

MINUTES
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES,
AND THE ARTS
BOARD OF VISITORS REGULAR MEETING
April 5, 2005
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
 Ms. Robin King
 Ms. Marynell Branch

Members Absent

Mr. Luke Gordy
 Ms. Kathy McFarland

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
 Ms. Joy Pennington, designee for Ms. Cathie Matthews, Director, Department of Arkansas Heritage
 Mr. Robert McKinney, Parents' Association
 Mr. Billy Watson, President, Student Government Association

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Dr. Suzanne Mitchell, designee for Dr. Linda Beene, Executive Director
 Arkansas Department of Higher Education

Administrative Members Present

Dr. John Measel, Director
 Dr. Janet Hugo, Dean of Academic Affairs
 Mrs. Diana Hampo, Interim Dean of Residential Affairs
 Mr. Christopher Robbins, Outreach Director
 Mr. Jeff Nixon, Public Relations/Recruiting Director
 Mrs. Lorraine Munroe, Administrative Assistant

Administrative Members Absent

Mrs. Kay Provus, Fiscal Manager

Mrs. Samons started the meeting by introducing new Board member, Ms. Marynell Branch. Ms. Branch made a short introduction stating that she is a musician by trade and is now the Deputy Director of the Department of Arkansas Heritage. She has worked for the Governor's office for the past five years and was the policy advisor when ASMS became ASMSA.

Mrs. Samons stated that she was pleased and excited to be a part of this year's Science Fair and that the work and quality of the projects was astonishing and everything from the organization of the Fair to the judging was remarkable.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

At this time, the minutes of 12/07/04 were not approved due to lack of a quorum.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Information – Dr. Measel

Dr. Measel stated that a list of winners from the State's Science Fair was distributed to the Board members indicating the number of winners from the institution. Dr. Measel reported that three ASMSA students would be attending the International Science Fair in Phoenix.

Dr. Measel stated that the legislative session was winding down. Dr. Measel reported that ASMSA will not receive everything financially that the Governor recommended but major progress has been made (referred to handout). He stated that there will be a number of local improvement grants for ASMSA that came from the Hot Springs delegation but it has not been determined how much the institution will receive. Dr. Measel stated that ASMSA would receive \$50,000 in critical maintenance money that is very important to the upgrading of the facilities. Dr. Measel reported that ASMSA would end up with \$352,000 of new money. The raise money for faculty and staff will not come out of the Academic Excellence Trust Fund. Since ASMSA is in the University of Arkansas System, ASMSA has been placed into the System's Revenue Stabilization Act that allows raise money to come from a different fund. This also increases the chances of ASMSA getting full funding. Dr. Measel stated receiving money to hire a Development Officer was critical. There should also be enough money in the fund to improve maintenance. Dr. Measel reported that Senator Bryles had spent a great deal of time with him and has sponsored a Charter School Bill that will allow ASMSA to apply as a Charter School. By doing so, ASMSA would receive approximately \$450,000 in federal money for startup costs and approximately \$5,400 a year per year for student costs toward the Arts program. Dr. Measel stated that he anticipated the Bill to pass without any problems. Dr. Measel reported that there is a Bill that rural educators have requested that would mandate ASMSA scores be counted at the home schools. This passed the House with no nay votes. Dr. Measel reported that he has been unable to receive a clear answer as to whether or not ASMSA will receive facilities money.

Mr. Lindsey asked Dr. Measel if ASMSA went to a Charter School for the Arts how would that move affect ASMSA's budget and budget requests in the future

and if ASMSA is receiving money for the Arts. Mr. Lindsey also inquired as to whether or not this would hurt ASMSA's budget requests for the future. Dr. Measel stated that it should not hurt because all the leaders of the House, Senate and the Governor's office, agreed on the Arts program. Dr. Measel stated that the Arts program was agreed on but there was no money given to ASMSA at the time. Dr. Measel stated that in order to raise money, it must be shown that there is some money coming in. Dr. Measel stated that necessary applications can be made to become a Charter School but ASMSA does not have to become one if the decision has been changed. Mr. Lindsey stated that he had concerns that if the Legislature has designated \$5,400 per student, that funding for the school would be reduced in other areas. Dr. Measel reported that the Legislature had already asked and evaluated what the cost is per student this year and that the funding for the math and science areas would not be diluted because of funding for the Arts program. He stated that the Education Committee did not view it that way. Dr. Measel stated that the Education Committee will change in two years and at this time, it would be a good move to pursue ASMSA becoming a Charter School until it is proven that it would not work.

Mr. Lindsey stated that his concern is if ASMSA becomes a Charter School it will be receiving \$5,400 which means that someone else is not receiving the money. He believes that this may cause ASMSA to become more vulnerable and will be watched more closely by the Legislature.

Mrs. Samons stated much of the Charter School money is received from federal funds that come to the State in a federal block grant.

Dr. Measel reported that the City of Hot Springs has hired Atoka Engineering to work on the HVAC system. Atoka Engineering came up with a plan that he and the City did not feel would work. Atoka had gone back to the drawing board and has come up with a plan (recommended by Pettit & Pettit Engineering of Little Rock) that should work and will start the Monday after graduation, May 23rd. Dr. Measel stated that a recommendation is going to the University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees on April 22nd to hire an on-call engineer for ASMSA that will give us engineering advice from the institution's prospective. This will allow ASMSA to not have to send out for bids.

The design for installing a sprinkling system in the Nunnery and a few other areas at the institution has been completed and will be going out for bid about May 1st. This should be completed when the new school year starts.

Much work has been done on the grounds during spring break. The front portico of the Residential Life Building had been painted and there are plans to seal all the parking lots. Student lounges and some of the student rooms have been painted. However, many of the remaining student rooms are to be painted during the summer months. During spring break, Dr. Measel and maintenance personnel made a list of all the projects that need to be done. Interior and exterior work is slowly coming along.

Dr. Measel stated that ASMSA's major budget comes in one Bill under the University of Arkansas and there is a separate Bill that has to do with personnel.

Dr. Measel stated that the University System has approved fourteen vehicles for purchase. However, this does not mean that there is money available to purchase the vehicles.

Dr. Measel advised the Board that there is a radio tower that the City uses that is located on ASMSA property. The City pays rent to use the tower and deducts the fee from the \$1,000 rent that the school pays the City. Dr. Measel stated that at the present time, the State sends the \$1,000 rent money directly to the City. Dr. Measel has requested that the State funds of \$1,000 rent be sent directly to the school instead of the City so the rent can be paid to the City with State appropriate funds. Dr. Measel stated that by doing this, it will give the institution \$12,000 a year that can be used towards the purchasing of school vehicles. Dr. Measel reported that it is extremely difficult to purchase vehicles out of State money. Vehicles cannot be purchased with State appropriated funds but it can be used to pay the City.

Dr. Measel reported that he wants to install more lights and security cameras around the campus. Dr. Measel stated that the lights in the Administration parking lot are currently not working but they are being re-installed.

Dr. Measel reported that the seventh floor renovation is moving along well and has contracted with Powers of Arkansas to finish the fan coil units. The lounge for the students, the apartment for the RMs, the washer/dryer area, and a few more bathrooms need to be completed. Major progress has been made in these areas.

The windows in the Residential Life Building have not been caulked in fifteen years and work will be done to "seal the envelope" to keep any moisture from getting into the building. Dr. Measel reported that a crane was on the premises to lift roofing materials in order to replace the current roof.

Dr. Measel reported that new trees would be planted on campus during the coming week.

Dr. Measel advised the Board that there is a group of Hot Springs businessmen called, *Fifty for the Future*, and Dr. Sugg spoke at their banquet this year. These business people are very interested in helping the institution develop the park behind the school and obtain a multi-purpose building. Hot Springs will be voting on expanding gambling and if it passes, there will be a lot of money that will flow into the City. Dr. Measel reported that the group is willing to take up the sword in trying to get the City to commit some of the money to the institution. The group visited and toured the institution. Dr. Measel reported that there is some state money for parks and the City has agreed to help in that area.

Ms. Branch asked if it would be a City-owned park and Dr. Measel stated that the school would own one-half of the park and the City would own the other half. Dr. Measel reported that the institution is contracting with the University of Arkansas Center for Community Design to develop the park. Ms. Branch stated that there are three grants that can be applied to for: NCRC Funding because it is a state-owned property and the State can get assistance for any state-owned

property; Apple Recreation Grant has a grant program for cities for walking trails and parks; and the Tobacco Funds. Dr. Measel stated that he would send the Board a rough draft of what the park may look like.

Dr. Measel reported that Mr. Nixon, Director of Public Relations/Recruitment, is trying to get the parents to buy into the City of Hot Springs a bit more. The Hot Springs Advertising Commission has bought into this and is working to get the institution packets to welcome the parents. Dr. Measel stated that much of this came about through the efforts of one of ASMSA's math instructors, Melanie Nichols. Ms. Nichols held one of the largest math technology conferences at the institution that was comprised of 588 teachers. Dr. Measel stated that the Math department also had a Calculus program that hosted 42 teachers that was very successful.

Dr. Measel stated that the Science Department has had two programs that were held at Winrock International – one in Biology, and one in Water Quality.

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

Mr. Provus was absent from the meeting.

Dr. Measel stated that the State auditors were auditing the Student Activity Account.

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

c. Powers of Arkansas – Monthly Energy Report

No request for clarification of this report. Dr. Measel reported that utilities have been manageable but he is very concerned about future bills due to the escalating cost of utilities.

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

3. Student Services Report – Mrs. Diana Hampo

No request for clarification of this report.

Mrs. Hampo stated that she is honored to be at the institution as Interim Dean of Residential Affairs.

Ms. Hampo stated that the students are a constant source of amazement and they have been extremely busy with preparation and attendance of Science Fair. Mrs. Hampo stated that she is in the process of ordering some weight-room equipment and has had discussions with the incoming President of the Parents' Association to make next year a better year for the students. Mrs. Hampo stated that students are in the process of being interviewed for positions of Community Leaders for next year.

4. Academic Life Report – Dr. Hugo

No request for clarification of this report.

Dr. Hugo reported that ASMSA took first place at the University of Arkansas Fayetteville Association for Computing Machinery High School Programming Contest, and also took first place at the UCA/Axiom Collegiate Programming Contest.

Dr. Hugo stated that she received an email from an ASMS charter class student stating that the charter class is putting together a ten- year class reunion to be held on June 18th.

Dr. Hugo reiterated that graduation is May 21st and asked the Board if they could please be at the Convention Center by 1:00 p.m. Dr. Hugo stated that Dr. Measel would be in charge of having the regalia pressed and will bring it to graduation.

Dr. Hugo reported that ASMSA is very fortunate that almost after a year of conversing with the Engineering Department at the University of Arkansas – Fayetteville that they have developed a Summer Engineering and Science Research Program for seven to ten ASMSA students.

Dr. Hugo distributed an addendum to the Course Catalog to the Board members. Dr. Hugo reported that there are several new courses that will be offered to ASMSA students. One is the Oracle course that will prepare students for a career path. Mr. Moix will attend a training course in California and will be teaching this course to the students.

Dr. Hugo also reported the addition of a Computer Ethics course. This course was added due to spam and ethical use of technology in our lives. Mr. Moix and Mr. Frank will be teaching this course.

Dr. Hugo reported that Humanities instructor, Sean Chapman, is a creative writing graduate who will be teaching the study and creation of contemporary writing. The students will study all forms of writing – prose, poetry, fiction and non-fiction writings.

Dr. Hugo reported that one of the new courses that will be offered is Advanced Biology. It is the first time that a biology placement test was given to all prospective juniors. The course will follow the pattern of an AP course.

Dr. Hugo stated that Mrs. Ross would teach African American Literature. Through the year, Mrs. Ross has been teaching this subject on her own time and has taken some students to Louisiana and visited plantations and those sites that are part of the African American culture.

Dr. Hugo reported that the final new course that is being added is called, Strings, that will be taught by Ms. Chambers. Ms. Chambers has previously taught an AP music course this past year. The students will receive an Arts credit for the Strings course.

5. Outreach Director's Report – Mr. Robbins

No request for clarification of this report.

Mr. Robbins reported that ADE owes ASMSA \$694,750 in tuition funds for the current academic year. Approximately \$159,000 has not been paid from the first semester, and approximately \$535,000 from the second semester. Mr. Robbins stated that the pivotal issue has to do with certification and little to do with ODE. Mr. Robbins stated that all of the required ADE paperwork had been submitted for the faculty members who were entered into the Pathwise Certification Program. The program was approved by Donna Zornes' office in Non-Traditional Licensure at ADE. Mr. Robbins stated the requirement rules had changed in mid-stream for our instructors in the last couple of months, and our instructors will have to adhere to these changes; however, ASMSA was not notified in advance that changes to the program were made. The biggest issue is the Non-Traditional Licensure Office did not communicate in a timely manner with the Certification Office. The Non-Traditional Licensure Office approves certification programs then the Certification Office tracks the individual teachers who are in the program. Over the past many months, Mr. Robbins stated that the required paperwork had been delivered to the Certification Office to be entered into the system. Mr. Robbins stated that these offices could not find, in many instances, criminal background checks that are required of ASMSA personnel. Mr. Robbins stated that the Licensure personnel were in the same room he was in when he called the state police who pulled the employee reports to be sent to ADE. Mr. Robbins also stated that there were transcripts that ADE could not find. He then met with Clemetta Hood in Personnel, was able to get most of the transcripts from the Personnel Office, and then took them down to the Certification office. Mr. Robbins stated that he was able to get those records in a timely manner. Mr. Robbins reported that there were communication errors that disturbed him. These same records have now been lost. There is no record of any of this documentation at ADE. When Mr. Boardman went to verify the certification status of ASMSA teachers, he showed that they were missing many documents that were previously provided to ADE at least once and sometimes three times. Mr. Robbins stated that he took multiple copies, once again, and delivered them personally to Ron Tolson at ADE, who is in charge of Certification, Donna Zornes, in Non-Traditional Licensure, Jim Boardman, and Ken James with a request that they call Mr. Robbins when they received the information. To date, no one has called. Mr. Robbins stated that he emailed Mr. Boardman on 4/5/05 to find out what the status was and was told that Mr. Boardman had given someone a noon deadline to try to get the information for Mr. Robbins.

Mr. Lindsey asked Mr. Robbins if there was someone in a supervisory capacity to resolve these issues. Mr. Robbins stated that the certification program was not ODE specific. Mr. Robbins reported that three letters have been sent to Dr. James urgently requesting meetings. Mr. Robbins stated that no formal response to these letters has been received. Dr. Measel concurred with Mr. Robbins' statement.

Dr. Measel stated that although Dr. James has been busy with the legislative session, he still needed to meet with Dr. James to solve this problem.

Mrs. Samons interjected stating that it has been three years since ASMSA has taken a proactive role in getting ASMSA teachers certified.

Mr. Robbins stated that the legislature structured the distance education tuition funding legislation as a grant that was taken off of the public school fund. The way that the language is written, Mr. Boardman is able to draw on one-sixth of the base per revenue student of the previous year at the high school level. This equates to approximately \$890.00 per course. Mr. Boardman has only given to ASMSA \$500.00 per student of the \$890.00 that is owed. Mr. Robbins stated that Mr. Boardman also required that the faculty be certified. Legislation was passed that exempts distance education instructors from certification so there are no legal grounds for ASMSA not to be paid. However, because the money that is administered to ASMSA is in the form of a grant, ADE can impose some different requirements and certification was one of those requirements. Mr. Robbins stated that he and Mr. Boardman met and he told Mr. Boardman in good faith that ASMSA teachers would become certified, and in good faith ASMSA enrolled in the program.

Mr. Lindsey asked Mr. Robbins if ASMSA instructors met all of the requirements that have been asked of ADE. Dr. Hugo interjected stating that when ASMSA began the program, they were instructed to have the teachers take Praxis II and that would be all that was required. Dr. Hugo stated that when that program was completed, Dr. Hugo was advised that not only was Praxis II required, but now the ASMSA instructors would have to take the Pathwise training. Dr. Hugo stated that in the middle of the Pathwise training, she received a call by Barbara Culpepper stating that certain forms were never filed for the mentor and novice teachers, and Dr. Hugo stated that neither the mentors, nor the novice teachers, were advised that additional forms needed to be completed. Dr. Hugo stated that she was advised that at this point, ASMSA teachers needed to complete Praxis II, Praxis III, and Pathwise Training, along with the basic skills of PPL. Dr. Hugo stated that Donna Zornes and Barbara Culpepper offered to come to ASMSA to talk to the teachers about it and Dr. Hugo asked for them to do so but has heard nothing about it. Dr. Hugo stated that every time she turns around, the requirements have changed and every time the works gets close to being completed, something new is added.

Mr. Robbins stated that the rules of the program are being changed while ASMSA teachers are trying to complete the program.

Mr. Robbins stated that as far as ADE is concerned, none of the ASMSA teachers are in the program because ADE cannot find the paperwork for the teachers. Mr. Robbins stated that, in his opinion, it is getting close in time to turn the matter over to the attorneys.

Ms. Branch asked if it would be appropriate to write a letter or prepare some type of document that can be turned over to ADE and ADE's Board of Directors. Mr. Robbins stated that the suggestion would be a good first step.

Ms. Samons stated that the original ADE legislation waived teacher certification.

Mr. Robbins reported that ADE's own policy stated in non-traditional licensure that they would renew provisional certificates for anyone who was in the midst of completing an approved program. Mr. Robbins stated that not only did ADE not issue the new incoming participants provisionals, but they also did not renew the provisionals for most of the teachers who had already been in the program. Mr. Robbins reported that the primary issue is money.

Ms. Branch asked if it would be appropriate that ASMSA charge some persons to draft a letter to the Board stating the situation. Mr. Lindsey agreed. Mr. Lindsey stated that it appears ADE is doing everything they can to frustrate ASMSA.

Ms. Biggers asked if the Board would like for her to talk to the people involved at ADE and also asked for an executive summary before a letter is drafted. Mr. Robbins told Ms. Biggers that he would be able to provide her with any necessary information.

Mr. Robbins stated that as far as Jim Boardman is concerned all he has to go by is the written ADE policy on non-traditional certification. Mr. Robbins stated that there is some confusion because there was a separate program approved for ASMSA by Donna Zornes' office and ADE ought to abide by her program in terms of her issuing provisionals or renewing provisionals in order for ASMSA's ODE teachers to have time to meet the new requirements. Mr. Robbins stated that it was not fair to change the rules in mid-stream and should give the teachers the same amount of time to complete the requirements. Mr. Robbins stated that there were conversations with Donna Zornes, a program was presented and approved, and then the program had been modified.

Ms. Biggers asked if Mr. Robbins had recently contacted Ms. Zornes and Mr. Robbins stated that he had made every effort to speak to her directly. Ms. Biggers stated that since the legislative session is going on, it is very difficult to have anyone return calls from ADE. However, Ms. Biggers stated that she would see what she can find out and will email Mr. Robbins and Dr. Measel with her findings.

In the event that Ms. Biggers' efforts to resolve the teacher licensure fails, the Board discussed writing a letter to ADE to request information on this issue.

A motion was made by Ms. Branch, and seconded by Mr. Lindsey, to have a letter prepared by the Board of Visitors to request information from the State Board of Education regarding the unresolved situation of the teacher licensure situation with ADE. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Measel stated that he has had written several pieces of correspondence to Dr. James regarding distance education, certification, AP, and money for the handicapped student that is presently attending ASMSA. Dr. Measel thanked Ms. Biggers for her help. Dr. Measel stated that Mr. Boardman had been semi-responsive but his hands are tied by the rules of his own grant. Mr. Lindsey asked if Mr. Boardman's grant stated that the teachers have to be licensed. Dr. Measel stated that it does.

Mr. Robbins stated that he is very concerned because ADE's distance learning center is part and parcel the same unit that administers the grants. They are paying themselves to do the same function for which they sometimes pay ASMSA. Mr. Robbins stated that he has a general concern that ADE, as a regulatory agency, would be involved in an area that they are regulating.

Mr. Lindsey asked about a five-year plan for ASMSA and Mr. Robbins stated that a preliminary plan should be ready by the end of the month.

Mr. Lindsey asked Mr. Robbins about ODE office/teaching space for next year. Mr. Robbins stated that if the department grows, ASMSA would be capped for space. Dr. Measel interjected stating that there is room for five more teaching offices. Dr. Measel stated that there is not enough room to teach more than 3,000 students. Dr. Measel stated that there are spaces in other areas of the facility that would accommodate teaching more students. Dr. Measel said that he does not want any student to be turned away due to lack of facilities.

Mr. Robbins stated that the growth in ODE for the coming year is level growth. He stated that at some point the program would plateau. Mr. Robbins reported that there are big offings in AP and accommodations can be made if the program is expanded into different buildings. Mr. Robbins stated that his biggest concern at the present time is getting the money from ADE so the ODE program can continue to operate.

6. Staff Development Report – Monthly Conference Travel

No request for clarification of this report.

7. Public Relations/Recruitment Report - Mr. Nixon

Mr. Nixon reported that student interviews had taken place the first weekend in April. Mr. Nixon stated that the average ACT score of the students that have so far been invited is 24.5. He stated that once everything is computed, it is more than likely that the average is expected to be higher. The average GPA of the students is a 3.9. Mr. Nixon reported that the ethnic breakdown is as follows: White students – 82%; Minority – 18%. The number of African American male students has increased. Mr. Nixon stated that eighty-one school districts would be represented at ASMSA from fifty-one different counties.

Mr. Nixon had passed out ASMSA coffee mugs to the Board members and stated that he had been able to get some advertising materials to be distributed at certain meetings throughout the year.

8. Parents' Association Report – Robert McKinney

No request for clarification of this report.

Mr. McKinney reported that the Parents' Association was gearing up for prom and prom-related activities. He also reported that fund-raising activities were taking place selling ASMSA sweatshirts.

Since this was Mr. McKinney's last Board meeting, Mrs. Samons thanked Mr. McKinney for his participation in the Board meetings and retreats.

Mr. McKinney introduced Ms. Tammy Sieling who is the designated Parents' Association President for the 2005-2006 school year.

9. Student Government Report - Mr. Watson (handout)

Dr. Measel stated the Mr. Watson has worked hard to develop a policy to extend senior driving privileges applicable only in the fourth quarter of the school year to those students who are academically eligible. Dr. Measel stated that he and the administrators have looked at the proposal and see no major problem with it.

Mr. Watson stated that the student driving privilege would serve as a reward for the seniors in their last quarter of the senior school year.

A motion was made by Ms. Branch and seconded by Mr. Lindsey to accept the new senior driving privileges applicable only to seniors in the fourth quarter of the school year that is to be added to the Student Handbook. The motion passed unanimously.

V. OLD BUSINESS

No old business to report.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Measel asked the Board if they had any questions regarding the *Student Handbook*. Mrs. Samons stated that she reviewed the *Handbook* and commended the personnel involved in putting it together.

Mrs. Branch inquired about the ASMSA I.D./security badges. Dr. Measel stated all students wear I.D. badges for identification purposes and that he has requested in the past for money to be applied toward an electric card reader to control security. Dr. Measel stated that the Department of Education and the City of Hot Springs will not pay for the system and that he will try to look for money from outside sources to fund the system. Dr. Measel stated that the system would resolve a lot of problems that currently exist with keys and that Administrative offices would be bar-coded this year. Dr. Measel stated that security is an issue and that ASMSA holds fire drills, tornado drills, and lock-down drills.

Mr. McKinney referred to Page 21, 8 (f) in the Handbook where it states that students may not display any negative political/social sentiment/opinions in the Residence Hall, and in student rooms. Dr. Measel stated that he did not notice that statement and that the *Handbook* had not yet gone to the attorneys for review. The Board stated that the word "negative" needs some clarification.

Mr. Lindsey made reference to Page 21, 12 (c) regarding the non-use of extension cords. Dr. Measel clarified that students can use extension cords in their rooms but

this item specifically refers to the use of extension cords of holiday lighting. Dr. Measel stated that the Hot Springs Fire Marshall is standing firm on this item due to some cords shorting out because of holiday lighting overloads.

Mr. Watson raised a question regarding the Level 5 Violations Section on Page 44, No. 5. Mr. Watson specifically referred to 5-9, 5-13 and 5-14. Mr. Watson stated that these items concern possessing empty alcoholic beverage containers, intending to use alcohol, and being under the use of alcohol – three different stages of the same violation – Level 5 violation. Mr. Watson referred to 5-13, Possession of Empty Alcoholic Beverage Cans or Bottles. Mr. Watson referred to these Level 5 violations that is a ten (10) class-day suspension and recommendation for dismissal.

Mr. Watson stated that he thought a Level 5 for the above infractions was a stiff punishment for a student who may have made only one mistake by having an empty beer can or empty beer bottle that anyone can place anywhere at any time. Mr. Watson stated that he believed it should be a Level 3 violation.

Dr. Measel stated that there have been problems with alcohol and have found near-empty containers of alcohol in some students' rooms and it is a very serious problem.

Dr. Measel stated that he is not against any recommendations that the Board would make.

Mr. McKinney stated that in Greenwood the school system started drug testing two years ago (in his opposition) and if the student tested positive for drugs the first time, the student would not be punished but would be offered counseling, etc. Mr. McKinney stated that if the student failed drug testing the second time, then the student would face disciplinary action and the third time expelled. Mr. McKinney stated that he believed most schools operate with counseling first and then punishment.

Dr. Hugo referred to No. e, Page 53, regarding the use of being under the influence of intoxicating substances. Dr. Hugo stated that clarification might need to be written by the nurse to make people aware of the appropriate use of prescription and non-prescription medication. Dr. Hugo clarified this information to Mr. Lindsey stating that this infraction is a Level 4 violation and not a Level 5 as Mr. Lindsey thought it was.

Dr. Hugo stated that the Committee had discussed what non-prescription drugs the students can possess. Dr. Hugo stated that if a non-prescription drug is being used inappropriately, the student should be suspended for six to nine days. Mr. McKinney countered Dr. Hugo's statement saying that the child should be counseled and not suspended from school for inappropriate use of non-prescription drugs. Mr. McKinney stated that he did not think a child should be punished for this violation. He then asked Dr. Hugo if a child was to be punished for trying to commit suicide. Dr. Hugo adamantly stated that the institution has lived through certain suicide situations and the institution cannot have on-site counseling for anyone who is trying to commit suicide through the inappropriate use of non-

prescription drugs. Dr. Hugo stated that a parent said the institution could watch their student 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Dr. Hugo also stated that the institution does not have the ability to monitor students 24/7 and cannot take the chance of putting the institution at risk. Dr. Hugo stated that if the student feels that there is a major problem in their life to try to commit suicide, their parents are the ones who need to be responsible for their children.

Dr. Hugo stated that the inappropriate use of non-prescription medication is not an attempt of suicide and this is pointed out in a mental health evaluation when a child attempts physical harm or threatens or talks about suicide. Dr. Hugo stated that the inappropriate use of medication is a student who has taken an abundant amount of non-prescription medication in order to get high (drunk) from the medication and not trying to commit suicide (page 26, 6B). Dr. Hugo stated that if a student is getting high from non-prescription medications, he/she needs to be sent home for a mental health evaluation. Dr. Hugo reported that the first choice of any decision is to make sure the student receives help.

Mr. McKinney asked Dr. Hugo that if a child took medication that was not following the prescribed dosage on a bottle of medicine and the child fell asleep during a class would he be dismissed. Dr. Hugo stated that the student would not be dismissed because it is all about intent – what was the intent at the time the student was taking the medicine.

Ms. Branch stated the Level 4 and Level 5 inappropriate use of medication needs to be clarified. Mr. McKinney stated that an explanation of inappropriate use of medication needed to be added to the Glossary in order to clarify the difference between the Level 4 and Level 5 violations.

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 7:18 p.m.

Approved as written _____

Approved as amended _____



12-06-05
(Date)