

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 November 15, 2022, at the Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

**Present:** Dr. Sam Atcherson, Chair; Susan Pack, Vice Chair; Robert Fagan, Secretary; Dr. John McAllister, 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. Sam Atcherson called the meeting to order at 5:02pm. The December meeting moved from December 20<sup>th</sup> to December 13<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:00pm. Mutual Agreement.

**Joint Agenda**

**22-J-19 Motion to Approve Joint October 2022 Minutes**

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

**Action Items – Proclamation Amending Deaf School Date Amendments**

New evidence in support of ASD Establishment date.

Dr. Atcherson read proclamation:

Request change for *“Whereas, the first class of deaf students in Arkansas were educated in 1849 in Clarksville by a deaf educator and founder, John Wesley Woodward.”*

Request addition of Signatories; D. Harris, ASD Historical Museum Founder and R. Ketchum, ASD Historical Museum President

Susan Pack made a motion to approve. Robert Fagan seconded. Motion Carried

Dr. Atcherson would like to plan next board meeting for board members to sign, followed by a community-based Event to make Proclamation official and celebrate before the Holidays. No definite date in mind

Dr. Dickinson moved for the event to be held during Christmas at ASD on Thursday, 15 December. The event would include lower school performance followed by the Christmas luncheon, Museum open house, and middle school performances. The museum during the open house, would be a perfect time to have the official signing. Around noon or 1pm. If the board members could not attend, then they would sign at the Board meeting prior to the event.

**Discussion Items – None**

Dr. Atcherson presented Mr. Fagan with an official pin for earning at least 25-hours in service credit from the AR School Board Association.

There being no further business of joint nature, the meeting moved to the ASD agenda.

**ASD Agenda**

**22-D-020 Motion to Approve Consent Items (Minutes, Financial Statement, Personnel Items)**

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

**Action Items – None**

**Discussion Items – None**

**Superintendent Report**

Thanksgiving Luncheon on November 17<sup>th</sup>

Fall Break 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>

First, Second week of December – Cinnamon Roll Patrol

Christmas Tree lighting on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:45pm

Christmas at ASD on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Homecoming/Homecoming parade was successful, thanks everyone!

Submitted to DESE – Literacy and deaf children, review of best practices (Thanks Dr. Cobb)

Continuing to work on Lion College Partnership

Upcoming trip to Lion College – *Date TBD*

Health Center, Vicki's been busy

Dental Van was here.

Second chance flu clinic on November 17<sup>th</sup>

7-staff members positive for Covid this month

11-students positive for strep throat

10-flu positives, mostly students

Nurse acuities – 66 medically fragile, 22 medically complex children

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HRSA Federal Grant in works (Kevin L, Dr. Cobb)  
Professional Development Office restructure.  
New position, Communication and Admissions, accepted by Chloe Smith (began November 14<sup>th</sup>)  
Pride Café started up again  
College visits (ASU-Beebe, ASU-Searcy)  
Red Ribbon Week  
Enrollment numbers continuing to increase  
Joint legislative committee passed budget  
Peer legislative committee approved letter for transfer of funds (for Safety, Residential, Education)

Dr. Dickinson asked Mr. Caton for additional update from Joint Legislative Meeting. Mr. Caton reports Joint Legislative committee held position requests for review by new administration.

Three projects approved – Health Service Building, Water project, Entergy project

Dr. Dickinson asked Roy to update on Water Project or the Entergy Project. Roy stated bid opening held today (11/15) for water project bids, both more than 25% over budgeted amount – rebid delay.

Mrs. Pack asked about the yellow tape up near the graveyard. Roy stated construction for new building requires utilities with gas services needing to utilize that space. Recently received lower bid for demo work, well under current DCI Engineering estimate.

There being no further business of joint nature, the meeting moved to the ASBVI agenda.

#### **ASBVI Agenda**

#### **22-B-021 Motion to Approve Consent Items (Minutes, Financial Statement, Personnel Items)**

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

#### **Action Items – None**

#### **Discussion Items – Ready for Learning Revision Update**

Required by law to revise our Ready for Learning every 6 month. Update is the October revision (posted to website). Revisions for the meal section. Revisions include all meals served in the cafeteria, mask protocol as we no longer require except in infirmary, low vision clinic and the cafeteria serving line. Also, revisions to protocol for quarantining that reflect the 5-days out of work and masked up for additional 5-days upon return to work and no longer doing contact tracing or identify close contacts, per CDC. All revisions submitted.

### Superintendent Report

Attended AER Conference, sponsored ASB teacher attendance

During conference, Eric Y., WSB, updated on WSB new group home under development. Will be a benefit to ASBVI graduates that have additional needs in addition to blindness/visual impairment  
Dr. C and Friends of ASB held concert at UALR Concert Hall with proceeds going to ASBVI

Attended budget hearings

Began Region 14 meetings again, moving on from literacy to the staff and system area of strategic planning that aligns with ADE plans

State library got tactile book boxes done for future distribute across the state. Exploring partnership for distribution project.

Upcoming ASBA conference December 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>

Alumni tree sales begin Saturday, 19 November

Kellie Thornton last day October 28<sup>th</sup>

Currently interviewing for personnel Timekeeper position

New PT-contractor position filled, Ashley Taylor

Current Vacancies - fifth grade teacher, Nurse, and Home Life Supervisor

Mr. Robert Fagan asked who is teaching fifth grade in the interim? Mr. Williams currently stated our sixth-grade teacher, Leslie Blaylock, took on the endeavor of the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> split alongside instructional assistants. Current class is 11-12 students.

NWEA Testing begin this week.

Mr. Caton asked Mr. Williams to discuss One Book, One School initiative at the school and ACT scores  
Mr. Williams stated elementary students are reading "The One and Only Ivan" about a silverback gorilla. Goal is for the parents, and dorm parents to read to the students each night. On the secondary level they are reading a book entitled "Harbor Me" about a group of students whose insightful teacher let them have an hour of student only sharing time. To encourage our students to read along with the teachers as well. Should take about 6 weeks to complete each book. Established by our Librarian Maranda Cole.

Mr. Williams provided update on ACT Scores. We had one 11<sup>th</sup> grade student who scored a 24, 12<sup>th</sup> grade student who scored a 24, 11<sup>th</sup> grade student who scored a twenty-seven, and a 12<sup>th</sup> grade student who went from a 21 to a 28.

Homecoming parade rained out; Principal Doan changed homecoming to a hallway parade

Homecoming court crowning, All school prep rally, Homecoming Dance on November 11<sup>th</sup>

Annual Spirit Week, creativity with anything but a backpack day

Mr. Williams and Coach Tanner attended the Annual NCASB in STL, MO. Going to try to start bowling. We have been doing special Olympic bowling for years, but this will allow ASBVI to compete against other blind schools

Red Ribbon week, LRPD brought Danny the K9

Trunk or Treat for Halloween, Health Service Staff and Parent participation

Students attended the FBLA Fall conference

Upcoming Family Tech Night (Computer Science Night), 1 December

Assistive Technology and Computer Science Initiative, really starting to develop

Computer Science Framework in grades K8

Programming One Course on campus this year

One Independent study course offered this year

Students in EAST using coding in community projects

Students doing concepts of coding in the library

HS students taking computer science course through virtual Arkansas

Publishing links to tools/resource available to teachers for promotion of computer science

Classroom spelling bee start this month, school spelling bee on December 7<sup>th</sup>

81 Holiday Military Cards to send to our military personnel.

Only school in the nation who adds Braille to our cards when it is a blind student

Thanksgiving food drive ongoing along with our food pantry.

Child Nutrition attended state nutrition conference in Hot Springs

CN Review from ADE, no findings this year!

Wellness Committee met twice this year

Turkey Trot, 17 November

Thanksgiving Lunch, 17 November

Governor Groundbreaking Ceremony, 6 December

ADE Logistic Meeting, 18 November

Flu Clinic, 110 Participants. Make up clinic, 17 November in Woolly

Vocational Building ceiling, roof, and stairwell repair in process

Mr. Caton asked Roy when they will finish vocational building repair. Roy stated no sure, but it is close. They have roof done; new condensing units installed. New lights are in. Ceiling is 90% done. Close, looking good.

Two recent back-to-back power outages. Lost food items in CN and issues with heating and cooling.

Christmas Concert and Parent Dinner, 15 December

Thanksgiving/Fall break 21-28 November

**22-J-022 Dr. Dickinson requested Executive Session. Recorders turned off.**

Dr. Atcherson called meeting to order at 6:16p on 15 November. Returned from Executive Session, no action taken.

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**22-J-023 Motion to Adjourn**

Dr. John McAllister made a motion to adjourn. Seconded. Motion carried



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Dr. Sam Atcherson, Chair



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Rob Fagan, Secretary