

**MINUTES**  
**ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES,**  
**AND THE ARTS**  
**BOARD OF VISITORS REGULAR MEETING**  
**December 5, 2006**  
**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**

Mr. Luke Gordy, Chairman designate, convened the Board of Visitors regular meeting into open session at 5:08 p.m. and welcomed all of the Board members.

Mr. Gordy reminded the Board that the Board is a Board of Visitors and that the function of the Board is not to direct the school in policy and procedure but to serve as an advocate of the institution. Mr. Gordy stated that he has asked Dr. Hugo to meet with the senior staff and make recommendations to the Board on how the Board can best help the institution. Mr. Gordy stated that he has learned more in the past two meetings with Dr. Hugo than he has learned in all the previous meetings he has attended in the past year and a half.

**II. ESTABLISH QUORUM**

**Members Present**

Mr. Luke Gordy  
 Ms. Marynell Branch  
 Mrs. Lynne Dardenne  
 Mr. Charles Nelson  
 Mr. Mickey Cox

**Members Absent**

Mrs. Lynda Samons, Chairman  
 Ms. Robin King

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

Dr. Suzanne Mitchell, designee for  
     Dr. Linda Beene, Executive Director  
     Arkansas Department of Higher Education  
 Ms. Ann Biggers, designee for Dr. Ken  
     James, Director, Arkansas Department of  
     Education  
 Dr. Gail McClure, designee for Dr. John  
     Ahlen, President, Arkansas Science and  
     Technology Authority  
 Dr. Clinton Atchley, President, Parents'  
     Association  
 Mr. James McKinney, President, SGA

**Ex-Officio Members Absent**

Ms. Joy Pennington, designee for Ms. Cathie  
     Mathews, Director, Department of  
     Arkansas Heritage

**Administrative Members Present**

Dr. Janet Hugo, Director  
Mrs. Melanie Nichols, Dean of Academic Affairs  
Mr. Christopher Robbins, Outreach Director  
Mr. Mike Carpenter, Director of Institutional  
Development  
Mrs. Diana Hampo, Interim Dean of Residential Affairs  
Mrs. Kay Provus, Fiscal Manager  
Mrs. Lorraine Munroe, Administrative Assistant

**Administrative Members Absent**

Mr. Jeff Nixon, Public Relations/Recruiting Director

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Ms. Branch and seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve the minutes of the Board of Visitors Regular Meeting of October 3, 2006. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gordy introduced new Board member, Mickey Cox from Beebe, Arkansas. Each Board member introduced themselves to Mr. Cox.

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Mr. Gordy and seconded by Ms. Branch to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

1. Director's Comments – Dr. Hugo

Dr. Hugo stated that student retention is still at 97%. Dr. Hugo reported that she credits the seniors for this because they made a decision to have a positive influence on the incoming junior class. She also stated that the faculty is having a good year and all is going well.

Dr. Hugo discussed the Joint Budget Committee Hearing that she attended the previous week. Dr. Hugo stated that she submitted a request for additional new money for added new positions for distance education and development of the arts program. Dr. Hugo stated that at the Joint Budget Committee Hearing, Representative Betty Pickett asked questions about how many students ASMSA had enrolled and what the student teacher ratio was. Representative Pickett stated that the budget was considerable in relation to the number of students that were attending ASMSA. Dr. Hugo advised Representative Pickett that there were 2,100 students and a distance education faculty of twenty-one. Dr. Hugo also reported to Representative Pickett that if the room and board funds were removed, the allotment per student is approximately equal to other high schools in the state. Dr. Hugo stated she had to return to the Budget Committee on Tuesday (December 12<sup>th</sup>) as decisions on the budgets were presented.

Dr. Hugo reported that the Hot Springs City Manager approached her about reworking the school's lease. The original lease agreement was on a year-to-year lease but was

changed to a month-to-month lease when ASMSA went under the University of Arkansas. The rent of \$1.00 per year did not change when the lease changed. Dr. Hugo stated that she would meet with Dr. Ferritor at the University of Arkansas System office on December 20<sup>th</sup> in regard to extending the lease and possibly going to a twenty-five year lease without changing the rent fee. Dr. Hugo reported that the Budget Committee would only consider capital revenue if the school owns or has a long-term lease of the property. This is why it has been a problem trying to get money to construct a multi-purpose building for the school.

Dr. Hugo stated that the City owns the old MRI building and that ASMSA has the first right of refusal on the property and that she has had discussions with Kent Myers, City Manager, about the use of the property. Dr. Hugo stated that she has also had discussions with the Hot Springs Music Festival about a joint venture regarding a performance venue for both the Music Festival and ASMSA.

Dr. Hugo reported that the construction of a fire escape is now in progress.

She also reported that a national search has begun for the Dean of Academic Affairs and the Dean of Residential Affairs. Dr. Hugo reported that committees have been appointed and the committees will conduct phone interviews and the top three candidates from both areas will then be brought to the campus for interviews. Dr. Hugo stated that she has requested that the process be completed and positions offered to individuals by mid-March at the latest.

Dr. Hugo reported that ASMSA has received a clean legislative audit.

2. Financial Report – Mrs. Kay Provus

Mrs. Provus reported that ASMSA is running positive numbers and that supplemental appropriation has been approved as submitted for submission in the Governor's package to the Legislature.

3. Residential Life Report – Mrs. Diana Hampo

Mrs. Hampo reported that winter formal took place at the Belvedere Country Club and after-formal activities took place at Sun Bay Resort.

Mrs. Hampo stated that the biggest complaint from the students is the laundry facilities. The machines are ten to twelve years old and maintenance repair is called several times a week to fix the machines.

Because of lack of space, Mrs. Hampo reported that students are holding club meetings in the hallways.

Mrs. Hampo reported that the performance of *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* was extraordinary. Three performances were held and were directed by Residential

Mentors, Matthew Thomas and Rachael Soliday. Mrs. Hampo met with the Parents Association and they are considering helping with the acoustics in the Chapel where future productions may be held.

Mrs. Dardenne stated that she was not aware of the school's performance and asked whether or not any notification went out to the Board members advising them of the play. Mrs. Hampo stated that no notification was sent; however, in the future, all Board members will be advised.

Mrs. Dardenne asked if any of the local schools have been contacted to see if the performances can be held in their auditoriums. Mrs. Hampo stated that they have discussed that possibility but wanted to make sure that the students can learn and rehearse the play and keep up their grades before making any commitments. Mrs. Hampo reported that they are looking to talk to Oaklawn School to put on the next production, *Mousetrap*.

4. Dean of Academic Affairs – Mrs. Melanie Nichols

Mrs. Nichols reported that letters have been mailed to all Superintendents in the state informing them that their student ACTAAP scores will be counted at the home schools.

Ms. Nichols stated that the faculty next summer would offer math and literacy professional development. In addition, ASMSA submitted, with UALR, the "No Child Left Behind" grant. If funded, the proposal would support programs in Biology, Physics and Chemistry.

The junior high math competition was held on November 29 and over 400 students attended the competition.

Regarding the summer research programs for the students, Mrs. Nichols stated that she has been working with UALR, UCA and Hendrix to provide summer opportunities. Mrs. Nichols also reported that she received a call from UAMS and they are trying to put together research opportunities for students to work at Children's Hospital.

Mrs. Nichols reported that ASMSA will host the fourth *Teachers Teaching with Technology (T<sup>3</sup>) Conference* February 15-17, 2007 and estimate approximately 500 teachers will be attending from the Southwest Region.

Mr. Gordy requested that if there are any major events taking place at ASMSA, to please email the Board and advise them of the details.

Dr. Hugo stated that the AP Summer Institute that is held through UALR will be hosted July 22 – 27, 2007 instead of in June.

5. Outreach Report – Mr. Chris Robbins

Mr. Robbins reported that ASMSA has received in full a \$750,000 distance learning tuition grant from ADE for this academic year. Mr. Robbins stated that he is billing out

approximately \$1.2 million in total revenue from ODE this year and that there has been a 100% collection rate last year and he does not anticipate anything different this year.

Mr. Robbins stated that ASMSA has received a \$23,000 Pathwise mentoring grant to provide mentoring to novice teachers.

Mr. Robbins stated that he received word from Polly Davis from ADE that ASMSA's application has been approved to provide supplemental educational services for this year.

Mr. Robbins reported that Dee Cox from ADE had a meeting at ASMSA with the distance learning development project participant providers that operate similar distance education programs and looked at ASMSA's distance education facilities. Mr. Robbins stated that ADE has been a pleasure to work with during the year.

Mr. Robbins stated that the Distance Learning Coordinating Council would be meeting to finalize recommendations for legislation to be considered.

Regarding Mr. Robbins' comments, Mr. Gordy stated that he read that Dr. James has a significant increase in budget for Distance Learning. Mr. Robbins concurred.

Mr. Robbins stated that the Distance Learning Coordinating Council was created during the 2003 special session. The Council represents various agencies most of them who are providers to the Department of Education. The task of the group is to make recommendations about distance education. They are to act as a coordinating body and recommend to the Department of Education and to the legislature what the state can do to improve distance education and the utilization of distance education in the state. At this point, one of the things that the Council has recommended is that institutions that were in the development project either be declared successful or the project be declared unsuccessful and either fund it fully or abandon the project. It has been a development project for a number of years and Mr. Robbins stated that ASMSA has demonstrated success in helping school districts. Mr. Robbins reported that the recommendation that is on the table would provide ASMSA a 40% increase in per student revenue for distance education and no cap on enrollment. Mr. Robbins stated that the cap is monetary. Mr. Robbins reported that ASMSA receives \$750,000 through distance education tuition grants. Mr. Robbins stated that based on the amount that it takes to break even, ASMSA needs to generate about \$600.00 per student in the distance education program just to operate and pay the bills, faculty members, etc. The \$750,000 was sufficient in 2003 but there has not been additional grant money in the program's budget. Mr. Robbins stated that ASMSA has done the best it can and enrollment has grown but the operation is running on a thin margin. Mr. Robbins stated that the proposed legislation would address that issue. Mr. Robbins stated that Senator Shane Broadway, Senator Bisbee and other influential people have really supported the program. Mr. Robbins reported that the gubernatorial candidates have talked about distance education as a major issue and that ASMSA provides a positive

and educationally sound way to address the instructional needs of rural and poor districts.

Mr. Robbins reported that the major piece that the Distance Learning Coordinating Council is proposing is that the distance learning project itself be continued so that funding be provided for other startup programs.

Mr. Gordy interjected that distance learning will continue to receive more conversations statewide, politically and otherwise. Mr. Gordy stated that the business community is extremely interested in expanding distance learning to help the smaller schools meet the mandate of the increased rigorous curriculum and he is hearing much support for distance learning.

6. Admissions/Public Relations – Mr. Jeff Nixon

Mr. Nixon was absent from the meeting.

In his absence, Dr. Hugo reported an open house was held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and approximately 75 students attended. Dr. Hugo stated that Admissions is targeting middle school and junior high school students (8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders) and that tenth graders are required to shadow. She stated that there were fewer tenth graders who attended because of the shadowing program. Dr. Hugo reported that the next open house would be held in February. Dr. Hugo stated that Mr. Nixon is looking at having an open house in February and October each year.

Dr. Hugo stated that an eight-page ASMSA advertising slick publication is in the process of being prepared to be sent across the state and to the legislators.

7. Institutional Advancement – Mr. Mike Carpenter

Mr. Carpenter stated that since ASMSA is in the process of making the transition to the University of Arkansas Foundation, it is now able to spend some money on much needed equipment. Mr. Carpenter stated that donor-tracking software is now in place and training took place the prior week. Mr. Carpenter reported that one of the money-raising events coming up is a golf tournament. Mr. Carpenter stated that the purpose of the golf tournament is to raise money to help with the summer enrichment programs and to give exposure to what the students are doing at the school.

Ms. Branch stated that the legislative session would be starting and it would be a good idea to ask the legislators to attend the tournament.

8. Parents' Association Report – Dr. Clinton Atchley

Dr. Atchley reported that the Parents' Association is looking at a project to help with the Chapel and is providing "de-stress bags" for the students for finals.

9. Student Government Report – James McKinney

Mr. McKinney reported that the students are happy and content and that all is going well.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Gordy stated that the current Chair, Mrs. Lynda Samons, directed him to appoint a Vice Chair and Secretary of the Board of Visitors.

A motion was made by Mr. Gordy and seconded by Mr. Nelson to appoint Mrs. Lynne Dardenne as Vice Chair and Ms. Marynell Branch as Secretary. Motion passed unanimously.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

Reference was made to have a “Day at the Capitol” and Dr. Hugo responded that she will be preparing quickly for it and that she has contacted by letter Governor Elect Beebe congratulating him on the election and inviting him to the campus. Mr. Gordy stated that he planned on talking to Governor Elect, Mike Beebe, and Chief of Staff, Morril Harriman inviting them to the school. Mr. Gordy requested that the Board attend to show a force as well and to put other issues of the school before them.

Mr. Nelson inquired as to the school’s insurance liability when students traveled. Mrs. Hampo responded that the school has several vehicles that are used for transporting the students and occasionally uses a rental bus from one of the local churches and that all vehicles are covered under the school’s liability insurance.

Mr. Gordy stated that Robin King was going off the Board and was not present at the meeting. He stated that the Director and staff had a parting gift for Ms. King and asked if Dr. Hugo would arrange to get the gift to her and thank her for her service on the Board.

Dr. Mitchell informed the Board and administrators that a program on Arkansas’ future and the economic impact of science and math was going to be televised on PBS that evening.

Dr. Hugo stated that she would like to take the opportunity to discuss and present a formal list of ideas to the Board to see where ASMSA is going and what can be done to work together in preparation of the legislative session.

**VII. AUDIENCE WITH INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS**

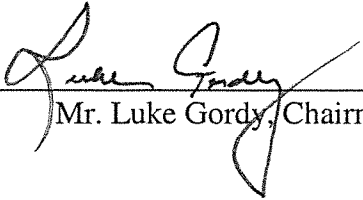
No request or comment from an individual or group.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Approved as written \_\_\_\_\_

Approved as amended \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Luke Gordy, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)