

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 July 19, 2016.

Present: Mary Weeks, Chairperson; Dr. Doug Watson, Vice Chairperson; Faith McLaughlin, Secretary; Susan Pack, Board Member; Jeanne Tribett, ASBVI Parent Representative; Harry Pompeo, ASD Parent Representative; James Caton, ASBVI Superintendent; Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; Beth Smith and Stephanie Ott, Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community

16-B-012 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. McLaughlin made a motion to approve the consent items and Ms. Pack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

Approval of ASB Student Handbook

Mr. Caton said the major policy change in the handbook at this time was related to the policy for Pass/Fail. He said that has been removed from the handbook. He said there were no other changes to policies other than minor clarifying language and updating the names and phone numbers. He said he was in the process of contracting with a special education consultant to help us with what we will put in our handbook in terms of the grading policy for the self-contained students especially going out of the self-contained classroom to Gen Ed courses. He said there may be some future addendums to the policy.

16-B-013 Motion to Approve ASB Student Handbook

Ms. Pack made a motion to approve the ASB Student Handbook as it is now with the possibility of addendums at a later time. Ms. McLaughlin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

16-B-014 Motion for New Bank Account Policy

Ms. Pack made a motion that a new bank account cannot be established for the Arkansas School for the Blind without the Board of Trustee's approval and the current Superintendent is the only employee that is eligible to establish a new bank account at any financial institute. Ms. McLaughlin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

None

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Caton said he had made it two weeks and thanked the board for their support. He said he looked forward to serving the school and moving it forward.

Instructional Programs – he said they were starting to focus on the Next Generation Science Standards that are being implemented across the state. He said they are looking at the 6-7-8th grade levels (middle school level) and placing emphasis on instructional programs. He said a computer lab/science lab for those grade levels that will be very beneficial to them along the new science standards has been placed on the 2nd floor. He said new computers had been purchased for the classrooms and a lot of new science equipment for the lab. He said six additional Smartboards are going to be added. He said new classroom furniture for the CTE classroom had been purchased. He said the teacher was very excited and had been waiting for 10 years. Campus Projects – he said summer campus projects were in process with a lot of pressuring washing, parking lot striping and railings being repainted. He said there was a new wooden fence constructed around the HVAC units in back of the Fine Arts Building. He said dormitory areas are being prepared and floors waxed.

Personnel Changes – he said Betty has been reassigned to the Main Office and will continue as Board secretary. He said Beverly Roy will be his Administrative Assistant. He said he hired a secondary principal, Chris Jones. He said she came from the Jacksonville School District with many years of administrative experience.

Other Projects – he said the Easter Seal Building has been transferred back from the Foundation to the school and can now move forward with that project. He said the Entergy project is moving forward. He said he and Melinda continue to work on the new budget.

Dr. Watson said ASD is really investing in Mac equipment and technology and asked Mr. Caton how ASB was doing and are you at the state of the art in terms of computers that ASB students can access. Mr. Caton said ASB added more PC's in terms of both desktops and laptops versus using Mac's. He said they had not found at this point any appreciable beneficial difference for ASB to go to a Mac for the blind and visually impaired. He said he thought with what the school has and has added recently that they are up-to-date in technology with what works for the students. He said the Braille technology had come a long way with the refreshable braille displays. He said they able to hook up to I- phones and I-pads. Ms. Doan said three of ASB's teacher met with ADE and the future is all the on-line courses and distance education.

Ms. Doan said ADE called her over to visit with them so they can make all of their classes more accessible for blind and visually impaired students. She said they needed to give Mindy a pat on the back as well because some of the funding issues that she was able to uncover allowed her to justify getting text books through computers. She said there are no NGSF textbooks that are available in braille. She said everything is coming down electronically. She said allowing the children to I-Pads in hand a blind child can Bluetooth a braille device into their I-Pad or I-Phone and participate with the Smartboard which is pretty cutting edge. She said ASB is getting 12 new braille students.

Dr. Watson asked how the year-end budget was going. Mr. Caton said it is about done. Ms. Terry said the school gets some tax donations in that fund that she talked to DFA about the school being able to keep from year to year. She said DFA said it could be done if the funds are certified. She said in the past the policy has been the state would recoup the money.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Mary Weeks, Chair

Dr. Doug Watson, Vice-Chair (Secretary Absent)

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 July 19, 2016.

Present: Mary Weeks, Chairperson; Dr. Doug Watson, Vice Chairperson; Faith McLaughlin, Secretary; Susan Pack, Board Member; Jeanne Tribett, ASB Parent Representative; Harry Pompeo, ASD Parent Representative; James Caton, ASBVI Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; , Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community, Hillcrest residents

16-D-012 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. McLaughlin made a motion to approve the consent items and Ms. Pack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

Approval of Student Handbook

Dr. Dickinson said last year in July was her first board meeting. She said her first or second week on the job she had to develop a handbook and she remembered coming to the board meeting and being so nervous. She said Jim Hill pulls out this beautiful handbook and hands it out and she said she was embarrassed because ASD's was just printed and copied. She said this year we have a handbook. She said she had the Student Handbook and the Employee Handbook. She said the Student Handbook needs to be approved. She said she was going to hand it out and asked Ray and Rick to give a quick condensed explanation of anything new in the handbook. Mr. Porter said in the Standards Review they didn't have a definition of a full day in the Student Handbook so it was added. Mr. Bolen said they had an attendance policy that was included in there. He said they have lowered the days to meet standards with public schools. He said the old policy was much higher but now it is 20 and 20. The high school attendance is more important because they are earning credits and with too many misses they will lose high school credits and would have to repeat those classes. He said the other is a grading policy. He said they changed that to a 7 point system from a 10 point system. He said that was standard across schools. He said most colleges follow a GPA system. Dr. Watson asked if they were using grades. Mr. Bolen said yes still use grades for GPA. He said they talked about students who have lower reading levels and taking those the word used to be Language unit so Arkansas has high school classes English 9th & 10th and then 11th & 12th grade English and you read various passages. The students will work on their reading level and it will be a Language Arts and Remedial English class at the same time.

Mr. Bolen said the student is really focused on improving their reading rather than working on theories. He said they had tweaked that to a Remedial English class that really focuses more on supporting those students and improving their English through their high school grades. Ms. Weeks said they are getting letter grades on their functional level. Mr. Bolen said yes. He said the Remedial English classes the state says those are non-credit, however, the principal can make those local credits as opposed to the State Mandated 22 credits needed for a diploma. He said it would be to his discretion to award those credits and they would call those local credits. He said they still have to follow the State Mandated 22 credits. Ms. Weeks asked if this is reflected on their transcripts. Mr. Bolen said it will say Remedial English. He said they have made those modifications so the 180 reading we developed a curriculum to follow the students to improve their reading levels. He said the other thing to add is ASD may require up to 25 credits for some students who have really excelled. Ms. Weeks asked if they had a Gifted & Talented Program for those students he was talking about. He said they could offer it if the students needed that criteria.

Dr. Dickinson said that is what they were asking the board to improve in the Student Handbook. Ms. Weeks said she would entertain a motion to approve the handbook.

16-D-013 Motion to Approve ASD Student Handbook

Dr. Watson made a motion to approve the ASD Student Handbook and Ms. McLaughlin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Dickinson said the next thing to talk about is the Employee Handbook. She said she didn't think they had to approve all of those. She said all the policies had been approved with the exception of one addition and it is a staff dress code. She said during the strategic planning process this idea came up. She said several groups mentioned that the staff was not dressing professionally enough. She said they wanted to be viewed as professional so they need to look professional. She said they had comments from the community, parents and even from some students so they felt it was time to address it. She said they look at the LRSD policy and it was very strict. She said they discussed it at length. She said there were recommendations made and from those recommendations we developed a draft and presented to the Administration Team and we discussed it again. She said this is the final outcome from all of the discussions. She said it is professional dress code Monday through Thursday and Friday can be spirit day, off day, etc. but if meeting with parents, community members, etc. they had to maintain the professional attire. She said they would be purchasing uniforms for small groups of people on campus like our maintenance team.

16-D-014 Motion to Approve the Staff Dress Code

Dr. Watson made a motion to approve the Staff Dress Code as revised and Ms. McLaughlin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Dickinson said she had one more thing that was really for their information. She said this is the Employee Handbook. She said she had put the new dress code in it. She said one more thing that is not on the agenda but I asked for it to be passed. It is a statement from auditor that they asked us to get passed. She asked the new Fiscal Manager, Michael Krenn, to explain. Mr. Krenn said they were in the audit process when he started and ASD is able to do electronic transfers between two accounts on line which involved us to have a different monitor to come look at the transfer process. He said in the recommendation was to have the board approve language that wouldn't allow a new account to be created at the bank without the Superintendent and the board approving the creation of said bank account. He said that way no one could go create a bank account in the school's name. He said they have access to the Federal ID number and if you are a signer typically a bank will allow the signer to open a new bank account. He said this language was recommended by the auditor for the board to approve saying the superintendent is the only person to open a bank account. Dr. Watson asked what stimulated that proposal by the auditor. He said it is more of a prevention measure so that a new bank account can't be created by a signer on the account without board approval. Dr. Watson asked if there was a history of doing that. Mr. Krenn said no but he said he hadn't been here long enough to know about years past. He said that is why they put in there that it would be the current superintendent that way the superintendent is the one saying yes to the creation of a new bank but the board has to approve it. He said it is audit procedures or checks and balances. He said it is proactive and preventive. He said if we don't do this there is a possibility we would have to come back later and present an audit finding and go talk to the legislature.

16-D-015 Motion for New Bank Account Policy

Dr. Watson made a motion that a new bank account cannot be established for the Arkansas School for the Deaf without the Board of Trustee's approval and the current Superintendent is the only employee that is eligible to establish a new account at any financial institute. Ms. Weeks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Watson asked if this had any relevance to ASB. Ms. Terry said they did not get the same finding. Dr. Watson asked what the practice was for ASB. Ms. Terry said that the Superintendent and she were the only ones that could open an account. She said that they did not do electric transfers. She said they ask for a check. She said she did not see any problem if applicable to both schools.

Dr. Watson asked at the end of the fiscal year, did ASD return any money back to the state. Mr. Krenn said as of now that had not been determined because they have until August 15 which is the 45-day rule that the state initiated. He said right now they had \$31,000 still left and expected to be able to carry forward at least \$28,000 - \$29,000 of that and hoping to utilize the remaining 45-day rule on some of the invoices they have in hand to wipe out the remaining balance. He said the likelihood is zero.

Ms. Weeks said she would like to make mention that before he (Michael Krenn) came the board established a ruling that the two state treasury accounts that if any money over \$25,000 was to be withdrawn it needs to have board approval. She said that was due to mismanagement before he came on board. Mr. Krenn said he did not intend to use cash funds unless they really had to.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Dickinson said she wanted to inform them about the strategic planning. She they are trying to work hard to get the information from a lot of different community groups. She said a survey was sent out to the community a lot of different ways. She said they gathered all the information and from each focus area had a team that reviewed all of the feedback regarding that area. She said now they have a final draft for the board to review, not for approval now but maybe for the next meeting. She said this was a roadmap for the future. She passed out copies of the Strategic Plan to the board. She said they could email any feedback they had. She thanked Michael and said he has been helping them and has worked hard for many long hours. She said she also wanted to applaud Ty Mathis and Brian Staggers for their work. She asked the board to come at 3:00 in August for a tour. She said the CONVO team had just arrived. She said they were going to start installing TV's all over the campus. She said they were going to have a new emergency information system. She said two new programs that are going to start in the fall are 1) 18-21 year old group – JR is going to lead this group. She said they started with two students that wanted to come back and now have five. She said she wanted the board to think about the corner outside the campus where the empty store is for lease. She said she has been thinking about what if ASD rented the store and gave it to the 18 – 21 year olds that they could help renovate it and develop a business plan to make a deaf store. She said they could learn how to run a store and cash register. She said she checked it out with Mary first and then checked out with the state to make sure they felt they could rent that space. She said the state said they would be happy to help. She said the state's real estate agent is negotiating with the owner of the store. She said she is going to bring in the contract at the next board meeting for the board to review.

Dr. Watson asked if this was something that VR could help with. Dr. Dickinson said VR has been happy to provide ideas. She said more to come. She said the last one is they are excited to start the 1:1 laptop program. She said they would start a phase approach where they would use some of the Silent Sunday money. She said in January they are expecting to buy laptops for all of the high school students and in the spring depending on the budget they are going to buy middle school laptops. She said they had long discussions that lasted for days on whether to use PC or Mac. She said they decided and voted to go with the Mac. She said the reason for that is Mac is very top of the line and innovated for deaf kids.

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

Mary Weeks, Chair

Dr. Doug Watson, Vice-Chair (Secretary Absent)

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 July 19, 2016.

Present: Mary Weeks, Chairperson; Dr. Doug Watson, Vice Chairperson; Faith McLaughlin, Secretary; Susan Pack, Board Member; Jeanne Tribett, ASBVI Parent Representative; Harry Pompeo, ASD Parent Representative; James Caton, ASBVI Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; Stephanie Ott and Beth Smith, Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community; Hillcrest Residents

Call to Order

Ms. Weeks called the meeting to order at 3:55 pm. The next meeting was scheduled for August 16, 2016 at the Arkansas School for the Deaf.

16-J-009 Motion to Approve Joint Minutes

Ms. Weeks asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting. Ms. McLaughlin made a motion to approve the June minutes and Ms. Pack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

ASD Parent Rep – Harry Pompeo

Mr. Pompeo said he was waiting on Ernie to bring report. He said he could start with principal's report. He said Summer Camp was very successful. He said they were working on the ASD handbook. He said there was painting and replacing the floors in progress. He said registration day was August 14th and the first day of school will be the 15th. He said the teachers would return on August 8th. He said he now had the athletic director's report. He said the Nutt Athletic Complex basketball floor court needed a scrubbing as it was very dry. He said it has been shined and looks amazing. He said it had been painted. He said they had new blue picnic tables that would be put out by football field. He said all sport schedules were ready and on the website.

ASB Parent Rep – Jeannie Tribbett

Ms. Tribett said she had nothing to report since it was summer.

Ms. Weeks said the board had just received the updated bike trail maps today. She said some of the members had been looking at what would be involved in putting the trail together. She said she would like for the superintendents to voice their opinion on the bike trail. Dr. Dickinson said regarding the bike trail in her personal opinion she thought there were two men that have come to give them information that they need. She said they realize it is for a good cause. She said in her opinion the bike trail becomes public property. She said in the end they would lose land and seems like nothing but when you drive by it is that much more space that we lose. She said it was a big deal to the school and community. She said she thought it would be hard to consider it if there was not something given back to benefit the schools. She said she was not sure their community would support it but she would like to see what could be offered back as a benefit to the schools. She said the things that had been discussed were 1) the overpass – it does not appear that the deaf community uses it and it has become an eye sore. She said it either needs to be improved or removed. 2) She said she knew there had been concern about if someone needed to cross the street and having a light for them. She said there should be signage that clarifies there are deaf and blind children in the area. 3) She said there are people who walk on to the campus frequently that do not belong on the campus. She said they stopped two this morning that were just walking around on their campus so she feels like for the deaf side they would benefit from the fence so the fence needs to be continued. She said there were things they could benefit from with this project so she is looking for more discussion.

Mr. Caton said from his perspective it is looking at it from the standpoint of something changing that has been in place for a long time. He said ASB has always had this big expansive front lawn that he and other people find very attractive. He said when you think about making a change to that it is disruptive and a level of invasive even if there may be certain benefits to it. He said he wasn't clear what the benefits to the school would be other than participating in a community project which is important for schools to be a part of their communities. He said overall he could not get settled on such a huge change for the front lawn. He said he was not sure that other people associated with the school would disagree with him on that. He said he was a biker himself and had a certain bias toward bike trails and understands the need for them although he is not totally convinced on the need for this one running through two schools. He said his main concern still remains with the crosswalk for the main entrance. He said it is a very high traffic area and doesn't think it has yet been really appreciated how much traffic comes through at all times of the day. He said it is a very difficult turn left into the area as well as turning left out of it. He said again the crosswalk was his main concern as well as not being clear on what is really going to happen to a number of the trees which he hates to think about losing any of them because they add to the openness and beauty of the front lawn.

Mr. Caton said also where the trail begins would come off the alley and curve through part of our lot on the corner space where the Alumni have the annual Christmas Tree sale and that is an important fundraiser for the Alumni Association and the school benefits from those funds. He said one possible benefit for the school is it would improve some of the drainage problems we have in that area. He said these were some of the things he had looked at and he thinks the biggest thing is trying to settle on is do we want that kind of change for everyone. He said he likes to think that the school is a landmark in the community and people drive by and see the expansive front lawn – how would adding a project like that would change it. He said it does open up the school a little more to the public. He said those were his thoughts on the project.

Ms. Pack said she appreciated all the work that has gone into this but it still baffles her about it cutting across the schools. She said her concern was safety. She said 20 and 30 years ago when she was principal and Superintendent she often heard complaints about trying to turn in with the traffic and now it is worse. She said there are as many as 10 busses that pull out of this campus every morning during busy traffic time and in the afternoon as well during the busy traffic time. She said she realizes that these are important in the city and important to make your city strong. She said she thinks it is the wrong place for it and it is the safety of the children. She said she knows there are places where there is more traffic but the people using those places are not deaf and not blind. She said that was a real concern to her.

Ms. McLaughlin said her main concern was also the traffic and making that turn off Markham and what is going to happen with the bikers – they cannot have the right of way when people are trying to make a left hand turn. She said that it would be an accident waiting to happen. She said as far as the bike path itself she had not been terribly opposed to it. She said she thought it would be good for the community as long as the trail isn't that invasive onto the property of either school. She said if it could stay parallel to the sidewalk it would be an extension for the walkers. She said she liked the idea of the bike trail but is also concerned about the safety issue. She said there should be a light, a warning and some kind of sign that says there are deaf and blind children here. She said as far as the Blind School side she does not like taking down trees either but of the trees that would come down one of them is rotten and the other two are pine trees. She said if she had an issue it would be with a signal coming into the school. She said she was not opposed to the bike trail if it could be done in a manner that would enhance the front of the building/looks of the school.

Ms. Tribett said a lot of our kids at the school would be visually able to ride bikes and asked if that was the majority of the kids at ASB. She said when she heard about the trail that was the angle she had been thinking about. She said her kids were too young but when they get into their high school years, she wondered if they and other children of the same visual abilities wouldn't benefit from having a place that they are familiar with.

Ms. Tribett said most of the kids have grown up on this campus starting at 3 years old and go through 18. She said they know this place like the back of their hand and wondered if it would not be a benefit to a lot of them. She said ever since she heard of the bike trail she has been thinking that as her kids grow up she would like to see them have access to something like that and even make it part of campus culture. She said right now there is no safe place to ride a bike. She said that is what her thoughts have been since she heard of the bike trail. Ms. Weeks said that is good coming from a parent standpoint because she had not thought about that. Mr. Caton said they do ride in the back. He said the school has several bikes for the kids. He said his concern with that might be a safety issue because you are bringing them that much closer to Markham. Ms. Tribett said as far as she was concerned that is part of the education system to move them outside of the safety of this campus into the world at large and bringing them that close teaching them right of way, etc. She said most schools teach Drivers Ed and that's not available here of course but maybe that could be something they could do. She said she thought it needed to be encouraged to have mobility that they can do on their own so they are not constantly reliant on someone else. She said her kids are 11 now and they already face that. She asked how do you teach them independence when they are constantly reliant on someone. She said that was just her opinion. Mr. Caton said it was very valid and appreciated because it is a delicate balance for the school. Ms. Tribett said as far as the alley goes as she understood it was a public street and people can do what they want on that road. She said as far as she has seen (and she said she drives here several times a day) has never seen ASB students that close to the road. She said she did not see how that would negatively affect the Blind School. She nothing short of a light is going to fix the traffic problem.

Dr. Watson said he had lived here and been an alumni of ASD for 64 years and in all this discussion he was still looking at how it is supposed to be all about the kids, where are our kids. He said this is about some community to have all of Arkansas bike wherever they want. He said this is the one state campus in Arkansas that is protected for deaf/blind and visually impaired and hearing impaired children. He said he has not heard one word about the children and how they are going to be biking around. He said this is a public effort to take over a trail when even where he lives in Chenal they ride with the traffic. He said what is the difference here and there - none. He asked how it was going to serve the kids to have all these people biking in their front yard. He said he could not relate to it. He said they could make trails where there was not a school. He said if it was going to be looked at he would want to do a count on how many people come and go every day from the campus from all the different entrances and how many other schools have bike trails in their front lawn. He said he lived 10 years in New York and shared the street with bikers. He said they need to show him benefits for the kids. He said there are other trails where you can teach a deaf or blind kid how to bike.

Mr. Pompeo said he has a deaf daughter and if someone sends my daughter and maybe a friend out without additional safety concerns, he is not crazy about that. He said to add safety devices he didn't know if he fully supports the bike path right now. He said he knew the LR Marathon uses the street every year and if you put in a bike path it will flood the area with people.

Ernie Northrup said it was a beautiful vision for him. He said right now the football field does not meet the qualifications and requirements for a track team. He said they need a place for shot put and some other things for their track but we don't have room for it. He said next to the football field might be doable if we expand would the bike path block that effort. He said he was tired of driving their kids to other schools and us not being able to access the things here. He said the kids need space to do whatever. He said the question is would putting in the bike trail inhibit ASD from expanding later.

Ms. Doan said she was the elementary principal and the athletic director at ASB and her background is orientation & mobility. She said she had been hit from behind by a bike once and grazed on the other side twice but when someone is coming at you and they have earphones in they are focused on what is immediately in front of them. She said ASB uses that area for track and field. She said if they encroach on our property she feels like the kids are going to be sitting ducks. She said if people are coming from both directions and a child has impaired vision and is counting on listening to the traffic on Markham as a sound source to keep them safe she thinks that is very dangerous for our kids.

Ray Bolen, elementary principal at ASD, said he would support whatever their opinion is. He said the idea of a bike trail from a deaf person's perspective he could see where other organizations would take advantage of that. He said he could see where the high school kids could use the bike trail. He said they could set up a cross country team. He said he sees the options that they would be open to. He said he was principal at the Indiana School for the Deaf. He said they had a trail on the campus and they worked it out with the community and they set up a deaf center so deaf people could make signage and art to post about deaf culture and awareness. He said they used it as a deaf awareness and history because many people passed the school and didn't know anything about the it. He said he sees the pros and cons to it. He said many people pass by and know the rich history that is here. He said he thought it could be used to increase awareness for the deaf culture and the blind culture. Ms. Weeks asked if there was a law against putting signs up like that. City representative said they had done it in other areas. Ms. Weeks said she thought he was talking about the school putting up the signs. City representative said they did not have an issue with it. He said downtown there were all kinds of informational signs. Mr. Bolen said it requires community involvement, donations and many other things.

Ms. Weeks said before she came to work here she didn't know anything about the blind and deaf schools. She said she thought anyone that came to school here was totally blind and she was an educated teacher/person. She said until she worked here and realized how the students could be integrated into society and working with other people. She said she didn't want the kids to be closed off and she wanted them to have experiences of the public. She said the public considers the blind and deaf as severely handicapped and unable to perform a regular job even though we put the students in job situations. She said she wants the mental idea changed about the deaf and blind. She said she wants people to know that these students can perform and are viable people. She said that is why she wants in some way to have the bike trail. She said the entrance way worries her and it worries her about here comes a bunch of bikers and a bus is trying to turn in – how do you stop the bikers so the bus does not have to sit out there. City representative said they would set it up where the people on the trail would have to yield or stop to vehicular traffic coming off Markham. Ms. Pack said now you are busy looking for oncoming cars and to have to look for cars and bikes concerns her. She said the ideal solution would be a traffic light with a left turn signal. City representative said you would still have to expand that intersection to put in a traffic signal so you are still talking about impacting the campus property. He said they understand the concerns you have. Ms. Pack asked if the city had looked at any other alternative other than this route. He said not with this type of facility no. Ms. Terry asked what times do they actually cycle. He said all times of the day. He said there is no particular rush hour like cars. Mr. Hill said there are a significant number that ride downtown. Ms. Terry said she already sees cyclists on Markham so is this just taking them off the street. City representative said it was not solely for bikers it would be for pedestrians also. He said the people you see riding on Markham are probably much more experienced and comfortable riding in traffic.

Dr. Watson said he would like to get back to the kids. He said they were talking about everything except the children and how they would benefit. He said he would like to move that they thank these people but decline in participating in this effort. Ms. Weeks said she was not ready to vote we should have a full board. Dr. Watson asked if there was a second and there was no second. He said he would never support it and didn't think the deaf community would either. Ms. Pack said she did not want to make a second because she wanted to wait till Everett was here. Mr. Hill said he would like to clarify one thing that he would not want what the Indiana School did for ASB. He said it is not a feasible way make people understand about blindness and their place in society. He said many dollars and time are spent exposing the children to the public and on information to send out and it is still a very tough fight in order to get the recognition and provide people with knowledge about blindness. He said there is no doubt in his mind about the people turning off Markham. He said they are looking at the traffic coming at them and not looking at the crosswalk and when they see an opening they gun it and go into the driveway. He said it will be a safety hazard in spite of the project being a good project.

Mr. Hill said there would have to be some restrictions on the bikers. The drivers are not courteous. He said if it is passed he would like to have some kind of signal or stop sign for the bikers to be aware of the high traffic area that come on the campus. He said it would be a benefit for the kids that are running for track because they run on the sidewalk now. He said the kids do not go down there by themselves. He said what he was saying was two things: 1) It is not going to solve the problem of getting the word out to people about blindness and what they can do; 2) It is going to be a real hazard. Ms. Pack said there were also three things that Janet had asked if they were going to check on and that is another reason she would like to wait for answers on that before a vote is taken. Dr. Watson said those three things have nothing to do with bike trails. He said they need to be done without a bike trail. He said their job was to find out how to get that done independent of the bike trail to protect our school/children. Ms. Weeks said she would like to wait until there is a full board. Dr. Watson said without a second to his motion they needed to go ahead with the regular schedule.

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

Mary Weeks, Chair

Dr. Doug Watson, Vice –Chair (Secretary Absent)