

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 March 14, 2023, at the Arkansas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired.

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:

Introduction of the new Board Member, Philip Garner, followed by individual Board Member, Parent Representative, Superintendent, and school staff introductions.

Mrs. Pack called the meeting to order at 5:14pm. The April board will be moved from April 18, 2023, to April 25, 2023, at the Arkansas School for the Deaf.

Joint Agenda

23-J-037 Motion to Approve Joint December 2022 Minutes

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

Action Items

ASBVI, ASD 2023-2024 School Year Calendar

ASD, ASBVI Superintendents and Principals met for review and approval of joint calendar for 2023-24 School Year. New Arkansas law in effect states that school must start the week of August 19. Since August 19, 2023, is a Saturday, school can start the Monday prior. The first day of school for 2023-24, will be August 14, 2023, and last day on May 24, 2024, for a total of 178-days. Additional days for snow, Professional development (PD), and teacher conference have been built in, as well. To ensure school ends before memorial weekend, dorm students will return on the evening of January 1 (Holiday) and all students on January 2, 2024. The Monday following Mother's Day and Easter will be a PD Day for Staff (no students).

Dr. Atcherson made a motion to approve. Dr. McAllister seconded. Motion Carried.

Discussion Items - None

ASD Agenda

23-D-038 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

This Friday March 17 is parent's day and open house. Presentations and Lunch in Parnell Hall.

Excited about PTDA (Parent Teachers Dorm Association).

Spring break is coming very soon.

ASD spirit rally on March 31.

Two months ago, a surprised visitor from the museum of discovery.

This past month had the zoo come and visit with a snake, owl, and beaver.

Karate instructor in Parnell Hall gym on March 31.

April 12 is the Deaf History celebration in the capital.

Reserved the Rotunda, special attendees include Representative Fite and AR Associate of the Deaf President, K. Hancock, and ASD students.

April 13 ASD foundation will have a carnival for the Community 5p-8p, \$5 entry fee.

Upcoming events – spring picnic, sports banquet, prom, graduation, and award ceremony.

Exciting meeting with AR. Children's Hospital discussing potential partnership on additional services for our students.

(Vicki) Dental Clinic on 17th to finish up dental services.

(ADE/Whitney) Health center funding had previous administrative approval. The Building Authority wants new administration approval. Stamp approval expected this week.

The last month of winter madness. Thank you, ASD Foundation.

Chuy's nacho party on Thursday.

Deaf leadership council first meeting was wonderful. Meeting again next month.

Classroom visits on going.

(Roy) Waterline project underway – currently in week three. HVAC Systems being repaired and replaced at ASD and ASBVI. Recent roof inspections for both campuses, findings concurred with 2016 report.

Engineering design work done for Nutt, awaiting funding.

Good things have been happening; Robotics, drones, competitions, FFA, joint horse judging event.

Enrollment is slowly growing.

ASBVI Agenda

23-B-039 Motion to Approve Consent Items (Minutes, Financial Statement, Personnel Items)

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

A hiring freeze exception has been submitted for the newly resigned Resident Advisor position. Received approval for two prior open RA positions and fifth grade teacher position. One RA and 5th grade teacher position have been filled.

Action Items – None

Discussion Items – None

Superintendent Report

March Intervention newsletter

Flyer for Apr 27, Dining in the Dark. Tickets for sale. 6:30p – 8:30p

Third round of NWEA assessment. One more round before school ends.

Spoke at the Cabot Lions club meeting.

Served lunch at the ADE Women's History program. Social Studies teacher, Ms. Strojek, was nominated.

Attended State Board Meeting to give recognition to ASB student for placing 1st at Braille Challenge.

5th grade teacher starts next week.

All campus enrollment is 82 including pre-k, peer models, and STAAC kids. Excludes birth to three.

Birth to three serves 80-90 families each year across the state.

Official ADE enrollment is 74 for K-12 students.

Former 6th grade student returned at the end of February.

Transition Fair tomorrow through DSB in ASD Leopard Spot. Approximately 22 vendors.

Great Annual Black History assembly. SW High School Dance troupe and JT Robinson Choir performed, displayed local artist S. McKinney, and keynote speaker R. Clark (daughter of former Alumni).

Dr. J. Powell visited West Wing students on dental health.

The library started march madness focused on picture books.

Read across America week this month.

Two high school students attended Empowering women in cyber security seminar.

EAST program kids left for Annual EAST Conference in Hot Springs.

Teachers Professional Learning Communities are currently working with Collaborative Learning.

Second grade class along with EAST program kids started a Podcast.

Shared Health Services, CPR and First Aide Class Thursday

Sent Health Services staff to CPR/AED Instructor training.

Child Nutrition attended National Child Nutrition conference in D.C.

March 6-10 was National breakfast month.

Child Nutrition started began using new software system.

Bell construction started staging for phase 2 renovations in Cottage.

Board of Trustees Meeting

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Bulk of the digging for water line is staged where they have begun.
The intersection of woolly and leopard lane closed during spring break to dig trench.
Three staff attended crisis response training at Arch Ford.
Upcoming activities; transition fair and annual student talent show.

23-J-040 Motion to Adjourn

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



Susan Pack, Chair



Dr. John McAllister, Secretary