

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 September 20, 2022 at the Arkansas School for the Blind.

Present: Dr. Sam Atcherson, 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: Susan Pack

Dr. Sam Atcherson called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm. The next meeting was scheduled for October 18, 2022, at the Arkansas School for the Deaf.

Joint Agenda

22-J-013 Motion to Approve Joint August 16, 2022 Minutes

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

Action Items

22-J-014 Motion to Approve ADE Statement of Assurances (Federal) for ASB/ASD

Mr. Caton said it is the Federal assurances that are done annually. It is for the Title fundings that the schools get. It does not require signatures but does require authorization for the superintendents to sign.

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

Annual Equity Compliance Report for ASB/ASD

Mr. Caton said these are assurances related to title programs that are funded federally stating both schools are in compliance with any equity issues. It does require signatures by the Board president and secretary.

Discussion Items

Cromwell Architects Proposal for New Health Services Building

Dr. Atcherson welcomed Cromwell to give their presentation and thanked them for all their efforts.

Mr. Cerney started the presentation introducing the staff that were in attendance - Terry Watson, Project Manager; Jeff Rice, Architect; Emily Hill, Designer. He said they were looking forward to showing the progress on the building. He then asked Mr. Watson to come and explain in depth about the project. Mr. Watson had a handout showing the different parts of the building and went over the proposal for the New Health Services Building. He explained each area of the building. He stated they had several meetings with the superintendents, nurses, counselors, and low vision staff to ensure the building would accommodate the needs of all parties.

ASD Establishment Date Update – JR Courtright

JR and Rondale discussed the establishment date again showing examples of proof for the date change. It was decided that they would create a document with correct language for the board to review and vote on at a later meeting.

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

ASD Agenda

22-D-013 Motion to Approve Consent Items (Minutes, Financial Statement, Personnel Items)

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

Action Items

Motion to Approve Cycle 1 Financial Report Requirements -Chair Signature

Mr. Caton said Whitney was checking to see if this needed to be sent back. It has not been required in years past because the budget is approved by the legislature. They do not think it applies to the schools.

22-D-014 Motion to Approve Video Surveillance & Other Monitoring Policy

Dr. Dickinson said they should have the policy as it was sent out previously. She said currently ASD has cameras in two places, state vehicles and in one of the classrooms. Christy, attorney from ADE, feels it is important that a policy is in place before going ahead with any other cameras. It will be added to all handbooks.

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

22-D-015 Motion to Approve New Admissions and Enrollment Policy

Dr. Dickinson said they have been working on this admissions policy for about 6 months. When first moved under ADE, there were concerns that all students that are deaf and hard of hearing should be accepted. There was concern that it could be discrimination if everyone was not accepted. ASD can't serve all students safely. They did a lot of research on other schools for the deaf. They realized there are three different groups: one group can be admitted 100%; another group has severe needs, but they can still be served in partnership with local school districts; the third group are not able to be served. They have the three categories of students that are being looked at in this policy. She read from page 3 of the policy. Discussion followed.

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

Discussion Items

Annual Bullying Report

Dr. Dickinson said they are required to report every year the number of bullying incidents. ASD had one.

ASD Financial Breakdown

Dr. Dickinson said she thinks Michelle accidentally included this. Need to remove from agenda.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Dickinson said they held Spirit Day. Everyone wore ASD t-shirts. Held in Parnell Hall for 30 minutes. It was a lot of fun. This month they had the famous WAWA (Warren Snipe) perform for them.

Kicked off their accreditation process

Team working with Lyon College for the Deaf Education proposal

Region 14 was on campus this week

Statewide Services has been all over the state

Superintendent Report Continued

Total number of students K – 12 is 106

Dr. McAllister asked about Lyon College. Dr. Dickinson said Lyon College was trying to develop a Deaf Education Certification Program. There is nothing in the state of Arkansas right now. Trying to recruit from out of state. This provides an opportunity to have people in the state to get certified. Dr. McAllister asked why Lyon College since they are so far away and not UALR. Dr. Dickinson said she went everywhere and didn't get any progress. ASD has an alumni at Lyon College and she got us connected. Lyon College was very motivated to have a residential program with ASD. Dr. Cobb said the point of this program is to help the student prepare to take the test for Deaf Education.

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

ASB Agenda

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

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

Discussion Items – None

Action Items -None

Superintendent Report

Enrollment at 76 – Working on several referrals

New Counselor started this month (Debbie Chambers)

Still need Dorm Supervisor and RN in Health Services

Met with Christi Dixon, Director of ESVI, discussing ways to partner with each other

Enjoyed hearing Dr. Thapa speak about stress, wellness, and mindfulness

Michelle Smith attended the AER Conference in St. Louis

Track & Field attended the NCASB Track Invitational in Tennessee

Partnering with Mid-Town Church in Saline County with their food backpack program

They are providing 22 backpacks of food

Region 14 has been on campus working on the literacy plan

Arvest Bank came to school to announce the release of their braille debit card

They made a \$2500.00 donation to the school

He included a handout for the caseload of the Birth to 3 Outreach Program – currently seeing 54 families in 26 counties. Averaging 80 – 90 over the school year.

Superintendent Report

Vicki ordered additional AEDs – one for each building

Vicki was able to get a supply of Covid home tests to send with students

Flu Clinic on October 13th in Woolly & Covid Booster will be October 6th in Tornado Shelter

Nursing staff participated in training from the Criminal Justice Institute on overdose prevention

Looks like water line project is changing – coming from ASB side not ASD

Literacy Night Thursday from 5 – 7 pm

Ms. Mott asked about visiting campuses to be involved. Dr. Dickinson said should the board come together as a board one time and did a tour or should it be individually. Dr. Atcherson said he doubted everyone could come at one time but maybe they could set up couple of different times. Dr. Dickinson said she and James could coordinate that together.

Dr. Dickinson said she was going to have an open house after the board meeting in October like she used to do before Covid.

22-B-016 Motion to Adjourn

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



Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Chair



Rob Fagan, Secretary