, cross training as custodians work on both campuses

Dr. Atcherson asked if they were moving forward or is the recommendations for the board to see.

Dr. Dickinson said both – it is important that they have a shared vision of what is supposed to be happening in each department. It is important for the board to see and acknowledge it. It is even more important for all the staff to see what the expectations are. Mr. Caton said they do not look at it as conclusive because they will learn as they move forward. They will probably come back with tweaks or adjustments as needed. He said overall it is a good starting point toward building a team concept.

Dr. Dickinson said the vision she has is this is the first step – at ASD they have a teacher handbook, student handbook and addendums for statewide services. She said it is the first scratch to developing a handbook. Mr. Caton said they had talked about it developing into policies and procedures. Dr.

McAllister said he appreciated them working together to get the uniform policy in place

Dr. Dickinson said that she and James typically share information about the different departments that are under their schools. In her superintendent's report she would have different departments that are now shared service departments. Some may be submitting reports to both superintendents. She was wondering if they should have a shared services report that would separate it from the superintendents' report. Mr. Caton said it was a good idea because they get duplicate information in both reports. Dr. Dickinson said she would be happy to start working on that and sending to James so they could work together on it. Dr. Atcherson said he thought it was a great idea. Dr. Atcherson said he had a question about the RAVE system. Does it send staff and students to an email. Kevin said in RAVE it is for staff and faculty only. On the deaf side there are TV's where the alerts can be flashed on them for students. Dr. Atcherson asked how it worked on the blind side. Kevin said that was something that they had to talk about to see how it would benefit them and how to handle in case of an emergency.

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

ASB Agenda

21-B-022 Motion to Approve Consent Items (Minutes, Financial Statement, Personnel Items)

Dr. Atcherson moved to approve, Mrs. Pack seconded. Motion passed.

Action Items – None

Discussion Items

Report to the Public

Mr. Caton said the report is based on the 20-21 school year which was a pandemic year.

He went over his report

No virtual option this year

Challenging year in terms of instruction

Came through it pretty good all things considered

Therapy services face-to-face this year with safety protocols in place

Students back in cafeteria

No case this year so far

Students participated in the state assessment

Reading scores dipped 44.68% in need of support to 53%

Difficult for kids to focus

Processes to help – State RISE & SOR initiatives

Added Reading Specialist

Established PLC's (Professional Learning Communities) – Committed to giving time to meet

Will schedule meeting for Report to the Public to be given – will be advertised to public

Superintendent Report

Through the Department of Education, he & Janet will be working in collaboration & consultation with Region 14 Comprehensive Center Network.

Attended virtual Council & Services for Schools for the Blind Leadership Conference

ASBVI Foundation sponsored braille signs for the new MacArthur Park Unlimited Playground

Special Ed busy completing evaluations/IEP meetings

Working with Joy Vest, new psychological examiner

Therapists excited to get back to face-to-face – they now have a new therapy gym

Secondary teachers have been training in transition plans

School activities in October – very busy month. Dates listed in report.

COVID Booster vaccine clinic held 9/30/21 – 91 staff from ASB/ASD participated

Working on getting window in door of Isolation room in the Infirmary

Still have LPN & RN vacancies

National School Lunch Week October 11-15th

Superintendent Report Cont.

Ms. Cole (Child Nutrition) is working on applying for an Equipment Assistance Grant through National School Lunch Program

Mechanical issues in the Primary Building and in the East Classroom

The Cottage renovations are almost done for this phase

Dr. McAllister asked about Infirmary repairs

Mr. Caton said it was the controller and it is in process of being installed

Vicki said they had been in the Infirmary working all day

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

ASD Agenda

21-D-019 Motion to Approve Consent Items (Minutes, Financial Statement, Personnel Items)

Mr. Fagan moved to approve, Dr. Atcherson seconded. Motion passed.

Action Items – None

Discussion Items – None

Superintendent Report

Homecoming was successful – had a job fair and a parade

Susan Pack was the Grand Marshall; Gina Windle and Secretary Key in parade also

Stopped at Capital – the Governor waived at each trailer

Alumni vs. Students Volleyball Game

Community Townhall – Report to the Public

She continues to do STAY interviews

Great professional development for teachers on curriculum

Phishing scam – one employee victim – ASD will be going through training

COVID Booster Clinic

Custodial Appreciation Day – Ernie took employees out for lunch

Red Ribbon Week

Anti-Bullying Week

Averaging 40-50 interpreting assignments each week

Had a magic show for International Week of the Deaf

Two HS students selected by Greater LR Optimist Club – Teen of the month

Educational Leadership Team meets every on Wednesdays

Strong PLC program – meet each week

Selected as one of Kendra Scott's 25 Days of Philanthropy – December 18th they will get a percentage of sales that day (20%).

Superintendent Report Cont.

Academic Logo Competition

Increased Engagement on Facebook – 9,293 people on there

Whitney gave news from Risk Assessment – Starting in October

ALC meetings have been postponed

Mrs. Pack belongs to an organization that provides scholarships for women. One is called Continuing Education. If there is someone on staff who has gone 24 consecutive months without attending school and now in attendance and 18 months away from completion, they can apply. Requirements are that you are citizen, 18 months away. If anyone interested, get in touch with her. They are always looking for people that are interested. The limit is \$3,000 but may not get that much. It can go for child care, gas, etc. They have a loan program with 2% interest.

Dr. McAllister said before meeting is over, Mr. Williams will come forth with a public comment.

Mr. Williams said on the secondary level, they have a guest speaker that comes in to try to get the students inspired about teaching.

He gave Mrs. Doan's principal report.


Primary focus has been assessment and recoupment of lost learning since the pandemic
Reading and Dyslexic specialist have been working very closely with teachers to attain accurate reading, instructional and frustration levels. With that data, prescriptive intervention strategies are being recommended and implemented.

Held Block Party with local food truck, dancing and other recreational activities. The kids and parents loved it. Planning a fall festival to offer another extra curricular event for the students.

Held first parent Literacy Night which proved very successful

Working to improve communication line between ASB and ASD

Dr. McAllister said if there was no other business the meeting is adjourned.



Dr. John McAllister, Chair



Faith McLaughlin, Secretary