

MINUTES
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES,
AND THE ARTS
BOARD OF VISITORS REGULAR MEETING
December 3, 2007
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, convened the Board of Visitors regular meeting into open session at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed all of the Board members.

II. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Members Present

Mr. Luke Gordy, Chair
 Mrs. Lynne Dardenne, Vice-Chair
 Mr. Mickey Cox
 Mr. Luther Lowe
 Mr. Charles Nelson
 Dr. Lynda Samons

Ex-Officio Members Present

Ms. Ann Biggers, designee for Dr. Ken James, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education
 Dr. Gail McClure, designee for Dr. John Ahlen, President, Arkansas Science and Technology Authority
 Mr. Alex Cooper, President, SGA

Administrative Members Present

Dr. Janet Hugo, Director
 Mrs. Melanie Nichols, Dean of Academic Affairs
 Mr. Chris Robbins, Director of Outreach
 Mr. Mike Carpenter, Director of Institutional Development
 Mr. William Currier, Dean of Residential Affairs
 Mrs. Lorraine Munroe, Administrative Assistant

Members Absent

Ms. Marynell Branch, Secretary

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Ms. Joy Pennington, designee for Ms. Cathie Mathews, Director, Department of Arkansas Heritage
 Dr. Karen Wheeler, designee for Dr. Steve Floyd, Interim Director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education
 Mr. Wayne Williamson, President, Parents Association

Administrative Members Absent

Mr. Jeff Nixon, Director of Admissions
 Mrs. Kay Provus, Fiscal Administrator

Prior to the Board meeting, the Board of Visitors toured the facility and attended various classes in session.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Samons and seconded by Mr. Cox to approve the minutes of September 11, 2007. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Director's Comments – Dr. Hugo

Dr. Hugo reported that on December 5th, three architectural firms will be visiting the campus to present a Campus Master Plan. Dr. Hugo also stated that she wants to look at the viability of the current facilities and also what is needed for expansion of the institution. Dr. Hugo reported that the City of Hot Springs has talked about the land behind Charter Field as a possibility of expansion. Dr. Hugo reported that she is looking at a target date of October 2008 to determine what is needed so it can be presented to the Legislature for funding. Dr. Hugo reported that the buildings are leased from the city at the present time and as long as the buildings continue to be leased from the city, capital improvement money can not be given to ASMSA.

Dr. Hugo asked the Board their thoughts as they toured the facility. Mr. Gordy stated that the Board enjoyed the tour and was surprised that they have not seen two-thirds of it previously.

2. Financial Report – Mrs. Kay Provus

Dr. Hugo stated that Mrs. Provus was absent from the meeting. Dr. Hugo reported that finances were on target. She informed the Board that she received a report from Jacob Richards, manager of Powers of Arkansas who maintains the heating and cooling of the school, that over the last three months 28% has been saved in day-to-day energy costs due to implementation of a new control system. Dr. Hugo reported that Mrs. Provus will be attending a meeting to ask for approval to spend additional GIF money. Dr. Hugo stated that ASMSA is in good financial shape.

A motion was made by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Dardenne to accept the Financial Report. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Residential Life Report – Mr. William Currier

Mr. Currier reported that the sound system for the movie theater system has arrived and the project is moving along nicely. He also reported that the next project was to revitalize the fitness center. Mr. Currier stated that Charter Field is looking very good due to the great job the Parents' Association did in laying the sod. Mr. Currier reported that he would like to put up some netting so the students would not lose their Frisbees, footballs, etc. in the woods.

Mr. Currier reported that a candidate was interviewed for a Residential Mentor (RM) position and three more will be arriving for interviews in the following week.

4. Dean of Academic Affairs – Mrs. Melanie Nichols

Mrs. Nichols reviewed her report to the Board. Mrs. Nichols highlighted her report stating that Dan McElderry has been elected District Four President of the Arkansas Foreign Language Teachers Association.

Mrs. Nichols stated that some of the faculty have been working with ADE with various committees.

Mrs. Nichols reported that there are currently thirty-four concurrent credit courses with UALR and seven concurrent courses with National Park Community College.

Mrs. Nichols stated that the Teachers Teaching With Technology (T³) Conference will be held at ASMSA in January hosting approximately 500 teachers from around the state. Registration for the conference is available on line.

5. Outreach Report – Mr. Chris Robbins

Mr. Robbins stated that invoices had been sent out to the districts and that there has been a 30% increase in revenue over last year. Mr. Robbins reported that for the first time private and out-of-state students have registered for distance education.

Dr. Hugo stated that Mr. Robbins has been nominated for the Instructional Technology Council's Award for Lifetime Achievement in e-Learning. She conveyed to the Board that Mr. Robbins was very deserving of the award due to this long-time experience and dedication to distance education.

6. Admissions/Public Relations – Mr. Jeff Nixon

Mr. Nixon was recruiting and was not present at the meeting.

Dr. Hugo stated that there has been much interest in parents attending the nightly meetings that are being held around the state. She reported that night meetings have been a good draw of both students and parents. She also advised the Board that there is an ASMSA television commercial that is being played primarily in the northeast part of the state. Dr. Hugo reported that various approaches to advertising are being used, i.e. television ads, newspaper and radio announcements.

Dr. Hugo stated that a press release was submitted to the media across the state to announce the ASMSA open house that will be taking place on Saturday, December 8, 2007.

7. Institutional Advancement – Mr. Mike Carpenter

Mr. Carpenter reported that he received four in-kind gifts from media outlets totaling \$4,552. He also stated that 158 new cash gifts, totaling \$9,280, have been received, and \$34,000 of verbal pledges have been made. Mr. Carpenter reported that in the past three months, ASMSA has received \$47,800. He stated that in the ASMSA's Runner's High 5K Run, one hundred fifty to two hundred participants were expected to run. Two hundred sixty four runners participated that netted almost \$10,000 in gifts.

Mr. Carpenter reported that he has been involved in talks with several beneficial donors looking at the possibility of putting a new building on campus. He stated that the building would be in the neighborhood of \$10 million.

Mr. Lowe asked if it would be possible to have a fund-raising event around graduation. Mr. Lowe asked if perhaps a reception can be given for a high-profile guest speaker. Mr. Carpenter stated that he is looking at that and at several opportunities to target alumni.

Dr. Hugo reported to the Board that the second ASMSA Golf Tournament will be held on April 14, 2008 at Diamante Country Club in Hot Springs Village. She reported that there will be two flights one at 8:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Dr. Hugo presented Dr. Samons with a gift from the school thanking her for her seven years of service on the ASMS Board of Directors and ASMSA Board of Visitors.

8. Parents' Association Report - Mr. Wayne Williamson

Mr. Williamson was not present at the meeting.

9. Student Government Report – Alex Cooper

Mr. Cooper reported that the students were working on Spirit Week, SGA fundraisers and the Handbook Committee clarifying some gray areas in the handbook.

V. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to report.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Several students met with the Board members prior to the Board meeting regarding their experiences being at ASMSA. Mr. Gordy advised administrators that the students are absolutely thrilled about being at ASMSA and are enjoying their experience here but the main complaint was that they feel "like hamsters in a tube". Mr. Gordy stated that the students feel as though they can not go outside and perhaps they can be redirected to do so. Dr. Hugo stated that she has been telling the students for years that they need to get out and get some fresh air and stated that having a campus master plan will help students do this. Dr. Hugo reported that

there are teachers that conduct their classes outside when the weather is nice to give the students a break from being indoors.

Mr. Gordy asked the Board to email Dr. Hugo with the observations and comments of the students that they made to the Board and report back at the next board meeting to see what can be done to address the issues of the students.

Mr. Gordy, the Board and administrators discussed the issue of scheduling the next board meeting. It was decided that an email would be sent to all Board members to choose some future dates in February and May for upcoming meetings.

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 5:42 p.m.

Approved as written ✓ Approved as amended _____
Marynell Branch 2/5/08
Ms. Marynell Branch, Secretary (Date)