

**MINUTES**  
**ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES, AND THE ARTS**  
**BOARD OF VISITORS REGULAR MEETING**  
**December 2, 2008**  
**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.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Dr. Hugo took the Board members to the second floor to show them the new state-of-the-art laboratories that were renovated during the summer.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Luke Gordy, Chairman, convened the Board of Visitors regular meeting into open session at 5:20 p.m. and welcomed all of the Board members.

**II. ESTABLISH QUORUM**

**Members Present**

Mr. Luke Gordy, Chair  
 Mrs. Lynne Dardenne, Vice-Chair  
 Ms. Marynell Branch, Secretary  
 Mr. Luther Lowe  
 Mr. Mickey Cox  
 Mr. Charles Nelson  
 Ms. Karen Garcia

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

Karen Wheeler, Ph.D., designee for  
 Jim Purcell, Ph.D., Director,  
 Arkansas Department of Higher Education  
 Blake A. Perry, Ph.D., designee for John  
 Ahlen, Ph.D., President, Arkansas Science  
 And Technology Authority

**Administrative Members Present**

Janet Hugo, Ph.D., Director  
 Mrs. Melanie Nichols, Dean of Academic Affairs  
 Mr. Mike Carpenter, Director of Institutional Advancement

**Members Absent**

**Ex-Officio Members Absent**

Ms. Ann Biggers, designee for Ken  
 James, Ph.D., Commissioner, Arkansas  
 Department of Education  
 Ms. Joy Pennington, designee for Ms.  
 Cathie Matthews, Director, Department  
 of Arkansas Heritage  
 Mr. Ed Wood, President, Parents'  
 Association  
 Mr. Amir Mortazavi, President, Student  
 Government

**Administrative Members Absent**

None

Mr. William Currier, Dean of Residential Affairs  
Ms. JaNan Abernathy, Director of Finance and Administration  
Mr. Chris Robbins, Director of Outreach  
Mrs. Lorraine Munroe, Administrative Assistant

### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Ms. Garcia and seconded by Mr. Cox to approve the minutes of May 6, 2008. Motion passed unanimously.

### **IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Mr. Lowe and seconded by Mr. Cox to approve the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Gordy stated that since there were no questions regarding the Board reports, Dr. Hugo would make a presentation to the Board regarding the new Campus Master Plan.

Dr. Hugo reported Dr. Sugg and other representatives from the System office had toured the facility and have been talking for a number of years about the requirements of the institution and determined that a campus master plan was needed – a vision for the future. Dr. Hugo stated that after going through the process of interviewing several firms, the architectural firm of Polk Stanley Rowland Curzon Porter Architects Ltd. of Little Rock was chosen. Dr. Hugo presented Polk Stanley's drawings to the Board. Dr. Hugo stated that she talked with the city about the use of property that is located between Whittington Avenue, Pine Street and Cedar Street (16 acres).

After Dr. Hugo's presentation, she stated that she had a meeting with the Governor and local legislators. At the meeting, the Governor reminded the legislators that he was a Senator when the school was founded and stated that Bud Canada stood up and said that if the school was put in Hot Springs, the state would not have to worry about anything – the city would take care of the school. Dr. Hugo stated that the maintenance on the buildings is becoming more and more difficult to maintain because the infrastructure of the school is so old that pipes are beginning to fail and cost replacement is implausible. Dr. Hugo reported that the Residential Life Building is at the point that some parents do not want their children to be housed in such a facility.

One idea that the Governor proposed was the City of Hot Springs initiate a sales tax to generate some money. Dr. Hugo stated that the City of Hot Springs did that initially and stated that ASMSA is a state-wide school and raising money for it should be a state-wide initiative. Dr. Hugo reported that she was at the City's recent Board meeting and was told at the meeting that the City's budget for the school might be only \$10,000 for the next year. Dr. Hugo stated that \$110,000 is needed to finish the final phase of the cooling towers. The City still has not re-roofed the Chapel or fixed the ceiling where the asbestos was removed. When asked at the City Board meeting if the City was only going to give \$10,000 for the next year, one of the City Directors quipped, "We might not give you anything". At that point, Dr. Hugo reminded the Directors that the City of Hot Springs is ASMSA's landlord.

Dr. Hugo told the ASMSA Board that she needs their help in spreading the word throughout the state to get some type of funding for the Campus Master Plan. Dr. Hugo stated that the school needs to look at all options which might include moving the school to another location. Dr. Hugo reiterated that the school can only be patched for so long. The buildings are at a point where patching will not continue to be an option.

Dr. Hugo stated that if funding were obtained, the timeline would be about two years to start the process of building. This would include all the approval process that would need to be made and engineering studies that would need to be performed. The cost for Phase One is \$41,000,000. The figures for the Campus Master Plan are good until 2015. Some of the issues that Dr. Hugo raised were that ASMSA cannot raise millage and it also does not have bonding authority and ASMSA is not eligible for the adequate facilities money from the State Department of Education. Dr. Hugo stated that legislation was passed to house 300 students. However, due to the condition of the RLB building, ASMSA has never been able to accommodate that number. Dr. Hugo stated that when a current room has a problem, it has to be closed. ASMSA is able to currently house 240-248 students. Dr. Hugo stated that with new construction, there would be room for 320 students.

Mr. Gordy stated that he had concerns about the local support for the school. Mr. Gordy stated that he talked with Senator Smith who told Mr. Gordy that the City is not being supportive of the school and that he needed to do what he could to ensure that ASMSA remains in Hot Springs. Dr. Hugo stated that an Economic Impact Study was completed in 2006 and reported that \$9,000,000 is brought into Hot Springs by ASMSA each year.

Dr. Hugo reported that there is a misconception about where the money comes from for the school. She stated that some people think that ASMSA is funded by the University of Arkansas Fayetteville or the University of Arkansas System which is totally incorrect. ASMSA is a free standing institution and receives no funding from other University of Arkansas institutions.

Dr. Hugo reported that the word must get out about ASMSA – if people don't know about the school, then people will not care about the school. Ms. Branch wanted to know if the \$41 million (for Phase I) included the Performing Arts building and Dr. Hugo stated that it did not. The amount for the total Campus Master Plan would cost \$89 million. The Performing Arts building would cost an additional \$11 million. Ms. Branch stated that she had a concern about ever raising the money for the arts program. Mr. Carpenter stated that there are folks in Hot Springs that are very interested in having a performing arts center. Ms. Branch said that she wants to see funding for instruction for the arts. Dr. Hugo reported that ASMSA is doing what it can for the arts. She reported that ASMSA now has graphic design this year. ASMSA also teaches art, documentary film, band, choir, theater, painting, drawing, folk music and acoustics, and photography. The students are performing in, "Once Upon A Mattress", at the Malco Theater in Hot Springs December 11-13. Dr. Hugo stated that ASMSA does not currently identify students with an arts focus as there is no dedicated funding. Dr. Hugo asked the Board for their help in talking to the legislators about the needs of the campus. ASMSA is one of the top schools in the country without a doubt and the school needs the Board's help in trying to raise funds in the private and public sector to open doors for the new campus master plan.

Mr. Gordy applauded Dr. Hugo and the staff for the commitment and vision for wanting to build a new campus for the school. He stated that the budget situation in the State is not a good one at the present time. Mr. Gordy commented that Dr. Hugo should continue to do what she is doing in making the needs known for the school.

Mr. Gordy stated that he will publicly commit to get a meeting set up with the Walton Family Foundation. Dr. Hugo asked Mr. Carpenter to send Mr. Gordy and the Board information on contributing to the Foundation.

Dr. Hugo stated that there will be a legislative reception on March 4, 2009, and information will be sent to the Board regarding that day. Dr. Hugo stated that more parents need to be involved with communicating to the legislators about the school.

Mr. Gordy said that he appreciated Dr. Hugo's report and the work she has done in developing the vision for ASMSA. Mr. Gordy stated that the Board needs to do what they can to support the Campus Master Plan.

Mr. Gordy stated to the Board to fill out the *Statement of Financial Interest* that was distributed to the Board. He stated that it must be completed and submitted by January 31, 2009.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to report.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Hugo reviewed the Campus Master Plan

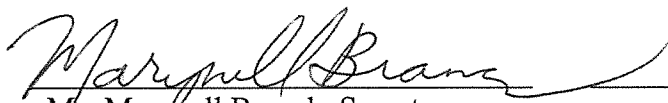
**VII. AUDIENCE WITH INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS**

No request or comment from an individual or group.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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

 5/5/09  
Ms. Marynell Branch, Secretary (Date)