

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

The Board of Trustees for the Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Arkansas School for the Deaf met for their monthly meeting February 21, 2023, at the Arkansas School for the Deaf.

Present: Susan Pack, Chair; Robert Fagan, Vice Chair; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Board Member; James Caton, ASBVI Superintendent, Dr. Janet Dickinson, ASD Superintendent; Dr. Priya Gupta, ASBVI Parent Representative, Holley Mott, ASD Parent Representative, Will Gorum and Sydney Morris, Interpreters; Members of the Deaf Community; Members of the Blind Community

Absent: Dr. John McAllister, Secretary

Mrs. Pack called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. The March meeting moved from March 21, 2023, to March 14, 2023, at the Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Joint Agenda

23-J-033 Motion to Approve Joint December 2022 Minutes

Mr. Fagan made a motion to approve. Dr. Atcherson seconded. Motion Carried

Action Items - None

Discussion Items

School Law Seminar

Seminar opened the question, are we a School or state agency and what applies to the school board. Regarding Executive Session, the school board could go into Executive Session to discuss all personnel matters, yet previous guidance stated only Superintendents. Gathering more information and any additional changes before scheduling working meeting with ADE Attorney.

Gina Windle no longer with AR Dept. of Education.

New Board Member

Mr. Phil Garner, from Mountain Home. Mr. Garner will attend March 14, 2023, meeting.

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

ASBVI Agenda

23-B-034 Motion to Approve Consent Items (Minutes, Financial Statement, Personnel Items)

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

Submitted hiring freeze exception form for two RA position and one teacher position. Currently at Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

Action Items – None

Discussion Items – None

Superintendent Report

Attended Law Seminar alongside Mrs. Doan, Mr. Williams, and Mrs. L. Cole.

Establishing ASBVI Museum underway, temporarily located in the Conference.

Safety committee working well between ASBVI, ASD and very beneficial.

Attended recent safety committee meeting, received recommendations, and input.

Currently working on developing ideals.

Mr. Williams passed PRAXIS for Superintendent!

Began 3rd round NWEA testing this week.

One more NWEA round by school year end.

Current enrollment 76 students.

Successful 13th Annual Braille Challenge, public school students participated.

Secretary Oliva attended award ceremony, presented awards.

Black History Assembly Feb 28 at 1:30p.

Health Services providing a lot of coverage during ice storm.

Health Services attended wrestling, cheer competition in Kentucky.

Applied for grant for additional stop the bleed kits in dormitories.

B. Cole host Board Members of the AR School Nutrition Assoc. on Thursday.

B. Cole is public policy and legislation chair in the State.

B. Cole to attend School Nutrition event at capital and sit in on legislative session.

Cottage renovation, bid was 84,179 deficient. Lowest bid 599,879 to finish.

Carryover fund to cover deficient amount for cottage renovation.

Intervention newsletter from Counselor.

Transition Fair in March

Presentation by ASBVI Lead Principle, Mrs. Doan (Braille Challenge), Matthew G. (Poetry Outloud), Clayton N. (Poem), and Aizirek S. (Foreign Exchange Student).

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

ASD Agenda

23-D-035 Motion to Approve Consent Items (Minutes, Financial Statement, Personnel Items)

Dr. Atcherson made the motion to approve. Mr. Fagan seconded. Motion carried.

Hired two staff prior to hiring freeze. Excited to have Shannon V, ASD Alumni and Miss Deaf America 2019, as the ASD Counselor.

Currently have an overnight dorm supervisor, overnight RA, two teacher positions, and a paraprofessional position vacant.

Action Items – None

Discussion Items – None

Superintendent Report

L.E.A.R.N.S bill dropped today.

(Mrs. Pack) keep eye on and ensure our teachers are teachers not state employees for salary increase.

Attended Secretary Oliva division meeting alongside Mr. Caton.

Attended safety committee task force meeting.

8 recommendations/requests by the Safety Committee

Discussing requests with our Transportation and Fire Dept.

(Roy) Received verbal blessing from Fire Chief on all day gate closure.

Museum Discovery presentation on ASD Spirit Day.

Hot Chocolate Bar for Winter Madness at ASD.

Sideline Basketball games with whole school.

For one week – crossword puzzles.

ASD pins for everyone.

Warm chocolate chip cookies.

Last week, delivered sonic drinks to all staff and students.

Thank you for all who stayed during Ice storm. Dorm students on campus.

Students attended academic bowl in Texas. First time for the students.

Townhall meeting. Announced word of the year – Appreciation.

ADE listening session yesterday for school districts to provide comments and feedback.

Past Saturday, first AR Deaf Leadership Council meeting.

Track started today.

Enrollment on-campus and off-campus climbing. Total 155 students.

Mr. Fagan asked do you think parent choice will impact enrollment at ASBVI, ASD? Mr. Caton not sure that it'll impact us as much as public schools.

23-J-036 Motion to Adjourn

Mrs. Pack made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Susan Pack, Chair

Dr. John McAllister, Secretary