

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 September 19, 2017.

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

17-B-020 Motion to Approve Consent Items

Dr. Watson 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 Dr. McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Caton said they hated to lose Ms. Geoghegan but she relocated to NYC to be closer to her family. She was with ASB for many years. He said they were able to cover her classes with other teachers in those areas and a long-term substitute that is on a waiver and is working toward their licensure. He said the RN that had been hired will be resigning at the end of the month. She had an opportunity with another state agency that is 10 minutes from her home. He said that everyone needing to be on a waiver for their vision certification is covered.

Action Items
ACSIP Assurances

Mr. Caton said there was nothing to sign on the ACSIP Assurances. The board minutes need to reflect they have approved the assurances for ACSIP and authorize the superintendent to submit an ACSIP Plan to the state even though we do not receive funding from that plan. Dr. Watson asked if there were any issues the board needed to be aware of. Mr. Caton said not at this time other than the school does not get funding for that plan and there is no budget for it.

17-B-021 Motion to Approve the ACSIP Plan

Ms. Pack made a motion to approve the ACSIP Assurances presented to the board by both schools (ASBVI & ASD). Ms. McLaughlin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Statement of Assurances

Mr. Caton said the second item was the accreditation Statement of Assurances. He said the board president signs stating the school will be following the assurances in terms of the Standards and Accreditation for the school year.

17-B-022 Motion to Approve the Statement of Assurances

Ms. McLaughlin made a motion to accept the Statement of Assurances and Dr. McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

17-B-023 Motion to Approve Minority Report

Ms. Pack made a motion to approve the Minority Reports for the School for the Blind and the School for the Deaf. Ms. McLaughlin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Report

Mr. Caton said he had provided the board with an Agency Strategic Plan and it will be posted to the website October 1st. He said he had received good feedback from the Governor's Office. He said he would like to recognize the attendance of Morgan Aldridge, the schools' liaison from the Governor's Office. He said the plan was concise and measurable and had a good agency efficiency goal in it. He said they would be working on four goals this year in the areas of academics, parental involvement, student transition activities and agency efficiency. He said he invited the board's discussion and feedback throughout the year in regard to the plan. Ms. McLaughlin asked how he came up with the strategic plan. Mr. Caton said the timeframe for completing the strategic plan did not fall in line when the majority of the staff was on campus. Most of the staff was gone for the summer. He said they had to pull it together as an administrative team. He said his plan was to pursue a more overall strategic plan for the school over a longer term.

Mr. Caton said he wanted to mention that he had signed the National Attendance Works Superintendent Call to Action to improve attendance in schools nationwide. He said they would be working on plans to improve attendance for the students at the school. Ms. Pack asked do you find that lack of attendance is more of a parent problem. Mr. Caton said he thought you had to look at a number of different factors. There could be family issues or economic issues that could be why kids aren't in school other than the fact they didn't want to come and the parent didn't make them. He said the parent would certainly play a critical role. He said the research shows that when a student is not in school it impacts their overall academic success regardless of what the reason may be.

Ms. McLaughlin wanted to know the percentage of students that are residential. Mr. Caton said 34 to 35 out of 96 are residential students. The local school districts bring in the other students each day and take them home. Dr. Dickinson said they had about 60% that stay in the dorms. She said one reason kids miss school is that they have to go home to see their local doctor because of insurance. Mr. Caton said they can be out all week if they do not have transportation. Mr. Elam said when he was in school if you missed three days of school you missed three days of material. He said now it is a cheap excuse because of online availability – you can get a lot more done that you used to, not for O&M but for science, math, history, and text book based subjects. Mr. Caton said he would agree with that for local students but for other parts of the state the online reliability is not always available. Dr. Watson asked about the ARKids and whether they were involved in the two schools. Someone answered no (could not tell who it was). Mr. Caton said the school has partnerships with Children’s Hospital and UAMS. Dr. Watson asked why the kids couldn’t go there instead of going home. Mr. Caton said sometimes they want their kids to go to their family doctor. He said occasionally the parent will work with the school and get an appointment set up locally. Ms. Pack said if they have insurance from another company they do not get ARKids. That is for someone who has no insurance. Dr. McAllister said if they have private insurance they have to go to their primary care physician first. Ms. McLaughlin said she thinks that the ones that come from small rural communities are more comfortable going to their hometown doctor. She said she volunteers at a hospital two days a week and the people that are from rural areas are not comfortable at all and she understands why they might say they would rather have their children see a doctor they know. She asked if there were issues with rural student attendance. Mr. Caton said there is probably more with rural kids but you see it with local kids as well. He said what they wanted to do is to look at each situation and decide how they can be more aware of what is going on with the family and how to support them. If it is someone out of town and they can’t get the student back – maybe the school should send a van so they don’t miss all week. He said overall the attendance was pretty good but there is always room for improvement.

Mr. Caton said he would be attending the Arch Ford Educational Cooperative Annual Superintendent Conference at the end of the month in Heber Springs. He is looking forward to networking with other superintendents.

In the Outreach Program ASB is placing emphasis on paying attention to what the data is telling them. A DATA Wall and a Good Effort Rubric have been developed to enhance teacher and student ownership. The school is increasingly utilizing data from the Renaissance Star 360 Program. ASB has used the Accelerated Reading component of the program for some years to improve reading for elementary students and are now using other components of the program for assessment data in core academic areas in elementary and secondary. Research shows if you have high expectations for the students and support them they will fall in line with it.

ASB submitted their application to be a R.I.S.E. (Reading Institute for Student Excellence) school. Every day at 3:00 the students stop and read for several minutes.

Mr. Caton said the EAST program was going very well. The students are learning all about technology and gradually learning to take ownership of their learning as well as solving community and world solutions. They are starting to participate in events outside the school in relation to the EAST program which connects them to other EAST programs. He said an open house is being planned so the board can see the program but feel welcome to stop by anytime.

Mr. Caton said ASB is working on a partnership with the Perkins School for the Blind and Harvard University. They have developed a new reading device called the Read Read – it allows independent braille instruction and math instruction. They have asked if ASB wants to be a pilot school.

ASB is also developing a partnership with World Services for the Blind to provide after school programs for our students. It will be programs that will work on job and career skills as well as independent living skills.

Pewitt Hall bathroom renovations are going well. Woolly Fine Arts/Auditorium roofing project is complete. Roofing for the main building will start soon. The Fiber optic project is complete. He asked Mindy to give update on the water project for Easter Seal property. She said she talked to the engineer at Central Arkansas Water and he is going to come out whenever bids are received. He has agreed to meet with the vendors and walk them through what CAW wants done. Dr. Watson asked if this was at our cost and Mr. Caton said yes it was. Mr. Caton said it comes from money left out of the demolition money. Mindy said after this is done the fence project would be worked on. Mr. Caton said one of the neighbors emailed him and ask if they could throw seeds out there and he told them to go ahead.

Dr. Watson asked if the Strategic Plan had to be approved. Mr. Caton said it did not require any action.

Mr. Elam said he had heard from a couple of students and administration that athletics is now in the middle of the day and there is no more practice after school like it used to be. He said he was wondering if this was an ASB thing but he was talking to his nephew and he said he goes to class then goes to athletics and back to class. He said he was wondering if there were wipes in the classroom to help them clean up. Mr. Caton said he did not know about the wipes. Mr. Caton said he didn't know if having athletics in the middle of the day was a trend with schools but it fit the schedule better for ASB. He said they found that having athletics at the end of the day that the athletes had more of a tendency to drop out. We are hoping this will get them to stay more committed.

Mr. Caton said he would look into it further and bring back some information. Mr. Elam said he was hearing from some of the teachers that it was very fragrant at times. He said after school was an important time for him when he was in school because he only had a mom and a sister at home. He said he learned a lot from the coach and the guys. He hated to hear that it had gone away. Mr. Caton said he didn't think in terms of the participation or what kids get from the athletic program had changed at all, it has just moved to a different part of the day. There were issues with some of the students not being able to stay after school. He said he would look closer at how it is set up and will get back with you. Dr. Watson asked if it included the wrestling and track. Mr. Caton said it was any athletics. He said they still do some sessions after school for track.

17-B-024 Motion to Adjourn

Ms. McLaughlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Pack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Dr. Doug Watson, Chair

Susan Pack, 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 September 19, 2017.

Present: Dr. Doug Watson, Chairperson; Faith McLaughlin, Vice Chairperson; Susan Pack, Secretary; Everett Elam, Board Member; Dr. John McAllister, Board Member; Jeanne Tribett, ASB Parent Representative; Harry Pompeo, ASD Parent Representative; James Caton, ASBVI Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; Beth Smith and Will Gorum, Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community, Hillcrest residents

17-D-018 Motion to Approve Consent Items

Dr. Watson 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 to include the minutes, financial statement and personnel items. Mr. Elam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items
State Mandated Annual School Nurse Report

Dr. Dickinson stated this was something that on an annual basis has to be approved. It explains the demographics for the health of the students, percentage of obesity, and number of students that have medical issues.

17-D-019 Motion to Approve State Mandated Annual Nurse Report

Ms. Pack made a motion to approve the State Mandated Annual Nurse Report and Mr. Elam seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Sale of the Riverfront Property

Dr. Dickinson said before Michael comes to talk about the Riverfront property, she said she handed out a paper they had found. She said she went through some old files and found this paper. She said it was an email between Jim Kernan and Mike Phillips regarding the land along the river. The Riverfront property was purchased by the Arkansas Deaf Mute Institute on June 13, 1881. It was purchased from the Worthen family for \$1,000 for what then was shown as containing 15 acres. In 1961 it was said to be 1.2 acres. In 1961 the 1.2 acres was leased to Jack Oliver for \$25.00 annually. The lease has been renewed several times over the years.

The file indicates in 1977 that the Big Brothers Organization was planning to develop the land but nothing happened. In 1985, Mr. Oliver made an offer to the superintendent to purchase it for \$30,000 but the offer was rejected. In 2001 the land was appraised for \$169,000. She said she thought the information was interesting. Ms. Pack said it shows the land started out at 15 acres. Mr. Krenn said the usable space is close to 1 acre. Ms. Pack said when she left in 1994 it was 6 acres so it shows you what is happening. Mr. Krenn said the most recent appraisal ASD had done was in December and it appraised at \$60,000. It has lost about \$100,000 in value because it is washing away. Mr. Krenn said they received three offers on the land. The first offer was \$21,500; the next offer was \$47,506; and the highest offer was \$60,500. The highest offer was from the owner of the storage units. ADA opened all the bids. Each offer had to put up 10% and I have the checks from each one. ADA sent an email stating ASD had to address the offers with the board. He said it was in the hands of the board whether to approve the offers that came in or deny them. Dr. Dickinson said she would like to add that they did not just decide to sell this property. She said they were considering the vision of the buildings on campus and went into in-depth discussions with ADA on how ASD could improve the facilities and buildings on campus. One question they fielded from ADA was about the land and whether they could use that money to help support the buildings on campus. By selling it ASD could show them that they are serious and happy to be part of a solution for this. It doesn't mean it has to be sold. Ms. Pack said she saw no pro's in keeping the land. That it is just losing money. Ms. McLaughlin said she agreed with her. She said it is going under water. Ms. Pack said and it has no access to it. The only benefit is to the storage building owners. Ms. McLaughlin asked if the parties involved were specific about what they wanted to do with the property. Mr. Krenn said all he had were the names of the bidders. Dr. Watson asked what the zoning was for that property. Ms. Coleman said there was no zoning because it is owned by the state. The property around it is commercial property. Ms. McLaughlin said the storage building owner has the best idea for it and has been leasing it. She said she didn't see them getting any more money. Ms. Pack said she thought it would just continue to go down in value. Ms. McLaughlin said she would be in favor of selling the property. Dr. Watson asked her if she was going to make a motion. Which one of the three bids do you want to take? Ms. McLaughlin said the highest one.

17-D-020 Motion to Sell the Riverfront Property

Ms. McLaughlin made a motion to sell the Riverfront property and accept the \$60,500 offer from the storage unit owner. Mr. Elam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Dickinson said she wanted to announce they just received a grant for what is going to be called the Paw Print Design Studio. They will have screen printing equipment so the students can learn to print T-shirts. She said they received money for a laser cutter from Perkins.

Dr. Dickinson said they are 3 days from their big conference. She said the conference had grown. They have 200+ attending. She said they have people flying in from Gallaudet, Washington State, Kansas and a variety of places. She invited the board to attend. Ms. Pack said they could get 6 hours credit for attending. Dr. Dickinson said they were giving two awards. One would be given to the Governor and the First Lady will be there to accept. The second award will be given to a deaf partnership, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services.

Dr. Dickinson said two deaf actors starring at the Rep came to the campus to visit with students.

She said they have a proposed partnership with Youth Home. Youth Home is under the umbrella of Behavioral Health Services of Arkansas.

She said the Culinary Arts Program will have an open house October 17th. She asked if the board could come early and view the program. Ms. Pack asked if people could order from there. Dr. Dickinson said she would ask about that.

She said they had three reports to be signed off by the board. She said she had sent the Literacy Plan to the board and would be implementing the plan this year.

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

Dr. Doug Watson, Chair

Susan Pack, 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 September 19, 2017.

Present: Dr. Doug Watson, Chairperson; Faith McLaughlin, Vice Chairperson; Susan Pack, Secretary; Everett Elam, Board Member; Dr. John McAllister, Board Member; James Caton, ASBVI Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; Jeanne Tribett, ASB Parent Representative; Harry Pompeo, ASD Parent Representative; Beth Smith and Will Gorum, Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community, Hillcrest residents

Dr. Watson called the meeting to order at 4:07 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for October 17th at ASD. Ms. McLaughlin will be in Germany but will call in to the meeting.

17-J-011 Motion to Approve Minutes

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

Action Items

None

Discussion Items

ASD Parent Representative – Harry Pompeo

ASD has two students currently taking college classes through UALR. August 23rd, ASD will have club presentations for the students. The students will be able to sign up for the different clubs on campus – drama, art club, etc.

Volleyball preseason tournament started August 24th. JV team looks to have a bright future. They didn't win one set last year but this year so far they have won 2 out of 3 games. September 19th the varsity team plays at 5:00. The Special Olympics coach, Mandy Atkins, is taking over for Casey Brown. Ray said Casey will be the head swim coach. Dr. Dickinson said she is the National Swim Coach for Special Olympics for Arkansas. It is a promotion for Casey. Mr. Pompeo said ASD had suspended their football program for this year.

Mr. Pompeo said ASD has two players playing football for public schools. Dr. Dickinson said there are 70 players on that team and their student is a starter for Jacksonville. He is also the heaviest on the team (318 lbs.). He plays defense. Mr. Pompeo said ASD held their parent meeting and they had good attendance. There was good feedback about what going on at school. ASD provided childcare and pizza. ASD does that to get more attendance and support from parents. Mr. Pompeo mentioned that the Deaf Ed Conference was this coming Friday.

ASB Parent Representative – Jeanne Tribett

Ms. Tribett said the school year had gotten off to a good start. The students enjoyed a back to school dance given by the Home Life Department. The Learning Center students were provided a Financial Literacy workshop presented by Simmons Bank. The workshop provided students with hands-on experience with banking and money management. The Elementary School is participating in ADE's R.I.S.E. (Reading Initiative for Student Excellence) program. It is designed to support close reading and improve overall academics with an emphasis on literary fluency. The PTO is sponsoring East Meets West Cultural Fair Saturday, September 23rd from 12:30 – 5:00. The ASB track team participated in Tennessee's Track & Field Invitational this past weekend. ASB boys took first place. The track team will be heading to the NCASB Track & Field Championship in Tennessee September 29th & 30th. Home Life students have participated in several activities including going to the movies, Big Rock Fun Park, Larry's Pizza and bowling. The EAST program will visit UALR on September 25th and will go to Encounter EAST at the EAST Initiative September 28th.

Dr. Watson asked Harry if Shack had registered for any classes at Jacksonville to be able to play football for them or how did this happen. Ms. Pack said because Dr. Dickinson worked on it to make it happen. His brother also plays football for the same team. She said they had a really long talk with AAA to see how they could make this happen. Jacksonville is his home school district and they were able to get approval.

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

Dr. Doug Watson, Chair

Susan Pack, Secretary