

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 August 16, 2022, at the Arkansas School for the Deaf.

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

Absent: Dr. John McAllister

Dr. Sam Atcherson called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm. The next meeting was scheduled for September 20, 2022 at ASBVI.

Joint Agenda

22-J-010 Motion to Approve Joint July 2022 Minutes

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

Action Items

District Support Plan Approval for ASB/ASD

Mr. Caton said the District Support Plan was the school's annual plan that is in support of the Elementary and Secondary Support plans. It also includes a literacy plan component.

Dr. Dickinson stated ASD's plan is very similar to ASB's. Their plan also includes American Sign Language.

22-J-011 Motion to Approve District Support Plans for ASBVI and ASD

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

ADE Assurances Approval for ASB/ASD

Mr. Caton said this is the annual statement of assurance for the Department of Education that must be filed each year. It states to the best of their knowledge, the district is in compliance with all state laws and standards for accreditation. Dr. Dickinson said it was the same for ASD.

22-J-012 Motion to Approve ADE Assurances for ASBVI/ASD

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

Discussion Items

Nurse Survey (ASB/ASD)

Nurse Vickie said she spoke with a state school nurse consultant and asked if she could put the schools together. This year the numbers are together since it is Shared Services. Nurse Vickie reported the numbers for each level. She reports to the Department of Education every year in October. She stated there is a nurse practitioner that comes to the campus to provide treatment and some mental health with the students. The infirmary can provide Covid rapid test administration to staff/students. They held 28 vaccine clinics.

Dr. Atcherson acknowledged the support of the superintendents and thanked Vicki and her team for all they do.

There being no further business of Joint nature, the meeting moved to the ASB agenda.

ASB Agenda

22-B-015 Motion to Approve Consent Items (Minutes, Financials, Personnel Items)

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

Action Items - None

Discussion Items – None

Superintendent Report

Mr. Caton thanked Vicki for all the work they do.
Excited to welcome the kids back to school
Held Welcome Back assembly
PD for teachers the week before school started
Child Nutrition provided a delicious welcome back luncheon
Several students did not return to the school but have 8 new students
Exchange student arrived today

ASB Superintendent Report Continued:

Two peer models in STAAC – been doing this for a couple of years and proves to be beneficial
School enrollment is 76 – 42 Elementary/34 Secondary; 20 Dorm Students
Held Open House August 15th and it was very successful/well attended
Working on parent engagement plan to redevelop it to get parents more engaged
Several parent nights planned
Still need a counselor, RA Supervisor and Secretary
There has not been a lot of interest in the RA position
Contracted therapy services (CRA) is still looking for a physical therapist
Looking for a contract psychologist examiner
Will hold Title One meeting on Thursday (Zoom link available)
Provided justification to DESE for the use of the ARP funding
Thinks the teacher salary discussion will come back up in the January session
School Dude has been implemented
Dorm repairs needed
No update on water/electrical projects
Cottage renovation – hope to start in fall
He and Janet met with Cromwell to look at Health Services Building plans
Waiting to get project manager to plan projects for the \$30 million

Mrs. Pack asked Ms. Windle what the board could do now if they pass the salary for teachers in January. Mrs. Pack is concerned that the teachers will be treated as state employees instead of teachers. Ms. Windle said there is special language in legislation that mandate the salaries have to be adjusted accordingly.

ASD Agenda

22-D-011 Motion to Approve Consent Items (Minutes, Financial Statement, Personnel Items)

Mrs. Pack made the motion to approve. Mr. Fagan seconded. Motion carried.

Action Items – None

Discussion Items – None

Mrs. Pack asked if Dr. Dickinson was aware that DHS is adverting for a Deaf Mental Health Coordinator. Dr. Dickinson said yes. It is related to a Bill that Representative Fite worked hard to get passed. Mrs. Pack asked if it would be someone who could work with adults in the state. Dr. Dickinson asked Eddie to answer. He said that position is not a counselor position.

Eddie said it is more of a coordinator that works with everyone to coordinate people to different facilities. Mr. Gorum, interpreter, said the person that previously had the position would go out in the community and serve people with crisis needs. He said they worked closely together when they were able to identify people that needed emergency help. Mrs. Pack asked who she would notify if she knew someone (former student) that is very clearly in need. Mr. Gorum said she should contact the new person, then they would go out and see what that person needed and how they could support them.

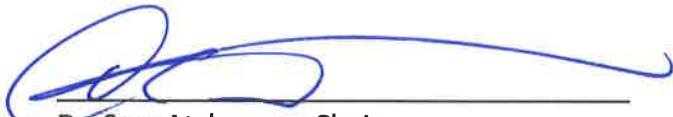
ASD Superintendent Report

Dr. Dickinson said the Shared Services Health Center has been a fun project to be involved in
Last week staff involved with Professional Development
Talked about new communication system that is called ParentSquare
Held a Crisis Prevention Intervention training
On Friday, there will be a training on Student Behavior & Mental Health
Working to improve student attendance
Welcome Back for Staff
Held Registration Drive Thru on Sunday
Held a New Year Celebration in Parnell watching the CODA movie with popcorn & soda
Met with Region 14 to discuss implementation of the new literacy plan & barriers
Statewide services are very busy visiting 23 families all over the state
English teachers went to Huntsville, AL for training
ASD's IT provided the training and they said they had never seen a school that was so skilled with robotics and technology. They asked ASD's teacher to go model to other deaf schools.
Dr. Dickinson said she is very proud of their cafeteria staff. She said ASD/ASB cafeteria staff are not part of shared services, but they are really making an effort to work together. They have done two trainings together going back & forth between schools.
She said she had ASD's Teacher and Administrator Recruiting and Retention Plan that needs to be signed off on. She said the plan focuses on minorities but also on recruiting deaf people.

Dr. Atcherson asked for a motion to adjourn.

22-D-012 Motion to Adjourn

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



Dr. Sam Atcherson, Chair



Rob Kagan, Secretary