

**ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES,
AND THE ARTS
Board of Visitors Meeting
August 3, 2004**

The Board of Visitors of the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts (ASMSA) met in the conference room on the third floor at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education located at 114 East Capitol Ave., Little Rock, Arkansas. Mrs. Lynda Samons convened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

The following members were present at the meeting:

Members Present

Mrs. Lynda Samons, Chair
Ms. Margaret Preston, Secretary
Mr. Townsend Wolfe

Ex-Officio Members Present

Ms. Ann Biggers, designee for
Dr. Kenneth James, Director, Arkansas
Department of Education
Dr. Suzanne Mitchell, designee for
Dr. Linda Beene, Executive Director
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
Ms. Joy Pennington, designee for Ms. Cathie
Matthews, Director, Department of Arkansas Heritage
Mr. Robert McKinney, President, Parents' Association

Administrative Members Present

Dr. John Measel, Director

Special Guests in Attendance

Dr. Terri Hardy, Governor's Liaison, Education
Ms. Joyce Wroten, Vice President for University Relations and Administration
Dr. Linda Beene, Director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education

Mrs. Samons stated that the next regular meeting of the Board of Visitors will be held on October 5, 2004 on the campus of the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts in Hot Springs.

The Board members introduced themselves and indicated their affiliation.

Mrs. Samons made an announcement that she has secured a new position working with the School of Education at Henderson State University. She stated that she will have updated work information and is looking forward to spending more time on the ASMSA campus in the future. Mrs. Samons stated that she would be performing Pathwise Training on August 9 for the faculty regarding the licensure process.

The minutes of the May 4, 2004 Board of Visitors Regular Meeting were reviewed and the following correction should be made to the minutes: Change the Interim Director of the Department of Education from Tom Courtway to Dr. Ken James, Director.

Dr. Measel reported that he is looking into having the winter retreat at WinRock Farms. Adding to Dr. Measel's statement, Ms. Wroten stated that the University of Arkansas is presently working on a proposal to present to the Rockefeller Charitable Trust, on behalf of the University of Arkansas System, to take over the operation of the conference center and facilities. Ms. Wroten stated that there are future plans to expand, renovate, build new buildings, and incorporate new programs at WinRock Farms. WinRock Farms will still operate as a conference center.

Dr. Measel stated that he has asked Jeff Nixon to have a Recruitment/Public Relations meeting before the October board meeting.

Dr. Measel reported that prior to moving under the University System, it was rare that ASMSA had an opportunity to plea for an increase in the budget. However, moving to the University System, ADHE has made a recommended 6.9% increase in the budget. ADHE has also recommended \$300,000 for equipment purchases. Dr. Measel stated that he is very pleased with the staff at ADHE in trying to learn about ASMSA and for the opportunity to be able to present his case to them.

Dr. Measel reported that the Governor has announced that the upcoming session will pertain to higher education, highways, and health.

Dr. Measel stated that he met with Dr. Bob Smith, Provost, of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and if all goes well, concurrent enrollment will be established in the next week. Students who want to get credit at Fayetteville can do so by registering on-line and there will be no charge to the students. The fall semester will start with five courses – two courses in Physics, two Calculus courses and Comp I and II. There will be twenty-eight students enrolling in Fayetteville Honor's College, the largest group ever from ASMSA.

Dr. Measel notified the Board that there has been a change in food services. He stated that by law, it had to be bid this year. A Food Service Committee was established to review the bids and they chose AmeriServe, from Kansas City, as the new food service provider. Dr. Measel stated that AmeriServe is costing \$5,000 more a year than Aramark. He reported that he had to sign a check paying Aramark \$10,000 because over the past ten years, the students have been pilfering Aramark's inventory and by law, ASMSA has to pay for the missing inventory items. Dr. Measel stated that the Oklahoma school loses \$100.00 a year, whereas ASMSA has lost \$1,000 per year. He stated that he would have to investigate the Oklahoma's school guidelines in this area.

Dr. Measel stated that two years ago, an engineering study was performed on the structure of the school – heating, ventilation, etc. According to the study, the report stated that the building is in good shape structurally and it was recommended at that time that the ventilation system be replaced. The estimate reported to replace the entire ventilation system was \$2.2 million. The reason for the high estimate is due to a humidity issue. At the time the old St. Joseph's Hospital was built, hospital rooms remained open so the return air was through the doors to the outside hall. Now the doors are closed and humidity builds up in the rooms.

Dr. Measel stated that Ms. Wroten, along with some legislators, met with officials from the City of Hot Springs and the City decided to have another engineering study performed at their expense. The City's thinking is that they could fix the problem for less money than was originally stated in the study. Dr. Measel stated that he believes that the City of Hot Springs will ask for a six month, one-

half cent sales tax to pay for the replacement of the system. If this occurs, the institution will have to marshal the students, faculty and staff to canvas Hot Springs. To help with this situation, ASMSA has hired the School of Business at UALR to conduct an economic impact study the school has on the City of Hot Springs. This report should be available by the October Board meeting. Dr. Measel asked the Board for any recommendations that they might have to enhance the institution's image. Dr. Measel has asked Jeff Nixon to flood the newspaper with ASMSA articles.

Ms. Wroten stated that at the meeting with the City of Hot Springs officials, she reminded them that there were several cities that wanted the school in their city and Hot Springs won the bid. Mr. Wolfe asked what the tax money would be designated for, and Dr. Measel responded that the tax money would only be used for the repair of the school.

Dr. Measel reported that as of August 3, 2004, over 2,500 students have signed up for distance education with twenty-five different courses. Dr. Measel stated that over one hundred students would be taking art history through distance education. Dr. Measel stated that last year the school asked the Spanish students to take the distance education Spanish exam and a student from Wilson, Arkansas, tested third highest in the State.

Dr. Measel stated that the largest group of withdrawals were from small towns and did not have low ACT scores. Dr. Measel stated that he felt the school failed in making them feel a part of the institution and that the school cannot afford to lose that caliber of student. Dr. Measel reported that he has asked Dean Kaminar to track the students who remain on campus on the weekends, and to see what are they doing, and what ASMSA needs to do to make them feel more a part of a group.

Several members of the Board asked Dr. Measel for chart information to see the reasons why students have left ASMSA. Ms. Pennington suggested to check with some of the local arts organizations to see if there is some weekend entertainment for the students; i.e. the Poetry Loft.

Student Activities Coordinator, Ms. Virginia Baughn, stated that students are already visiting the Poetry Loft in Hot Springs. She reported when school is over for the day, the students may only have about an hour before they have to be back on campus. Ms. Baughn stated that a "Super Saturday" event has been planned for the students. Ms. Baughn also stated that she has a small budget that restricts what she can do with the students.

Dr. Measel stated that there is a plan to purchase a second coach to transport the students.

Dr. Linda Beene, Executive Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education entered the meeting and introductions were made by the Board members. Dr. Beene stated that she has been the Executive Director for twenty-one months and apologized for not meeting with the Board earlier. Dr. Beene thanked Dr. Mitchell for representing her on the Board. Dr. Beene stated that she was on eight Boards by statute, and has a staff of thirty-six staff members. Dr. Beene stated that she has learned a great deal about ASMSA through the legislative session and the funding recommendation process. Dr. Beene reported that she is concerned about managing the students in an environment that is a liability risk and having the students in a situation that the Department of Higher Education is not comfortable with. Dr. Beene is also concerned about additional positions that are needed. Dr. Beene stated that ADHE is always concerned about the number of positions that are recommended because that is how state government is measured. Dr. Beene stated that there have been some complaints that ADHE's list of non-formula recommendations have grown too much for funding (operating funds) but that's the only place that ADHE can carry ASMSA because ASMSA does not fit the University or college models. Dr. Beene stated that ADHE supports ASMSA and knows how important the ASMSA mission is, and wants the institution to be able to get help when needed. Dr. Beene said that she wishes ADHE had more money to help ASMSA.

Dr. Measel talked about ASMSA's distance education program and the number of students that have enrolled for the upcoming year. Dr. Beene stated that she learned about distance education when she was at the University of Central Arkansas and saw the benefits of the technology and the school districts that are trying to meet the state standards. Dr. Beene reported that ADHE's Board expressed some concerns over distance education programs so ADHE did a report and will provide the ADHE Board an opportunity to see a distance education program through Northwest Arkansas Community College who has an approved program with Wal-Mart. Dr. Beene asked Dr. Mitchell to send Dr. Measel a copy of the report.

In the agenda book that the ASMSA Board of Visitors received from Dr. Beene there was an agenda item for Arkansas Tech and has a page on how to address security issues. Representative Jodie Mahony has a major concern regarding security. Dr. Beene stated that the use of technology is a need that has to be addressed.

Dr. Measel stated that ASMSA received \$1 million for buying equipment to be installed around the State.

Dr. Measel thanked Dr. Beene for the use of ADHE's facilities for the Board meeting. Dr. Measel stated he wanted to move some of the Board meetings to different areas in the state and Little Rock is centrally located for the majority of the Board members.

Dr. Measel stated that there are approximately fifteen school districts that will not permit ASMSA to recruit at their school. Senator Faris from Malvern asked for a list of those school districts.

Dr. Measel stated that a loosely formed alliance has been made between the math and science sister schools and he is gathering data from these schools. Dr. Measel reported that ASMSA is the only math and science school that does not charge a straight fee. Dr. Measel stated that the average cost per student per year at ASMSA is approximately \$16,000 and that is the medium of all of the schools. The next highest student cost above ASMSA is approximately \$22,000 and Illinois is approximately \$40,000 per student, per year. Dr. Measel stated that in checking with the other sister schools, ASMSA is the only math and science school that does not charge a straight flat fee. Dr. Measel stated that if ASMSA implemented a fee this would be a sliding scale fee based on the income of the parents. Dr. Measel reported that in talking to the schools that charge fees he was told that the students feel they have more ownership in their institution. Dr. Measel reported that if the students don't pay anything, they feel they don't owe anything. Dr. Measel stated that it would take legislative action to impose a fee. Dr. Measel stated that he would appreciate Board feedback on this issue. Dr. Measel stated that the institution has basically been financially flat-lined for four years and there is very little spare money available. Dr. Measel stated that the Parents' Association needed to get involved this past year to help get the annual published. He reported that if the Parents' Association had not gotten involved with helping to pay for the annual, the annual would not have gotten published and the school would have been financially liable for the debt. Ms. Preston requested some background information regarding the fees that the other math and science schools charge – how are the other schools benefit from the fee charged, what is the downside of the imposed fee, etc. Mrs. Samons stated that she wants to be sure that the original intention of the school is not compromised. Dr. Measel reported that there is not much money to pay for extras due to the lack of money from the State. He stated that he wanted to tread carefully in this area so as not to hurt the school in any way, but knows that something has to be done in terms of bringing money into the school. Dr. Measel stated that an estimate of over \$40,000 had to be spent to hire people through the summer to repair damage that has occurred at school.

Dr. Measel stated that there would be an electronic newsletter on the web this fall. The new web address for the school is www.asmsa.org.

Dr. Measel reported that all of the Board members now have a copy of the *Student Handbook* on CD that was mailed to them with their Board packet.

Dr. Measel stated that he has a meeting scheduled next week with the Employee Handbook Committee. Dr. Measel reported that he received employee handbooks from other institutions so that the faculty and staff can look at them and see the similarities of the other campuses. Dr. Measel stated that he is aiming to having the Handbook completed by the October meeting.

Dr. Measel reported that a new Librarian has been hired who has a Master's Degree from Florida State who received her undergraduate degree from the University of Arkansas. A new Humanities instructor has also been hired who graduated from the University of Arkansas and is a published poet. A distance education Spanish teacher has been recruited from Texas. One Residential Mentor has been rehired, along with two other new Residential Mentors.

Parents' Association President, Mr. Robert McKinney, reported that he spoke with Mr. Skip Rutherford, who was on the first Board of ASMS and is a good friend of President Clinton. Mr. McKinney stated that it would be wonderful to line up the President for a visit to ASMSA. Mr. McKinney stated that many of the nation's top officials would be present at the opening of the Clinton Library. Dr. Measel stated that he might call Mr. Mac McLarty and see if there is any possibility of ASMSA students attending the opening.

Dr. Mitchell asked if anything could be done to speed up the appointment of new Board members. She stated that Board work needed to be done in October and it was hard to accomplish this with the two Board vacancies.

Dr. Measel announced that supper would immediately follow the meeting.