

(AMENDED) 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 January 17, 2023, at the Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

**Present:** Susan Pack, Chair; Robert Fagan, Vice Chair; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, 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:** Dr. John McAllister, Secretary

Mrs. Pack called the meeting to order. Reminder for next meeting on February 21, 2023, at the Arkansas School for the Deaf.

### **Joint Agenda**

#### **23-J-029 Motion to Approve Joint December 2022 Minutes**

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

#### **Action Items**

##### Executive Session Training

ADE Attorney Lori presented Executive Session study materials to the Board Members.

Dr. Atcherson made a motion as individual board members read through Executive Session materials, including Freedom of Information Act handbook and then vote on ADE Training at February meeting.

Mr. Fagan seconded. Motion carried.

##### Superintendent Residency Letters

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

##### Board Stipend Approval

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

#### **Discussion Items**

##### Board Member Training Hours

Dr. Atcherson-12 hours; Dr. McAllister-6 hours; Mr. Fagan-27 hours; Susan Pack-12 hours.

Reminder of upcoming School Law Seminar available to board members and parent representatives on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

The Family of T. Walker ask that donations made by the Board go to the ASD Museum.

### **ASD Agenda**

#### **23-D-030 Motion to Approve Consent Items (Minutes, Financial Statement, Personnel Items)**

\*Amendment to December 2022 Minutes – change T. Walker Memorial service (page 6) from January 5, 2023, to *January 15, 2023*.

Dr. Atcherson made a motion to approve with suggested amendments. Mr. Fagan seconded. Motion carried.

**Action Items** – None

**Discussion Items** – None

#### **Superintendent Report**

ASD Student gifts for Board Appreciation month celebration  
Students have played well. The ASD Girls team beat OK, AL, IL  
Kicked off Color team for accreditation.  
10 different Accreditation teams - All ASD staff participation  
Next month focusing on surveys, gathering data/info. for accreditation needs.  
Accreditation team at ASD third week of September 2023.  
New Governor, Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders  
New Secretary / Commissioner of Education Jacob Oliva  
Appreciative to Gina during transition.  
Four Executive Orders impacting ASD.  
Impacted by, working through TikTok ban, prohibiting critical race theory, hiring freeze, and LEARNS.  
Three vacant teacher positions  
Vacant overnight dorm supervisor position  
Vacant overnight dorm student supervisor position  
Awaiting appeal & advocate process for vacant positions  
Studying and ensuring we align with L.E.A.R.N.S.  
Received positive feedback on Secretary Oliva from FL School for Deaf & Blind.  
Enrollment - 26 new students since August 2022.  
2 new incoming students.  
Statewide Services new system located 15 new students.  
Lyon College partnership to kick off deaf education certification program 2023-24

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T. Watson, Cromwell Project Manager, is working through the list of requirements from the DBA review and move process forward for the Health Service Center

### **ASBVI Agenda**

#### **23-B-031 Motion to Approve Consent Items (Minutes, Financial Statement, Personnel Items)**

Dr. Atcherson made the motion to approve. Mr. Fagan seconded. Motion carried.

#### Personnel Item

Continuing to work on filling RA position posted prior to hiring freeze.

#### Action Items – None

#### Discussion Items – None

#### Superintendent Report

Officially began second semester on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>.

New Governor and Secretary of Education.

Briefly met Secretary Oliva.

Included Governors L.E.A.R.N.S. in board packet.

In process of reviewing L.E.A.R.N.S with our team and aligning with ongoing strategic plan.

Vacant Teacher and overnight RA positions available.

Awaiting process for requesting critical positions during hiring freeze.

Filled RA supervisor position (Home Life Supervisor), Clarence Carter.

Attending Superintendent Symposium

Will be attending Law Seminar on Feb 7<sup>th</sup>.

Monthly meeting with region 14 to continue strategic planning for staff and assistance focus area.

Region 14 will visit school at the end of January 2023.

Welcome2- new students, 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Total of 79 Students

GT Program, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade attended practice quiz bowl at Central Baptist College-Conway.

Senior attended Arch Ford Panel for annual review and part of program highlighted for Virtual AR.

Birth to Three staying very busy.

Neuroscience indicates 85% of a child's brain in developed by age 3, 90% by age 5.

Appreciate Birth to Three and Statewide services for their work.

Health Services continuing to offer COVID, Flu vaccines for students.

Pop-up vaccine clinic – Jan 12 – 11 COVID Boosters, 1 Child Initial

4 COVID cases in last week or so.

AEDs being installed. Each building will have one.

New RN, Karen Ivy started on Jan 9<sup>th</sup>. Fully staffed.

Congrats to Child Nutrition team on successful commodity distribution review by DHS.

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Campus Projects – Re-keying and electronic door entry underway  
New campus safety signs for playgrounds and backside of campus. No public use.  
Cottage renovations pre-bid meeting for phase 2 on Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, open bid mtg on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Braille Challenge February 16<sup>th</sup>  
Certificates for Board Appreciations Month.

**23-J-032 Motion to Adjourn**

Ms. Pack made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

  
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Susan Pack, Chair

  
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Dr. John McAllister, Secretary