

MINUTES
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES,
AND THE ARTS
BOARD OF VISITORS REGULAR MEETING
December 7, 2004
5:00 p.m.

The Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts (ASMSA) Board of Visitors met in the Boardroom on the first floor at 200 Whittington Avenue, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Lynda Samons, Chairman, convened the Board of Visitors regular meeting into open session at 5:00 p.m.

II. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Members Present

Mrs. Lynda Samons, Chairman
 Mr. Paul Lindsey, Vice Chairman
 Mr. Luke Gordy
 Ms. Kathy McFarland

Members Absent

Ms. Margaret Preston, Secretary
 Ms. Robin King
 Mr. Townsend Wolfe

Ex-Officio Members Present

Ms. Ann Biggers, designee for Dr. Ken James, Director, Arkansas Department of Education

Dr. Gail McClure, designee for Dr. John Ahlen, President, Arkansas Science & Technology Authority

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. Billy Watson, President, Student Government Association

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Mr. Robert McKinney, President, Parents' Association

Administrative Members Present

Dr. John Measel, Director
 Dr. Janet Hugo, Dean of Academic Affairs
 Mr. John Kaminar, Dean of Residential Affairs
 Mrs. Kay Provus, Fiscal Manager
 Mr. Christopher Robbins, Outreach Director
 Mrs. Lorraine Munroe, Administrative Assistant

Administrative Members Absent

Mr. Jeff Nixon, Public Relations/Recruiting Director

Special Guests

Dr. Terri Hardy

Before the start of the meeting, Dr. Hugo introduced Mr. Ronnie Bunger, ASMSA adjunct choir teacher, who directed the choir to sing several Christmas songs to the Board and the audience.

Dr. Hugo introduced the new ASMSA Librarian, Alaine Martaus, and Sean Chapman, Humanities instructor. Dean Kaminar introduced the new Residential Life Coordinator, Chris Schreiber.

Mr. Watson introduced the newly elected junior class officers to the Board.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Lindsey and seconded by Ms. McFarland to approve the minutes of the Board of Visitors Regular Meeting of October 5, 2004. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Information – Dr. Measel

Dr. Measel stated that there was an announcement in the newspaper that Winrock International is being purchased by the University of Arkansas System.

Dr. Measel stated that ADHE budget recommendations were previously sent to the Board members for the upcoming legislative session. Dr. Measel thanked the Governor and his office for supporting the recommendations. Dr. Measel reported that the increase in the budget would allow ASMSA to make substantial progress in developing the Arts program.

Dr. Measel stated that he took a mold course that also provided him information on how to deal with legal issues regarding mold and how to work with government officials about this issue. He stated that there were many Hot Springs engineers who were also taking the course.

Dr. Measel stated that he is always worried about safety concerns at the institution and stated that the circle drive by the Residential Life Building has been made into a drop off and loading zone. This change was instituted because of an emergency situation that took place at the Residential Life Building and the emergency vehicle could not get through the driveway.

Dr. Measel stated that several tests have been conducted with the new fire alarm system and the system performed very well. Dr. Measel reported that safety of the students is paramount and there are a number of security cameras that still need to be installed. Dr. Measel stated that it is difficult to find someone to pull the cable for the cameras. Additional speakers will also be added to fill in the "dead spots" in the buildings.

Regarding the flu vaccine, Dr. Measel reported that only four students qualified to receive the flu vaccine. He stated that he advised all the faculty and students to be diligent in taking care of themselves if they get the flu. Dr. Measel declared that if there were an outbreak of the flu, the students would have to make up missed days through spring break.

Dr. Measel reported that this would be the first time in the history of the institution that the school will be closed for the Christmas holidays and that it would be good for the employees to have off during the Christmas break. Dr. Measel stated that if any members of the Board needed to reach an administrator, they could call the Security office and Security would contact the administrator at home. Dr. Measel stated that the employees are taking their personal days, birthday and annual time during this off period. He informed the Board of the employee Christmas party that will be held on December 16 and invited them to attend.

Dr. Measel reported that all of the seventy-five year old shrubbery in front of the Residential Life Building has been removed. Dr. Measel stated that the City helped in removing the shrubs with a backhoe and thanked them for their assistance. Students also volunteered to help with the project.

Mrs. Samons reported that the January retreat would be held the 21st and 22nd at Winrock International Conference Center at Petit Jean Mountain. Mrs. Samons stated that she felt it would be a good location for the Board to come together and make the necessary transition in the area of responsibility from Board of Trustees to Board of Visitors. Mrs. Samons stated that the lead speaker on Friday, January 21, would be Board member, Luke Gordy, and on 22nd staff and faculty would be present to talk about the Arts program.

Dr. Measel stated that there are a number of businessmen in the State that are deeply concerned about education and they have formed a group (Arkansas for Education Reform Foundation) and Mr. Gordy is the Executive Director, and that ASMSA should take an active role in educational change. Dr. Measel stated that one of the businessmen is the owner of the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*, *The Sentinel Record* and several other Arkansas newspapers.

Mr. Gordy stated that he is honored that these businessmen asked him to head up the Foundation. Mr. Gordy stated that the businessmen who established the Foundation are Walter Hussman, owner of the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*; Jim Walton, Chairman Arvest Bank Group; Claiborne Deming, Chairman of Murphy Oil; Steve Stephens of Stephens, Inc. Mr. Gordy reported that these gentlemen are passionate about meaningful education and he is excited about being part of the group.

Dr. Measel stated that there have been a great amount of vehicle problems. Part is due to the fact that the school is expanding, and another part is due to one of the vehicles that literally fell apart on the interstate. Dr. Measel stated that another van has been ordered due to Dr. Sugg approving a slot for a new vehicle.

ASMSA has received another used vehicle to help with the transportation problems that the institution is experiencing.

Dr. Measel announced that Dr. Charles Dunn, President of Henderson State University, would be the graduation speaker for this year's graduation. Graduation will be held on May 21st at 2:00 p.m.

2. a. Financial and Physical Plant – Mrs. Provus

No request for clarification of this report.

b. Security Report - No request for clarification of this report.

c. Powers of Arkansas – Monthly Energy Report

No request for clarification of this report.

d. Maintenance Report - No request for clarification of this report.

3. Student Services Report – Dean Kaminar

No request for clarification of this report.

Mr. Kaminar stated that he was proud of Ms. Chambers and Mr. Villines for the way they responded to a medical emergency. Mr. Kaminar stated that all the training that the RMs have taken has paid off by both of them executing step-by-step directions of what they were trained to do.

Mr. Kaminar presented an update on the Body Mass Index Project. He stated that he has heard back from ACHI's attorney who does feel that a program to take measurements more than once a year is a good one. However, since it is not authorized by a 1220 at this point, it would be strictly voluntary on the student's part if they wanted to participate more than once a year. The attorney recommended that we should write up what ASMSA is proposing to do and get ASMSA's attorney's opinion on it and put a finalized version in next year's *Student Handbook*. Mr. Kaminar stated that this year, ASMSA would proceed to take measurements of the students only one time.

Dr. Measel directed an explanation to Dr. Hardy stating that the concept is to look at the BMI of a student who enrolls at ASMSA and take measurements of the student every nine weeks. Dr. Measel stated that one of the reasons for these measurements would be to detect medical problems that some of the students may encounter. Dr. Measel stated that there were two cases of thyroid problems that might have been detected by taking the BMI measurements.

Mrs. Samons added that an application at Henderson had just been completed to the National Institutes of Health for one of their childhood obesity grants. Mrs. Samons stated that Henderson has a partnership with the School of Nursing and Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and Health. The application is based on the fact

that Arkansas has the highest percent of body mass index of obesity in adolescent females.

Board members commented that they felt good about ASMSA's administration trying to use the student's BMI information in a positive manner. Dr. Measel stated that in training the student's minds, there is a responsibility for also training their bodies.

4. Academic Life Report – Dr. Hugo

No request for clarification of this report.

Dr. Hugo stated that the NCSSSMST has put together a program, in conjunction with the Keystone Center in Keystone, Colorado called, "The Center for Youth Policy Summit". This past year was a pilot year for the program that looked at alternative fuel sources. There were ten schools similar to ASMSA who were invited to the program. The topic for this year was child and adolescent nutrition. Dr. Hugo explained that since the Governor's initiative is health, it would be great if the school could participate in the BMI program. Dr. Hugo received a call that ASMSA has been invited to attend and four students will participate in the study and research that will start in January. The cost will be \$200 per student, totaling \$800 for the four students to participate.

Dr. Hugo stated that to date, thirteen students had withdrawn for various reasons.

5. Outreach Director's Report – Mr. Robbins

No request for clarification of this report.

Mr. Robbins corrected his report stating that the current student enrollment in distance education is 2530, a 53% increase from 2003-04 year. Distance education has received four grants that have been funded totaling between \$1.5 and \$1.8 million. The money received from all four of the grants will put distance education equipment in public schools districts around the state. Mr. Robbins stated that ASMSA has partnered with Jim Boardman's office (Department of Education) to use the state money that the legislature has sent aside in the 2003 special session. Mr. Robbins stated that ASMSA has five USDA applications and all have scored high enough to be funded. All of the equipment will be compressed video equipment. Mr. Robbins reported that every district in the state would receive a letter in January or February asking them if they want to participate.

Mr. Robbins reported that he has worked on a \$200,000 grant with Dr. Monson and Rodney Harris that had been submitted to NSF and a \$50,000 grant that has submitted to Winrock Foundation.

Mr. Robbins stated that ASMSA is presently operating eight compressed video units. Mr. Robbins also stated that ASMSA is guaranteed to collect \$750,000 for the distance education program. However, Mr. Robbins also reported that Mr. Boardman stated in an email that he will send more money but the email did not

stipulate if Mr. Boardman would pay the full \$500.00 per student, per course. Mr. Robbins reported that he billed out \$534,750 in tuition and received \$375,000 of that amount. The remaining balance is \$159,750.

Mr. Robbins reported that additional space is needed for the distance education program and that Dr. Measel has been working on that issue.

6. Staff Development Report – Monthly Conference Travel

No request for clarification of this report.

7. Public Relations/Recruitment Report - Mr. Nixon

No report given - Mr. Nixon was absent from the meeting.

8. Parents' Association Report – Robert McKinney

No report given - Mr. McKinney was absent from the meeting

9. Student Government Report - Mr. Watson

Mr. Watson stated the junior class officers were elected.

The Student Government Association has worked on setting up additional goals and installing a student suggestion box. Mr. Watson asked the Board's feedback on instituting an experimental policy that would extend senior driving privileges. The policy would be changed where seniors can use their own vehicles starting on Friday at 12:40 p.m. to Sunday at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Watson stated that it would give the seniors an incentive of student satisfaction and a sense of more freedom.

Mrs. Samons stated that the issue will be discussed at the retreat and thanked Mr. Watson for bringing up the suggestion.

Mr. Watson also stated that the students are doing research on getting an automated teller machine. He reported that many students have to walk several blocks to the nearest teller machine and that colleges have ATMs installed on their campuses.

Dr. Measel stated that research was done several years ago and it was very expensive to have an ATM installed at the institution. Mr. Gordy concurred that the cost to a bank is between \$15,000 to \$20,000 to install an ATM machine and it would take an exorbitant amount of transactions for a bank to pay off the expense. The Board suggested that Mr. Watson do his own research to see if installing an ATM would be justified.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Measel stated that he read the State's Facility Report on the State's website and ASMSA is being recommended to receive \$4.6 million for ASMSA's facility upgrade.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

No new business to report

VII. AUDIENCE WITH INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS

No request or comment from an individual or group.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were no items for Executive Session

IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Approved as written _____

Approved as amended _____

Lynda Samons

12-06-05

(Date)