

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 April 25, 2023, at the Arkansas School for the Deaf.

Present: Susan Pack, Chair; Robert Fagan, Vice Chair; Dr. John McAllister, Secretary; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Board Member; Philip Garner, Board Member; James Caton, ASBVI Superintendent, Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; Dr. Priya Gupta, ASBVI Parent Representative, Holley Mott, ASD Parent Representative, Will Gorum and Sydney Morris, Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community

Absent:

Mrs. Pack called the meeting to order at 4:59pm. The May board will take place on May 16, 2023, at the Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

ASBVI EAST Program Presentation by EAST facilitators and student members.

Joint Agenda

23-J-041 Motion to Approve Joint April 2023 Minutes

Dr. Atcherson made a motion to approve. Mr. Fagan seconded. Motion Carried.

Action Items

ASBVI, ASD SY 2023-24 Calendar Revision

Dorm students return date of January 1, 2024, has been moved to January 2, 2024, with classes resuming on January 3, 2024.

November 2, 2023, Professional Development (PD) day has been moved to January 2, 2024

Mr. Fagan made a motion to approve. Dr. Atcherson seconded. Motion Carried.

Discussion Items

Upcoming Superintendent Evaluations in May

Each Board Member provided a Superintendent evaluation packet for upcoming evaluations during the May board meeting.

Legislative Bill Review

Mr. Caton highlighted new legislative bills signed into law, that impacts both ASD and ASBVI campuses.

ASBVI Agenda

23-B-042 Motion to Approve Consent Items (Minutes, Financial Statement, Personnel Items)

Dr. McAllister made a motion to approve. Mr. Fagan seconded. Motion Carried.

Action Items – None

Discussion Items – None

Superintendent Report

So proud of our EAST kids.

ACT Aspire tests began Monday. Last year using ACT Aspire.

Welcomed former employee, Jennifer Anders back to classroom, 5th grade.

Two vacant RA positions. One awaiting approval. The second one believes have approval to begin filling.

Education Specialist position in the past, that used ARP federal funds for, put back on hold. Overall cap at ADE impacting position. Funds expire at the end of 2024.

The transition fair last month was a big success. Vendor list provided to board.

The Annual Cane Quest challenge was fun. Educational Services for visually impaired help organize the event.

Kids enjoyed the Easter celebration. LRAFB bomb squad helped and brought eggs with beepers.

Judged the student art show. The kids' skills are impressive.

Held staff meeting for updates on school, LEARNS act, and teacher salaries.

New standards for ELA and Math have been released. Received Good feedback on the new standards.

Submitted revised plan for use of American Relief Plan funds.

Revised ready for learning plan. Done every 6 months. Changes include no longer scanning temperatures and full use of the cafeteria.

One new student in the 6th grade. Total of 83 enrollments.

Good open house and Parent Teacher conferences on April 10. Good parent participation.

New OT student for 6-weeks. She is a Doctoral student at UCA. Research focused on blind and visually impaired.

Senior student was selected for artWAYS, UALR summer camp. One of forty-five selected.

11th grade Student was selected for the 44th annual Governor School program and a second student is on the waiting list.

The same 11th grade student will also be competing in the FBLA nationals' data analysis event this summer in Atlanta, GA

Learned a former student and his partners at Central Baptist College won third place in the small business division for LR non-profit AR capital corps 23rd annual AR Governor cup, Collegiate Business plan competition.

Senior student Made nba2k e-sports playoffs. The Mario Kart team also made the playoffs.

Students competing in Special Olympics Track and field.

Board of Trustees Meeting
Arkansas School for the Blind
Arkansas School for the Deaf

Page 2

April 25, 2023

Mrs. Lori Cole started a new karate typing competition to boost typing skills.
Down to the final two books for March madness: Couch Potato v. Dragons Love Tacos.
Kids enjoyed prom. N. Hills green Sherwood.
Vicki completed a three-day crisis response training. Also, attended the spring symposium Rise Up, Cultivating School Base Health Care.
The Dental van was back for restorative work for the kids.
Health screenings are being done for Vision, Hearing, BMI, and Scoliosis and put in E-school.
The Child Nutrition Dept put on a mini food show.
Got Final report for annual procurement review from ADE Child Nutrition Unit. Everything Fine except for contract language needed in some of the required state contracts.
Cottage renovation is going well. Power washing was yesterday and today.
Update on future health service bldg., final approval given for the plans and out for bids. Prebid is this Thursday at 10a. Open bids May 3rd.
The water line project continues to progress on schedule. An issue with a shallow water line will cause a week delay, but it is currently ahead of schedule. There should be no impact on the completion date.
Upcoming activities:
Dining in the dark this Thursday
WSB Care Home ribbon cutting ceremony and fish fry.
Attending AR Council for Blind conference
AAEA ASBA Joint Leadership training on May 2
Athletic banquet
PD day for teachers around Mother's Day
Annual spring concert and parent appreciation Dinner
Senior graduation is 10a on May 19. Should have seven graduates.
Foreign exchange students' last day will be May 5. She learned complete braille code in a year.
ASBVI new stage curtains installed by graduation. Arrive this week.

ASD Agenda

23-D-043 Motion to Approve Consent Items (Minutes, Financial Statement, Personnel Items)

Dr. McAllister made a motion to approve. Mr. Fagan seconded. Motion Carried.

Mr. Roy DePriest proctored on Superintendent, Dr. Dickinson, behalf and presented her report to the Board.

Action Items – None

Discussion Items – None

Superintendent Report

Board of Trustees Meeting
Arkansas School for the Blind
Arkansas School for the Deaf
Page 3
April 25, 2023

The CEASD conference was held last week. ASD Supt. and Principals attended.
The ASD team met to discuss applying new ideas and improve attention to work.
April is Deaf history month.
Representative Fite invited ASD to join House Resolution recognizing deaf history month.
On the 12th, Deaf History celebration event at Capital showcased performances by our students.
Happy to have representatives and other leaders from organizations that serve the deaf community.
Spring carnival was the 13th. Great event. Over 800 community members joined festivities.
Track team competed at the Texas school for deaf in Austin, the weekend of April 14.
Two-day Student life workshops presented by national trainer Fern R. Fern worked with student life leadership to Focus on identifying strength and growth areas. Fern mentioned may not meet required accreditation standards unless vacancy positions are filled.
After 8-years, returned to the classroom to teach high school reading.
Reg 14 was on campus March 27-30 and observed lower school on the 28th.
Met virtually with U.S. Dept. Education Region 14 team. Working together for two years, their input is very valuable.
Responded to the tragic aftermath of the LR tornado.
Called emergency admin team meeting to debrief from our safety response. Reconsidered approach.
Starting immediately, kids will go to tornado shelter when a watch is announced. Previously awaiting a tornado warning announcement.
Held three Town Hall meetings the week before last for staff. Reviewed parent survey results and celebrated areas that received over 80% of positive response. Identified areas of improvement.
Accreditation teams spent an hour working on assigned standard to gear up for CEASD September site visit.
AY magazine named ASD one of the best Special Education schools in 2023 in the May issue.
Several employee appreciation days throughout April.
Tomorrow is administrative assistance day.
Vicki completed a three-day crisis response training and attended the spring symposium Rise Up, Cultivating School Base Health Care.
The Dental van was back for restorative work for the kids.
Transported 9 students to ACH for appointments.
Health service staff working on completing required screenings for students.
Central supply is busy cleaning up the dump area.
Safety team is re-revamping emergency plan to improve school safety.
Parents and students had a good time celebrating Parents' Day on March 17
Child Nutrition Dept. served lunch in Parnell gym.
Lower school, grades k-2 visited the museum of discover on March 29.
Lower teachers attended PD provided by ARESC.
Student and staff photo on football April 3
Parent Teacher conference on April 10
Track well underway.
This weekend will be hosting (housing) Great Plain School for the Deaf. A track event at UALR.
Preparing for athletic banquet May 9

Middle science class hatched baby chicks.

UALR students continue to do community service work on campus and in the museum.

Past month, Agriculture Dept field trip to Bee Branch high school to hear lecture on animal behavior, humane treatment, and Autism.

UAPTC 3D culinary students cooked and served food on March 1st and 8th. Several members of ASD, the deaf community, and proud family and friends enjoyed lunch, desserts, and coffees prepared by our students.

A new career coach, E. Morris, started in March. Already planning a college and career day on May 3.

K. Brown attended training on external employment services 101. Learned about different employment services ADCC can offer.

Elevate clients went to jersey mikes sub shop Mar 29 for day of giving. ASD spec Olympic athletes greeted customers, waved signs, and danced, busted tables, and visited other athletes.

Over 41k raised for Special Olympics Arkansas

C. Jones-Bryant, talent acquisition with FEDEX, toured ASD and ADCC to discuss future potential partnerships.

The entire Audiology, Speech Pathology team attended read 180 full day training to increase reading levels of our students.

High school Speech lang. therapist traveled to Beebe to see guest speakers.

Lower school speech pathologists book unit on dragon love tacos and ended with taco party.

Counselors scheduled three college tours, UAPTC, UALR, and Hendrix.

Roar store items purchased and available for students to redeem PBIS coupons.

High school students taken out for fast food as a reward. Coupon used to go off campus to slim chickens.

Counselors presented to 4th and 5th graders on personal hygiene.

All three Counselors went to E-school training.

Lead group counseling with lower school and plan to do more with middle and high school.

Counselor Working with students on trauma experiences with recent tornado.

Counselor with RTI held weekly meetings with two students. Intake on two additional for counseling, and one filling out paperwork.

Interpreter coordinating extremely busy with demands of interpreting.

All Dept's busy with their jobs and seeing positive results.

Dorm students are enjoying the weather and participating in outdoor activities.

Students had overnight stay in tornado shelter.

EHDI conference on March 6-7 in Ohio.

Provider training continues as the Department tries to work out kinks in the new system.

Upcoming important dates-

This week ACT Aspire testing.

This weekend hosting GPSD

Prom May 4 at the Loft, May 5 town hall meeting, May 9 sports banquet, May 12 ASD spirit rally, and May 16 board meeting.

23-J-044 Motion to Adjourn

Mrs. Pack made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fagan seconded. Motion carried.

Susan Pack, Chair

Dr. John McAllister, Secretary