

MINUTES
 ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES,
 AND THE ARTS
 BOARD OF VISITORS REGULAR MEETING
 October 5, 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, Vice-Chairman
 Mr. Paul Lindsey, Vice Chairman
 Ms. Margaret Preston, Secretary
 Mr. Luke Gordy
 Ms. Robin King
 Ms. Kathy McFarland
 Mr. Townsend Wolfe

Members Absent

None

Ex-Officio Members Present

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. Robert McKinney, President, Parents' Association
 Mr. Billy Watson, President, Student Government
 Association

Ex-Officio Members Absent

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

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

Mrs. Samons welcomed and introduced the new members Board – Mrs. Kathy McFarland, Mr. Luke Gordy, Ms. Robin King and Ms. Gail McClure.

Mrs. Samons asked the ASMSA administrators to introduce the new employees in their respective departments. Mr. Kaminar introduced Billy Watson, president of the Student Government Association who, in turn, introduced the new officers.

Dr. Measel presented a plaque for meritorious service to Mr. Paul Lindsey who has the distinction of serving as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of ASMS, as well as the Board of Visitors of ASMSA.

Mr. Kaminar stated that because he is in the Reserves there are times that he occasionally has to leave his position as Dean of Residential Affairs to perform military service. He stated that he is aware of the inconvenience to the employer when Guardsmen and Reservists get called to duty and thanked the Board for their support. Mr. Kaminar introduced Colonel Don Johnson, who is a representative of the organization *Employers Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)*. This organization recognizes employers who have employees that are enlisted Guardsmen and Reservists who are called to duty throughout the year. Colonel Johnson presented certificates to Dr. Measel and the Board members for their support of ASMSA military personnel.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Wolfe and seconded by Ms. Preston to approve the minutes of the Board of Visitors Regular Meeting of May 4, 2004 with the following corrections: Page 5, change National Guard to Reserves; Page 5, No. 5, third paragraph, change “continue to practice paying” to “continue to pay”; same paragraph, change “ADE” to “FTE”; page 8, fifth paragraph change “the thought and Mrs. Samons” to “the thought that Mrs. Samons”. Minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Information – Dr. Measel

Dr. Measel stated that he would like to devote a great deal of time at the December Board meeting to discuss legislation for the upcoming legislative session.

Dr. Measel stated that he has been in touch with Win-Rock International regarding dates for the upcoming retreat.

Dr. Measel reported that the problem of mold (non-toxic) in the Residential Life Building has existed for many years. Dr. Measel stated that having the doors closed eliminated air circulation that has caused the humidity in the rooms. Dr. Measel stated that when the institution joined the University System a meeting was held with the City and University officials to press the City to make repairs. The City hired Atoka Engineering to do an environmental study of the building and Atoka confirmed the existence of mold. The City of Hot Springs also hired Pettit & Pettit Engineers to examine the present HVAC system and to design a new system to correct the mold problem. The University is in the process of hiring an independent engineer to oversee Pettit & Pettit to ensure that the new system will meet the requirements. The study is to be completed by December 1, 2004.

Dr. Measel reminded the Board that ASMSA had contracted with UALR School of Business to do an economic impact study of ASMSA on the City of Hot Springs. The report is still in progress. Dr. Measel stated that he felt that he needed to make the citizens of Hot Springs aware of ASMSA. He reported that there is a business organization in Hot Springs called, "Fifty for the Future", and after Dr. Measel met with the organization, they contributed \$5,000.00 to do a public relations campaign in town. Dr. Measel stated that the meeting with the organization was not about the mold issue but rather to explain how important ASMSA is to the City. Dr. Measel reported that the University has offered the City some ways for financing the mold repairs that would not require a tax increase in Hot Springs.

Dr. Measel stated that under the University the role of committees become very important and committee reports will be given at future Board meetings. Committees will be established so that all employees will be able to have input into the governance and direction of the school. Dr. Measel also stated that if Board members are interested in joining a committee at the school, they are welcomed to do so.

Dr. Measel asked the new Board members to visit the school's website and advised the Board that the website will be revised in the near future. He also stated that the Humanities Department established a Journalism course this year and has set up an on-line newspaper. The Journalism class is producing the newspaper and the Annual. The contract for the Annual this year is with a company whose representative is a graduate of ASMS. The web page is being revised so that it will be a communicating tool not only for the Board, but also for the stakeholders throughout the State.

Dr. Measel reported that the State has had an increase in revenue the past year and for the first time the money has been passed on to the school.

Dr. Measel stated that work would begin in the next few weeks redoing the school landscaping in front of the Residential Life Building. Garvan Woodland Gardens, which is part of the University of Arkansas System, has designed the new landscaping layout for free.

Dr. Measel reported that Dr. Ron Hart, retired Director of the National Center for Toxicology Research, and the only member of the National Academy of Science in Arkansas, has come up with a way to revitalize the Foundation. This is very important for the development of the Arts program. Dr. Measel reported that he would send the information to the Board when it becomes available.

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.

Dean Kaminar stated that he was very impressed with the work performed by the Community Leaders and the Student Activities Council on junior and senior move-in days and Junior Adventure Week.

In Dean Kaminar's October report, he reported that it would be mid-October before the position of Residential Life Coordinator position would be filled but corrected his report by stating that he felt it would not be filled until mid November.

Dean Kaminar circulated a sample of the Physical Fitness and Good Citizenship medals to the Board members.

Mrs. Samons interjected by thanking the faculty and staff for making the body-mass-index issue a positive experience for the students attending ASMSA.

4. Academic Life Report – Dr. Hugo

No request for clarification of this report.

5. Outreach Director's Report – Mr. Robbins

No request for clarification of this report.

6. Staff Development Report – Monthly Conference Travel

No request for clarification of this report.

7. Public Relations/Recruitment Report - Mr. Nixon

Mr. Nixon was absent from the meeting.

8. Parents' Association Report – Robert McKinney

Mr. McKinney stated that the Parents' Association has raised money through fundraisers and donations from the parents.

Mr. McKinney stated that the parents would help in the painting and renovation of the Residential Life office. He also stated that he is recruiting volunteers to help with decorating the boy's lounge and with the school's landscaping project. He reported that the web group has been very active.

Mr. McKinney stated that a poll question to the parents was asked about having the school take the necessary steps to give parents the capability of viewing students' grades on line. He stated that many schools now have this capability and 90% of the ASMSA parents who subscribe to the parent list support the technology. Mr. McKinney stated that it is important for parents to see the grades of their students and would like for this item to be budgeted. He also stated that it would help parent involvement in the school and it would also help student performance.

Dr. Hugo stated that the current program used by ASMSA is the Oscar program and it does not have the capability of providing on-line grade information to parents that Mr. McKinney discussed. Dr. Hugo also stated that a program called "Power School" was looked at last year that has the capability of providing on-line grades to parents but the cost of the program was \$15,000.00. Dr. Hugo stated that the Banner program is being utilized by the University System for fiscal use and has add-on capabilities but does not know if Banner would accept an add-on grade program that could be used by ASMSA. Dr. Hugo stated that there have been several programs that were examined but at the present time the cost is prohibitive.

According to Mr. McKinney, there are 144 parents using the parent web serve (also includes alums), but there are a great number of parents that do not have access to computers. Dr. Hugo stated that one of her concerns is whether or not the parents would have equal access to a computer to utilize the on-line grade program.

Mr. Robbins stated that from an information technology standpoint, it is a major project that needs to have much thought because of data integration, system accommodation, system standards, etc. He stated that it is a huge project and is something that, if ever implemented, should be done during the summer months.

Mrs. Provus stated that when the state's servers got bogged down with viruses and other technological problems, the Banner program would become inoperative.

Mr. Robbins stated that he is investigating a direct link between ASMSA and UALR to create a virtual private network that would be relatively inexpensive that might solve the problem.

Dr. Hugo stated that whatever system is implemented it would have to have high security measures so that the students could not hack into the system.

Mr. Robbins stated that a grant was written to fund the computer grade program two year's ago but was denied by the Department of Education.

Mr. Lindsey stated that he is in favor of a grade-reporting program being implemented since parents do not have accessibility to ASMSA as they would a home school, and it is important for every aspect of communication and information to be available to the parents and the program should be given high priority. Ms. Preston concurred with Mr. Lindsey. Dr. Measel stated that if the system could be implemented, he would like to see if it could be funded first through ADE. Mr. Robbins stated that he would have to see if Banner could accept the capability of the add-on program.

Mr. Robbins stated that all available office space is now being utilized by distance education; however, possibilities are being explored to expand the teaching space for the program.

Mr. Robbins stated that official notification should come forth in the following week about a series of pending grants by the Department of Commerce and USDA. This will bring federal awards for this year between \$2.5 and \$3 million. Mr. Robbins reported that ODE will bill out approximately \$1.1 million in tuition revenues. Mr. Robbins stated that ASMSA needs to go to the legislature to talk about direct funding for the Office of Distance Education. Mr. Robbins reported that the agreed upon tuition for distance education is \$500 per student, per course for the academic year.

Dr. Measel stated that because of the way it has been handled, he is not sure if ASMSA is getting reimbursed for all of the tuition and ASMSA needs its own funds since it has the largest distance education program in the state.

Mr. Gordy suggested that a representative from the institution and Mr. Boardman from ADE need to get together to determine how much ASMSA should be paid and stated that he would be happy to be involved in the meeting. Mr. Robbins stated that Mr. Boardman guaranteed Mr. Robbins in writing that ASMSA will receive an equal dollar amount of what was received last year.

Dr. Mitchell asked about ASMSA's LEA number and Dr. Measel stated that he had an official number with a letter that states the LEA number. Dr. Measel stated that ASMSA has access to the No Child Left Behind money for Title II Part A or B for professional development.

Dr. Measel mentioned the possibility of having the Board of Visitors' meetings being held at various locations throughout the State mainly for public relations purposes. It was the consensus of the Board that the meeting locations not be changed at the present time.

Mr. Lindsey asked if the ASMSA Foundation had merged with the University of Arkansas System Foundation and Dr. Measel stated that the Board of Trustees has to approve it but it has not yet been done at this time.

Mr. Lindsey asked Dr. Measel if he talked to Dr. Sugg about trying to get a Reynolds Foundation Grant application for major school improvement renovations. Dr. Measel stated that Dr. Sugg is working with the Governor to accomplish the task.

Mr. McKinney asked if the Parents' Association can help with the upcoming legislative session and Dr. Measel stated that he would like the Parents' Association to get involved by perhaps going to the Capitol during the legislative session. Dr. Measel said that he would like to have a game plan for the Parents' Association's involvement.

Mr. Lindsey stated that when he joined the Board the students wrote letters to their legislators informing them about the school and conveying how wonderful the school was and to ask them to remember the school in the legislative process.

Mr. Watson stated that he would be happy to talk to the student government to push the idea of contacting the legislators, if the Board instructed him to do so.

9. Student Government Report - Mr. Watson

Mr. Watson distributed the Student Government report to the Board members and stated that the students are glad to be back at ASMSA and looking forward to a great year.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Sprinkler System - Dr. Measel stated that there was enough money to finish installing a sprinkler system in the entire Residential Life Building.

Fire Alarm System – Dr. Measel stated that the fire alarm system is now working properly and it is an expandable system so as the institution grows, the system can grow.

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

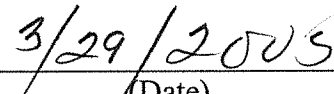
X. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Mr. Lindsey and seconded by Ms. Preston to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Approved as written _____

Approved as amended _____


Margaret Preston, Secretary


(Date)