

OFFICIAL MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF THE ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

The Board of Trustees for the Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired met for their monthly meeting on April 19, 2016.

Present: Mary Weeks, Chairperson; Dr. Doug Watson, Vice Chairperson; Susan Pack, Board Member; Everett Elam, Board Member; Jeanne Tribett, ASBVI Parent Representative; Jim Hill, ASBVI Superintendent; Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; Beth Smith and Anna Litchfield, Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community

Ms. Weeks said she wanted to mention that \$70,000 had been moved from the state account to invest with Wells Fargo with \$50,000 already invested at 6% and there is \$20,000 to go. She said since inception approximately \$100,000 to \$110,000 has been made and that they are staying within the parameters that were drawn at the beginning.

16-B-007 Motion to Approve Consent Items

Ms. Weeks asked for a motion to approve the consent items to include the minutes, financial statement and personnel items. Dr. Watson made a motion to approve consent items and Ms. Pack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

Special Education Title VI-B Pass-Through Application Approval

Mr. Hill said it is about \$70,000. Ms. Terry said we get it every year. Mr. Hill said the money comes directly from Special Ed and it is used for some salaries, summer school, and therapy. Ms. Terry said it is additional money that comes from ADE passed down from the federal government for Special Education.

16-B-008 Motion to Approve the Special Education Title VI-B Pass-Through Application

Ms. Pack made a motion to approve the Special Education Title-B Pass-Through Application to receive the funds. Dr. Watson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

None

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Hill said he wanted the board to know that there was an opportunity to get in-service hours this summer at the AAEA meeting. He said to let Betty know and she would get them signed up for the meeting. He said there would be other opportunities and would keep the board updated as we know about them.

Mr. Hill said it had been a good month. He said the new A/C for the Keller Building should be installed soon.

Mr. Hill said ASB received their District Report Card and is happy to tell the board that ASB is accredited without any citations. He said ASB's category is Needs Improvement and the school continues to do better. He said he wanted to review some of the ACT test scores and about 8 students took the ACT. He said in Reading the test scores averaged 20.67 with the state averaging 21.35; English was 18.33 and the state average was 21.16. He said Math is a little more abstract and more difficult for visually impaired and blind students but still made 17.33 compared to 20.14 for the state. He said Science is also abstract requiring more vision but we averaged 14.67 and the state was 20.85. He said the overall average for all of ASB students was 18.00 and the state's overall average was 20.79. He said he felt good about the ACT test scores and they are up from last years. He said the students can take the ACT as many times as they can and without any penalty and gives them practice at taking the test enhancing their skills in taking the type of test that is being presented. He said state tests are being given now and have already had issues with the braille test which does not help our students. He said we have some students who are proficient in braille and they are giving them the entry level braille in the test. He said it is not accommodating our students. He said it is not very easy for kids in braille to do as well on tests. He said he was not saying all the issues we have in bringing the test scores are related to testing and vision of the students but it does have a significant impact on test results. He asked if anyone had questions.

Dr. Watson said he was at a luncheon for the deaf/blind community last Saturday with about 100 people. He said several of them asked if either school had a headcount for blind/deaf or visually impaired/hearing impaired K-12 in Arkansas and what kind of services are they being provided. Ms. Doan said ADE has the deaf/blind project and every year if a child is identified as having dual sensory impairments they send ASB a form to update (Deaf/Blind Census Form) so if that is their primary disability then they would have that information. Dr. Watson asked how many in the state. Ms. Doan said she did not know the exact number but not sure if you called if they could give you that information. Mr. Hill asked Ms. Doan to call and transfer any information to Dr. Watson.

Mr. Hill said they used to have a contingent program at ASB but the state quit funding. Ms. Weeks said she was the teacher and they lost the funding. She said they had a program on campus for 12 years. She said she was transferred to a regular classroom of multi-handicapped children paid for by the state.

Dr. Watson asked if we had information on how many students statewide have a hearing loss or visual loss. Dr. Dickinson said she thought Rick Porter was here and he is the one that works with PetNet to research to find out how many deaf students are in the mainstream school, how many deaf educators there are and how many deaf/blind student there are. She said she didn't know if they had done the research. Ms. Doan said they have had the deaf/blind program at ASB. She said they had it for about 7 years and the ADE decided those children would be best served in the public schools.

Mr. Porter said they have 6 students that are currently on the CAYSI register. He said he had just spoken with someone at the ADE CAYSI and they are coming to do an assessment of all ASD students next week. Dr. Watson asked if there was a central registry when you get a combined loss of hearing and vision. Mr. Porter said it is under CAYSI. Mr. Hill said in the case of blind, if you try to get a figure from the state, especially ADE, they will only list 200 in the state of Arkansas. He said the reason they are not listed is because they move them into 504. He said we know there are more as ASB averages 60 – 70 visually impaired babies every year. Dr. Watson asked if ASD had numbers on their babies every year. Ms. Pack said that is what Janet is working. Dr. Dickinson said that last year (2014 – 2015) they had about 50 new babies identified. She said the EDY program is trying to gather that data but this is their first year. Dr. Watson asked if anyone did follow-up to those children, i.e. Pre-School, 1st through 6th, Middle School and High School to see what happens. Ms. Doan said at age three, the child will age out of ASB's baby program then ESVI and the public schools are to serve them. Ms. Pack asked if they were protective of that information. Ms. Doan said yes they have to be. Ms. Pack said so that is why it is hard to get information. Mr. Hill said they do not get direct services from ESVI, only if the school requests it and a lot of times that does not happen. Mr. Elam said so the student's parents have to follow a paper trail. Ms. Pack said yes. Dr. Watson said if they label them correctly they would have to show they have qualified teachers. Ms. Doan said yes. Mr. Hill said maybe legally but not necessarily. Dr. Watson said that it was something that needed to be monitored better. Dr. Dickinson said they could probably set up a special session just to focus on that topic alone.

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

Mary Weeks, Chair

Faith McLaughlin, Secretary

OFFICIAL MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF THE ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

The Board of Trustees for the Arkansas School for the Deaf met for their monthly meeting on April 19, 2016.

Present: Mary Weeks, Chairperson; Dr. Doug Watson, Vice Chairperson; Susan Pack, Board Member; Everett Elam, Board Member; Jeanne Tribett, ASB Parent Representative; Jim Hill, ASBVI Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; , Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community, Hillcrest residents

Ms. Weeks commented that the percentage that ASD is getting from the state says 18% but should be .18%. She said the decimal point needs to be changed.

16-D-005 Motion to Approve Consent Items

Ms. Weeks asked for a motion to approve the consent items to include the minutes, financial statement and personnel items. Ms. Pack made a motion to approve the consent items and Dr. Watson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

Special Education Title VI-B Pass-Through Application Approval

Dr. Dickinson said ASD needed to have approval for their Title VI-B Application also.

16-D-006 Motion to Approve Special Education Title VI-B Pass-Through Application

Ms. Weeks asked for a motion to approve the Special Education Title VI-B Pass-Through Application. Ms. Pack made a motion to approve the application and Dr. Watson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

None

Superintendent Report

Dr. Dickinson apologized for not being at the last board meeting. She said she was in Washington, D.C. She said one of the teachers and two students that attended were going to speak about the trip. Henry said he was a Junior at ASD, Lakesha said she was a Senior; and JuJu said she was the Graphics Arts teacher. Henry said they took a trip to DC to advocate for the Alice Cogswell and Anna Sullivan Macy Bill (HR3535) to make sure we are getting the right kind of education and that the teachers are qualified. JuJu said they met several of the senators and congressmen and had interviews with them talking about education, HR3535 and it was interesting. She said they were very nervous when they got in there but started sharing with them about deafness. Dr. Dickinson said when they first went into the meeting she was explaining about the school and why they were there. She said two days later they went to Gallaudet and were involved in a job fair there. She said they were able to recruit teachers. Dr. Watson asked what their impression of our senators and congress people. Henry said most were nice. Dr. Watson asked if they would vote for any one of them. Henry asked for what position. Henry shared that he found out over the weekend that his ACT was 25 and he wants to be a computer engineer.

Dr. Dickinson said she would say that they all had opposite stories. She said Henry grew up in main stream schools and transferred here in 9th grade. She said Lakesha's mom graduated from ASD and has been here.

Ms. Pack said while JuJu is still here what about here trip to Hot Springs last weekend for the contest. JuJu said recently they were in competition. She said it was called Skills USA. She said they competed in two different categories. She said first category was OC (Open & Close) and the other was photography competition. She said her student was involved in that and came in 3rd. She said she wanted to add that Lakesha is ASD's Valedictorian for 2016. Dr. Watson asked her what she was going to do. Lakesha said she was going to attend Pulaski Tech.

Dr. Dickinson said last Thursday they had their carnival and it was awesome. She said about 1,000 people came. She said it was more for community outreach than a fundraiser. Ms. Pack said she saw students from ASB and was happy to see them there. Dr. Dickinson said this Thursday will be Story Book Hour in the library in NLR. She said they were in the middle of getting some data for their strategic plan. She said they have a survey that has gone out to the community to gather some ideas. She said on April 28th they would have a community town hall meeting to do some brainstorming for the future. Ms. Pack asked what time. Dr. Dickinson said 6-8. She said ASD was chosen as the Cool School and it was an honor but then they realized they had to be there at 5:30 am fully ready for a pep rally (Channel 7). She said they had doctors from Children's Hospital who volunteered their time to do school physicals for the students.

Dr. Dickinson said they finished the museum. She said Tommy Walker had worked with them on that. She said they had been working with Metro to develop a new partnership and looks like we have about 4 students that have been accepted to go there next year.

Dr. Watson asked Tommy if he wanted to talk about the windows. Tommy said after two years of trying to get this done, we were finally able to replace the windows in the museum. He said it has made a world of difference.

Dr. Dickinson said Rick just reminded her of something. Rick said ASD had the same status as ASB – Needs Improvement.

Mr. Hill said he had asked Mr. Caton to get a report for him and asked him to come up. Mr. Caton said the student talked about earlier winning 4th place at the FBLA was a student at Metro in Computer Engineering. He said Clayton participated in the Skills USA competition as well – he had to take a computer apart and put it back together. He said Clayton came in second in the state in that competition. He said he was going to college in Utah for computer engineering. Mr. Caton said he wanted to briefly bring the board up-to-date on some of the safety planning that ASB is doing. He said they had met with the LR Police Department and the Smart 911 group. He said they are helping the school with our safety plans, specifically with the Active Shooter Response plan. He said on June 1st we will be doing what is known as the CRASE (Cival Reponse Active Shooter Event). He said it is built on the strategy of avoid, deny and defend. He said typically response time is anywhere between 3 to 6 minutes. He said they come in and train staff on what to do during that 3-6 minutes that you are waiting for help to arrive on campus. He said they also include some disaster and emergency planning. He said they will be doing a threat assessment on the school and making recommendations. He said on April 29th from 2-3 pm, ASB is going to do testing of the RAVE Panic Button App with the Smart 911 people and LR Police and it will mainly be location testing. He said in the event that we pushed one of the buttons on the app it pulls up a location that it is coming from on the campus so we are to find out how accurate the location comes up on their end. Mr. Elam asked if house parents would go through the training as well. Mr. Caton said eventually the school would do an entire staff training. He said all staff would be at the training on June 1st for the initial training. He said as the plan is rolled out there would be additional training and drills.

Mr. Hill said in the interest of both schools, the security has been reorganized. He said in the past they had no way of knowing if the guards were going around to the various buildings and really checking them. He said the new system is a barcode that the guard has to register on his scanner. He said it shows what time and how many times they check the buildings. He said he and Janet had worked on it very closely and thinks it will be a great improvement for both schools.

Dr. Watson asked if it was barcode or thumb code. Dr. Dickinson said it is more like a scanner they use on the doors. Mr. Hill said it would be a great improvement for night time security.

Dr. Watson said he would like to encourage the board to attend the town hall meeting on April 28th at ASD from 6-8 in Parnell Hall.

Ms. Weeks said at this time the board would go into Executive Session (5:17 pm).

The board returned from Executive Session at 5:28. Ms. Weeks said no decision was made and that it was an information gathering session.

Ms. Weeks adjourned the meeting at 5:40 pm.

Mary Weeks, Chair

Faith McLaughlin, Secretary

OFFICIAL MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF THE
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

The Board of Trustees for the Arkansas School for the Deaf and the Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired met for their monthly meeting on April 19, 2016.

Present: Mary Weeks, Chairperson; Dr. Doug Watson, Vice Chairperson; Susan Pack, Board Member; Everett Elam, Board Member; Jeanne Tribett, ASBVI Parent Representative; Jim Hill, ASBVI Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; , Beth Smith and Anna Litchfield, Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community; Hillcrest Residents

Call to Order

Ms. Weeks called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. The next meeting was scheduled for May 17, 2016 at Arkansas School for the Blind at 4:00 pm.

16-J-006 Motion to Approve Joint Minutes

Ms. Weeks asked for a motion to approve the Joint minutes from the March meeting. Dr. Watson made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Pack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items
None

Discussion Items

Ms. Weeks stated that originally Mr. Hill was going to talk about a proposal from the city for a bicycle path in front of the schools but it involves both schools so it would be better to discuss during the Joint session. She said John Honeywell, Director of Public Works, along with the City Board has proposed to both schools to have a bicycle trail that would go in front of the schools, it is to come down the alley on the ASB side and connect to the trail. She said the city produced a map which is now null and void because the trail went too far into the front lawns especially for ASB; not as much for ASD because their ground is level, but ASB ground drops off. She said they were going to have to cut a couple of trees and some do not like to cut trees down. She said it would bring the public into the front part of the school and we didn't feel like that was a good option. She said they met with Dr. Dickinson and Mr. Hill first. She said they asked the city to revisit the project and the trail if approved would run along the sidewalk. She said for a bicycle trail there has to be a total of 15 feet. She said she didn't know how wide the sidewalk was.

She said if it is 5 feet wide then the additional part of the trail would be 10 feet. She said they would have to build up a drop-off on ASB's side. She said the bicycle trail was just now in the planning stage. Ms. Weeks said she had talked to him today and asked if it was approved could they install one of the push button lights and stripe the street so anyone could walk across in a safe manner for each school. She said he they were over a \$100,000 each. He said maybe one but he couldn't promise anything. She said all these things are being discussed. She said she told him if the walkway came down she thought there needed to be a safe manner for people to cross the street. Dr. Watson asked if they were going to go around the curve. Ms. Weeks said she didn't think so but would need to look at plans again. Mr. Hill said they indicated it would begin at ASD campus and end at ASB going up the alley at Little Street. Dr. Watson said he was talking about going toward the Capitol. Ms. Weeks said this was a trail that was going to join something else. She said the city was going to come up with pricing for the project. Ms. Pack asked if they were saying they wanted to take the walkway down because of the trail. Ms. Weeks said the walkway/bridge was in need of repair. Ms. Pack said that was easy for them to say, it was not one of those things that is used every day but when needed it is there. Ms. Weeks asked who uses it. Ms. Pack said ASD has had students in the past that used it and teachers that would use it. Ms. Weeks asked Dr. Dickinson if she knew if the bridge was used currently. Dr. Dickinson said she was not aware of anyone who uses the bridge currently. Tommy Walker said he has seen people use it. Nathan said there are people who use the bridge to get to the bus stop. Ms. Weeks said the trail would have to go around it if that is what happens. She said she asked if there could be a fence at the alley on the ASB side because that alley is going to be part of the trail and they said they would pull up the figures and then they could all sit down again and see what the possibilities were. She said everything is in the drawing stages. She said they had a lot of planning to do. Mr. Hill said ASB doesn't want to be negative about a community project that seems to be very important to the city. He said his concern was that it violated what we call soft space (space between the school and the public) in the front. He said there is a law that says no loitering on or near school ground. He said they ask for suggestions and my suggestion was that they use the existing sidewalk. He said they were agreeable to that. He talked about the drainage problem and that they would help with that. Dr. Watson said you would need a fence across the entire campus. Mr. Hill said he hesitated to put a fence around the campus because he didn't want the school to look like a prison. He said he thought they would be alright from the front but the alley would need a fence. Dr. Watson stated he did not know why they are doing this across this campus. Ms. Pack said she didn't either and she didn't understand why they are saying is doesn't meet code now. Ms. Weeks stated that Kathy Webb would be at the May meeting and would be able to answer all those questions that you have. She said that would give them time to redraw the plans to make it by the sidewalk. Ms. Pack asked about the people that live on the alley, their garages back up to the alley.

Ms. Weeks said she didn't think they used the garages. Ms. Pack said yes they do there are cars there. Dr. Watson said they are going to take a lot of the school's land. He said he had driven that alley and there is not room for 15 foot path. Ms. Weeks said the alley would be the bike path and nothing would be added to it. Ms. Pack asked why would you want bikes going down past where people would be backing out of their garages. She said the next question she had was since we are state property and they are city, does imminent domain take any right over – can they just come in and take state property, Sara? Ms. Farris said not that she was aware of. Ms. Pack said they are going to come in and cut into the land with our approval. Mr. Hill working with Entergy the closest a fence could be put was about 12 – 13 feet from the alley because of the right of way for Entergy was about 12 and he said he guesses the city has the right to the alley. He said we didn't really have control over 10-12 feet of the ground on our side, it is under easement by Entergy. Ms. Pack asked who besides the board would have to give permission for that to be done. Ms. Farris asked if anyone had talked to the Building Authority. Mr. Hill said he didn't know but if it is put where the walk is they evidently have the right of way for a walk next to Markham or they wouldn't have the walk there. Ms. Pack said she thought the ABA would have to be included. Ms. Farris said someone from staff should call the ABA and let them know what was going on. Dr. Watson asked if they were asking if this is something we wanted to get involved with. Mr. Hill said they came to the school and presented the plan at Kathy Webb's request. He said when they came we expressed our concerns about using the campus right up front and they went back to the drawing board. He said even using the sidewalks when they get to our drive they will veer off onto school campus to keep the path from being right on Markham. Dr. Watson asked if the board could consider making a response to the city and respectfully decline. Mr. Hill said that was the option to the board. Ms. Pack asked if they should wait for the second meeting at the next board meeting. She said she understood wanting to be responsible members of the community and if that is what they are trying to do she wants the board to do it the right way. Ms. Weeks asked Dr. Dickinson if she wanted to say anything about the subject. Dr. Dickinson said she wanted to say ASD has the same concerns that needed to be talked about. She said they were all on the same page. She said we all want to be friends but at the same time protect our land. Ms. Weeks said the board would wait until they get more information. Dr. Watson said to express the sentiment is not to go along with that. Mr. Hill said he thought in all fairness they did express that the board would have to make the decision and that there might be objections. He said they know they have to make their case to the board. Ms. Pack said she had one more question about the bridge because she knows it has really been need at times. She asked who would pay to take the bridge down. Ms. Weeks said the city. Ms. Weeks said they said the bridge was getting in disrepair and that they (meaning them) would have to eventually do some work on the bridge and asked if there was a reason the bridge had to remain. Mr. Hill said they said before they could tear it down they would have to have a public hearing and research all laws because the funds that put it up might have legal standing behind it that it cannot be torn down.

Dr. Dickinson said she would like to add that they have discussed with them on how to make it look better because it is starting to look awful right now. She said our students have threatened to paint it blue. Ms. Farris asked who owned the bridge. Ms. Weeks said she thought the city would own it. Ms. Pack said she was pretty sure the city does own the bridge. She said she remembered one year they put a big banner up about Red Ribbon Week and had to get permission from the city to do that. Ms. Jacobs said she knew that a few years ago the kids applied for permission to scrub and refinish but the city said no. Ms. Farris said if it belongs to the city the students should not paint it. Ms. Pack said almost every sidewalk on ASD campus has pipes, lines and all kinds of things underneath them. Ms. Weeks said surely they would research where the pipes are. Dr. Watson said while they were discussing the sidewalk, it occurred to him that there are no signs that say “Deaf/Blind Children Present – Slow”. He said he has seen them at many deaf schools around the country. He said he lives on the other side of Joe T Robinson School and there are police there fining people through the school zone and wonders why they don’t do the same for our schools. He said that seemed more important than a bike path – accommodation for our kids and the people that work here. Mr. Elam asked if we had thought about asking the people that live on the alley how they feel about the project. Ms. Pack said she wondered if they even knew those people knew it was in the works. Ms. Weeks said they should move along. She said she did want to mention that May 11th is going to be Jim Hill Day at ASB and wanted to invite everyone to attend a celebration at 1:30 in the auditorium with refreshments to follow in the cafeteria. Dr. Watson asked it was going to be a roast and toast. Mr. Hill said the Alumni is also doing one.

ASB Parent Rep – Jeannie Tribett

Ms. Tribett said the elementary school science fair was success. She said the 5th and 6th grade competed for individual prizes and Garrett (5th) won first place. She said 1st through 4th grades participated in group projects. She said Ms. Ring’s third grade won first place. She said the PTA had an old fashion pie auction at the Talent Show and raised approximately \$600. Clayton won 4th place in the District V FBLA competition in web design and moved on to compete at the state level. She said junior and senior high athletes have competed in the track & field meets and represented the school very well. She said 3-10 grades are taking the ACT Aspire this week and part of next week. She said Jordan competed at the National Wrestling Tournament in Rogers, Arkansas and did very well. She said the prom would be held Thursday at the Maumelle Country Club with the theme being “An Evening in Paris”. She stated the IEP season is in full swing and everyone has worked very hard.

ASD Parent Rep – Harry Pompeo Absent

There being no further business of Joint nature, the agenda moved to the School for the Blind.

Mary Weeks, Chair

Faith McLaughlin, Secretary