

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 October 18, 2022, at the Arkansas School for the Deaf.

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; Holley Mott, ASD Parent Representative; Will Gorum and Sydney Morris, Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community

Absent: Dr. Priya Gupta

Dr. Sam Atcherson called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm. The next meeting was scheduled for November 15, 2022 at ASBVI.

Joint Agenda

22-J-15 Motion to Approve Joint September 2022 Minutes

Dr. McAllister made a motion to approve. Mrs. Pack seconded. Motion carried.

Action Items – None

Discussion Items – None

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

ASB Agenda

22-B-017 Motion to Approve Consent Items (Minutes, Financials, Personnel Items)

Mrs. Pack made a motion to approve. Dr. McAllister seconded. Motion carried.

Action Items - None

Discussion Items

Report to the Public

Mr. Caton said the report was based on last school year. He read his introduction letter to the community that is at the beginning of the Report to the Public.

He shared things that are going on and upcoming events such as Academic Night, Math Night and Literacy Night. Social Media update continues. A new safety and security committee made up of staff from both schools has been formed. Mr. Caton continued to summarize the Report to the Public.

Bullying Report

Mr. Caton said Mr. Williams would give that report. Mr. Williams said ASB had one bullying incident on campus. The student was suspended and counseled. The parents were informed if the student continued this behavior, he could be referred back to public school. Mr. Williams said some of the things being done at school are having students meet with the counselor, character building, anti-bullying PD every year and teacher PLC meetings.

Superintendent Report

Introduced his new assistant, Trista Burton

Still have openings for RA Supervisor, RN, 5th Grade Teacher

Eugene Hester, Maintenance Dept., retired

He attended the APH conference in Louisville – had good sessions

Jena McDonnell, IRC Department, also attended

Held White Cane Day

One of ASB's students sang at WSB's White Cane Day

Former student, Eric Yarberry, name CEO of WSB

Held combined safety meeting (ASB/ASD)

AER Conference will be November 3rd and 4th

PD day on 11/4 for staff that do not attend AER

Track & Field went to Tennessee School for the Blind and Indiana School for the Blind for a track conference meet. Nurse Vicki traveled with the track team

Wrestling and Cheer practice have started

Music Department participated in the Arts Advocacy Day at the Capitol

Students participated in the grand opening of the McArthur Park Unlimited Playground

The Foundation sponsored braille signs for the event

ASB Superintendent Report Continued:

Two staff members attended the Handle with Care 3-day training at Arch Ford which will allow them to train other staff members (handle with care behavior management system & restraint training)

Red Ribbon Week is October 24th – 28th

Students are excited to attend the State Fair again this year

ADE is sponsoring a virtual Mental Health Night on the 19th

Math Night is 10/20

Science Fair

Parents Invited to Lunch Day

Child Nutrition review next week

Health Services held Covid and Flu Clinics

CPR/First Aid classes held for staff

No updates on water project – Roy said it is in the final review with DBA

Electrical – Do not have anything official yet but Entergy has been supporting the electrical grid

Cromwell Architects are still working on plans for the Health Services Building

New fencing around the smaller kids' playground

Mrs. Pack asked how the exchange student was doing. Mr. Caton said she is doing very well and fitting in. Mrs. Pack asked if language was a problem. Mr. Caton said she speaks five languages. He said he didn't know how her English is. Mr. Williams said it is coming along very good

Dr. Atcherson asked about the Health Services Building and if there were any major changes. Dr. Dickinson said they cut out Eddie's office so he will move into the counseling space. It helped with cost savings. Mr. Caton said it was going to be a beautiful building and a more efficient space for the two schools. There are cost concerns with the rising costs of everything.

There being no further business for the School for the Blind, the agenda moved to the School for the Deaf.

ASD Agenda

22-D-016 Motion to Approve Consent Items (Minutes, Financial Statement, Personnel Items)

Mrs. Pack made the motion to approve. Dr. McAllister seconded. Motion carried.

Action Items

22-D-017 Motion to Approve Date Change for ASD to January 1, 1849

Dr. Atcherson read the proclamation.

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

Discussion Items

Report to the Public

Dr. Dickinson said one of the important parts of her Report to the Public is the noticeable achievements of each department from last year. She asked the board to look at Page 12. She said there is a grant where we were awarded \$173, 710 and she wanted to acknowledge Kevin Lentz, grant writer, for his work. She said they appreciate him very much. There is a list of the grants they have received in the report. ASD has a new communication app called Parent Square. It has been very successful with parents and staff. Their social media has a 300% increase. She said they really appreciate Chloe. She has done a phenomenal job with ASD's social media. Facilities have many projects being worked on. She said in a recent budget meeting, Whitney said since Roy took over, they have saved a significant amount of money. New admissions are at 23 and 13 more are in the registration process. She said they have had a good year; she has a phenomenal team and thinks they are making progress in many different areas.

ASD Superintendent Report

Dr. Dickinson introduced Tiffany Pritchard, her new assistant
Tiffany has a son at ASD
She said they had a good meeting with Shared Services
Each shared service department reported that things are becoming smoother
Homecoming this past weekend
Parade on Friday – Governor met every float
Held open house
Town Hall meeting
Tailgating with hamburgers & hot dogs
Report to the Public
Held college night
She attended a School CEO Conference in Memphis
ASD continues to work with Region 14 and Literacy team to increase literacy levels

ASD Superintendent Report Cont.

Dr. Dickinson sent letter to parents

Looking for deaf education teacher certified in PE and English; Paraprofessional; RA; Counselor; and Guidance Counselor

Dr. Dickinson said it is hard to recruit late in summer and during the school year

She invited everyone to her house for her Fall Open House

Dr. Atcherson asked for a motion to adjourn.

22-D-018 Motion to Adjourn

Mr. Fagan made a motion to adjourn. Dr. McAllister seconded. Motion carried.



Dr. Sam Atcherson, Chair



Rob Fagan, Secretary

