

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 May 16, 2023, at the Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

**Present:** Susan Pack, Chair; Robert Fagan, Vice Chair; Dr. John McAllister, Secretary; Dr. Samuel Atcherson, Board Member; Philip Garner, 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:**

Mrs. Pack called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. The June board will take place on June 20, 2023, at the Arkansas School for the Deaf.

**Joint Agenda**

**23-J-045 Motion to Approve Joint April 2023 Minutes**

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

**Action Items**

**Superintendent Evaluations** – Executive session held at the end of the meeting.

**Statement of Intent IDEA Part B -**

Mr. Caton provided summary for Statement of Intent Part B. This is an annual statement of intent that is submitted along with the application for 6B Funds and Preschool funds. The letter states that the school will comply with assurances surrounding the federal funds.

Mr. Garner made a motion to approve. Mr. Fagan seconded. Motion Carried.

**Board Co-Op Resolution –**

Dr. Dickinson provided a summary for Board Co-Op Resolution. This is related to house bill 1192 becoming ACT 802 2023. The Board must make a resolution stating who will represent on the Co-Op Board. Traditionally, each Superintendent has maintained that role. ASD Co-Op is Arkansas River and ASBVI is Arch Ford.

Dr. Atcherson made a motion to approve. Dr. McAllister seconded. Motion Carried.

## **Discussion Items**

### **Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, Department of Education –**

Dr. Pfeffer, AR Department of Education, is one of the Deputy Commissioners. Over the past few months worked with both superintendents to learn about the schools, work, and challenges to be a further support for them. Recognized one teacher from both schools as a high impact teacher this week and last. New things coming, new opportunities for education in Arkansas. Secretary Oliva describes it as building an instructional house. New, much clearer, and focused, academics standards will be taught by teachers next school year and new assessments that will be more aligned to the new standards. The standards are the floor, and the assessment is the roof of the instructional house that together will be built. The Board of Trustees and Secretary will work together to make crucial decisions and give support to each Superintendent to make the decisions that need to be made for their school. Currently working towards increasing teacher salaries at ASD and ASBVI. Also, want to continue having conversations about facilities. Both campuses are beautiful, but they have some challenges. Plans to return over the next year and continue conversations about ADE supporting and making great things happen.

### **ASD Community and Shared Services**

ASD community asked for clarification on who runs the school for the Deaf? ASD or Board of Trustees? Mrs. Pack stated that ADE wants to get to the point where the schools make their decisions, while ADE certainly has their approval of things, but the school makes its own decisions and not micromanaged. Several additional members expressed their appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Janet Dickinson for years of hard work and all that she has done for the School for the Deaf. Additionally, the community expressed concerns about the safety for both campuses and encouraged the board to make decisions for improved safety. Mrs. Pack assured the community members that the issues of safety have been discussed with ADE and everyone wants the best for both schools. There are a lot of things to look at and think about.

Mrs. Pack stated there will be an interim Superintendent for ASD. Encourage staff to submit concerns and ideas to their supervisor, for submission to the Board of Trustees no later than next Monday.

## **ASD Agenda**

### **23-D-046 Motion to Approve Consent Items (Minutes, Financial Statement, Personnel Items)**

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

**Action Items** – None

**Discussion Items** – None

### **Superintendent Report**

Thanks everyone for the comments.

Thank you, ASD, for all your work.

Recently had the Athletic Banquet

GPSD track meet

Attended CEASD Conference for leadership for schools for the deaf. Brought back idea/concept to prepare students for "Real World" economy.

Traveled to Greece for few days. Visited secondary school for deaf and hard of hearing.

Very proud of the many things that accomplished this month.

ADE, please remember three things; change is hard, change is messy, change is beautiful. Trust the process.

### **ASBVI Agenda**

#### **23-B-047 Motion to Approve Consent Items (Minutes, Financial Statement, Personnel Items)**

Dr. Atcherson made a motion to approve. Dr. McAllister seconded. Motion Carried.

**Action Items** – None

**Discussion Items** – None

### **Superintendent Report**

Included main newsletter and notice from DESE on school meeting the Special Ed. Requirements

Current accreditation pending for both schools, final reports have been released.

Appreciate work of E-school data person, J. McDonnell. She worked diligently all year.

Slowly getting back parent/family survey to obtain feedback and make improvements at school.

Said goodbye to our international student. Privilege to be a part of her journey.

Dr. Pfeffer excited our B. Faught got acknowledged as a high impact teacher.

Campus enrollment, 78, no changes in May.

The March Madness picture book, Dragon loves Tacos won.

PD for EAST facilitators will go to weeklong seminar this summer in Hot Springs

9<sup>th</sup> graders took the required civics exam as part of graduation requirement, all passed.

Teacher appreciation week May 8-12. Friends of ASBVI did fun things all week.

Finished ACT aspire state assessments.

Fourth round NWEA assessment.

Dining in the Dark was a success, a sold-out event.

Shared health services, Vicki attended children's environmental health symposium at Robinson.

School nurses' day during teacher appreciative week.

Child nutrition, school lunch hero this month. B. Cole highlighted all her staff for the week.

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Child nutrition won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the school breakfast challenge. Won in the category for best innovative breakfast promotion.

Campus projects – everything is still progressing along with Cottage.

Bid opening for new health service building. Bids came in higher than anticipated.

New curtains in Woolly Auditorium

Upcoming activities:

Senior Graduation Friday

Last day of school May 26

June 2<sup>nd</sup> ASBVI, ASD staff celebration

Upcoming summer conferences

Yearbooks have arrived.

Ms. Pack recognized Dr. Doug Watson, former board member.

The board went into executive session for Superintendent evaluations.

### **23-J-048 Motion to Adjourn**

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

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Susan Pack, Chair

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Dr. John McAllister, Secretary