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 December 17, 2019.

Present: Susan Pack, Chairperson; Roy DePriest, Vice Chairperson; Dr. John McAllister, Secretary; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Board Member; Faith McLaughlin, Board Member; Dr. Priya Gupta, ASB Parent Representative; Holley Mott, ASD Parent Representative; James Caton, ASB Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; Beth Smith and Eddie Schmeckenbecher, Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community; Hillcrest Residents

19-B-023 Motion to Approve Consent Items

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

Ms. Pack asked Mr. Caton if there was anything he wanted to say about the personnel items and he replied no. She asked for a motion to approve the personnel items. Dr. Atcherson made a motion to approve the personnel items and Ms. McLaughlin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items
None

Action Items
None

Superintendent Report

Mr. Caton said it has been a busy month. He attended the ASBA Conference on Wednesday. He and Roy attended a session on people behaving badly. He said it was interesting session.

Mr. Caton said the facility information is being put into the campus master plan tool that the ADE has available. It should help in planning for the facility future needs. He said they had a good meet & greet with the legal team from the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education. They enjoyed touring the campus and meeting staff/students.

Garver Engineering donated STEM kits to the school. They have an annual competition called the Ruth Goldberg Style Machine. It has to do with chain reactions and the Texas School for the Blind won last year's competition. Garver Engineering got interested in how they could make these kits more accessible to other blind schools. They worked with the Texas School for the Blind and started putting together the accessible kits so more blind schools could participate in the competition. They came today with the kits and the kids started pulling things out and exploring. It will be interesting to see what they come with to enter in the competition.

Mr. Caton said they had a successful Special Education training that ADE put on. It brought our teachers up-to-date on a lot of different things related to IEP development and Due Process.

The Thanksgiving lunch and Turkey Walk went well. Some staff from ADE came and walked with the students/staff.

The Pee Wee Cheerleaders participated in the Annual Christmas Parade this year. The Birth to Three Program held Cookies With Santa this past Saturday. They always give out braille and large print books to the families that attend.

The Alumni Association had a very successful Christmas Tree Lot sale. They ordered 250 trees and they sold very quickly. A lot of their funds do come back to the school and they support a lot of school events.

Several local artists have been donating art work to the school through the Friends of ASB. Several have been hung and they really look good and add to the school. There was a meeting of the PTO and there is not enough support to operate the organization as the constitution was set up. That is why they have been looking into restructuring into the Friends of ASB initiative. In order to move further along with that it was voted to resolve the current PTO. Friends of ASB will still involve parents and teachers as well as the community to engage with the school.

ASB is beginning a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Behavioral Health Services of Arkansas which will be another tool to help address the mental health needs of the students.

Mr. Caton said food boxes had been put together for some students and their families at Thanksgiving. There was so much donated by staff that six boxes were made for Christmas as well.

The dental van is scheduled to visit the campus in the coming year.

Shults House now has new front doors. Infirmary renovations are continuing to move forward. They are starting to hang cabinets.

Mr. Caton invited the board to the Parent Dinner (5:00) and the Concert (6:30) on Thursday, December 19th. The students will be on Winter Break December 23rd – January 5th.

Beverly attended the Arkansas Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association. She got information that will help the school with public relations moving forward.

ASB's EAST students were featured on KARK this past month in a segment on the EAST Walk a Day in My Shoes. They go to different schools and educate sighted peers on what it is like to live with blindness and visual impairments.

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

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Susan Pack, Chair

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Dr. John McAllister, 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 December 17, 2019.

Present: Susan Pack, Chairperson; Roy DePriest (Absent), Vice Chairperson; Dr. John McAllister, Secretary; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Board Member; Faith McLaughlin, Board Member; Dr. Priya Gupta (Absent), ASB Parent Representative; Holley Mott, ASD Parent Representative; James Caton, ASBVI Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; Beth Smith and Eddie Schmeckenbecher, Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community, Hillcrest Residents

19-D-023 Motion to Approve Consent Items

Ms. Pack 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. Atcherson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items
None

Superintendent Report

Dr. Dickinson said it has been a great month. She invited the board to come Thursday to Christmas at ASD which will be Christmas lunch followed by a Holiday Open House in each of the school buildings as well as the museum. Then everyone will go to the gym for hot chocolate and pictures with Santa.

She said one of the best Thanksgiving meals since she has been there was this year. She thanked the cafeteria staff.

Secretary Key invited both the schools to input data into a Master Plan and they are actively working through that. It is a lot of work but very valuable work. ASD also had an ADE legal team visit the school. It is good getting to know them.

Dr. Dickinson serves on the board of the Arkansas River Education Coop that is based around the Pine Bluff area (Dollarway, White Hall, Watson Chapel, Sheridan, Stuttgart, & Pine Bluff). All the superintendents in that area went to Las Vegas for a conference paid for by the Coop. It was a very good conference called Human Capital Leadership in Education.

She said ASD has one new partnership they are working on with Pulaski Heights Elementary School. They had a meeting last week and have one tomorrow with their principal to work on ASD students going there to classes and work with their students here.

She said they had a great meeting at the EHDI conference with many different stakeholders. The discussion will continue toward the end of January.

There were several groups supporting ASD with Christmas gifts and parties. ASD Foundation provided a wonderful party at Dugan's Pub last Friday.

Vickie has been working hard trying to prepare the Medicaid billing. There is a lot of training going on with that training staff on how more Medicaid billing can be done.

Lower School has Chrome Books and training will be when the students return. Third through twelfth grade will have their one-on-one computer devices.

For the Parnell renovation there are items on the table that can be voted on for the auditorium (carpet, wood, seat covers). The community will also be given an opportunity to give their feedback.

The Arkansas Career Deaf Center applied to be a vendor and has been approved as a Supported Employment and Employment First which will enable our students to obtain support entering jobs, job coaching, and job development.

Action Items
SCPI

Dr. Dickinson said the one thing being discussed this past month is the SCPI policy and where we are right now with implementation of that policy. She said she emailed the board two proposals to review.

1. To consider extending a co-work group, the people that have been working 2016 to 2019. They were given 6 months extension already which would be December. In this proposal they are asking for 3 more months (end of March).

2. To consider looking at the levels that are required for the different positions – it would be possible for people who have a Survivor Plus requirement to move to a Survivor. That would possibly allow more people to attain that level.

I know there are some confidential issues you need to talk about related to specific staff members it will impact so she asked that the board go into Executive Session to consider.

Ms. Pack said they did meet with the Department of Ed this morning to discuss the issue as well and got their input and suggestions on the matter. She said they would go into Executive Session at this time (5:40). Everyone will need to leave the room except for the board members. Please take your purses/telephones, etc. with you.

Ms. Pack said they were back into regular session (5:55). She said at this time they would look at the two proposals that were presented before the Executive Session.

First – Anyone who had not met their level in the SCPI would be granted 3 more months if they are part of the 2016 group. Anyone who is on probation right now would be given 3 more months. She said it was a generous offer and hopes that anyone on that list (it is a limited number of people) – she said they have had 66 people pass the test or meet their level and 8 at this point who have not – so it will be continued for 3 more months for the opportunity to have more training and take the test. The board voted unanimously to pass this proposal.

Second – Lower the limit of the Survivor Plus and after discussion and understanding that expectations for the students are high and for them also. The board voted unanimously not to pass this proposal. That means that the Survivor Plus level will continue.

Ms. Pack thanked everyone for being concerned about this and thank the Department of Ed for understanding and giving their approval.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00.

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Susan Pack, Chair

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Dr. John McAllister, 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 December 17, 2019.

Present: Susan Pack, Chairperson; Roy DePriest (Absent), Vice-Chairperson; Dr. John McAllister, Secretary; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Board Member; Faith McLaughlin, Board Member; James Caton, ASBVI Superintendent; Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; Dr. Priya Gupta (Absent), ASB Parent Representative; Holley Mott, ASD Parent Representative; Beth Smith and Eddie Schmeckenbecher, Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community, Hillcrest Residents

Ms. Pack called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2020 at Arkansas School for the Blind. Ms. Pack said she met with the Department of Education that morning and they would like to do the training for the board at 1:30 on the day of the board meeting.

19-J-017 Motion to Approve Minutes

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

Discussion Items

The Singing Fingers performed two songs: Christmas Time in Arkansas and Silent Night. They were fantastic.

Report on ASBA Conference

Ms. Pack asked Ms. Mott if there was anything to report about what she learned at the conference. Ms. Mott said she thought it was good information about how to involve the public and other people to get support. She said she emailed the person that spoke and he emailed her the 7 questions to help figure out what your goals are and how to meet those goals. She said it was a great conference and felt like they learned a lot. Ms. Pack said she went to a session on bullying. She said she felt good about what the schools are doing. She went to a session on how to handle board meetings. She said there was nothing new. She got a lot of information on Executive Sessions because it is an item that has to be dealt with. One of the things the board needs to do is not just educate themselves but educate the audience as to what an Executive Session really is.

It is a private meeting, not a public meeting, but no voting goes on in an Executive Session and no minutes are taken. It is for discussion of personnel. Everything is brought back out to the regular meeting and votes are taken if there is action.

Ms. Pack said a real good session was how to avoid drama. It takes two people to have drama. She thought there were some real good pointers given. He had a book but she did not get one but is going to try to get it. Ms. Mott said she had all his information.

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

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Susan Pack, Chair

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Dr. John McAllister, Secretary