

MINUTES
 ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES,
 AND THE ARTS
 BOARD OF VISITORS REGULAR MEETING
 February 5, 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.

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
 Ms. Marynell Branch, Secretary
 Mr. Mickey Cox
 Mr. Luther Lowe
 Mr. Charles Nelson

Members Absent

Mrs. Lynne Dardenne, Vice-Chair

Ex-Officio Members Present

Ms. Cynthia Moten, Coordinator of Academic Affairs, substituting for Karen Wheeler, Ph.D., designee for Dr. Jim Purcell, Director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education
 Mr. Wayne Williamson, President, Parents' Association
 Mr. Alex Cooper, President, Student Government Association

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 Mathews, Director Department of Arkansas Heritage
 Gail McClure, 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 Development
 Mr. William Currier, Dean of Residential Affairs
 Mr. Jeff Nixon, Director of Admissions/Public Relations
 Mrs. Kay Provus, Fiscal Administrator
 Mrs. Lorraine Munroe, Administrative Assistant

Administrative Members Absent

Mr. Chris Robbins, Director of Outreach

Prior to the Board meeting, the Board of Visitors observed a hip-hop video about calculus that was created by Mr. Walt Levissee, ASMSA Mathematics Department Chair. The video is posted on YouTube and can also be found on the ASMSA website. Mr. Levissee also has a website called, Teacherwalt.com, that is an interactive mathematics website featuring Levissee's blog and a math forum where any student - not just ASMSA students - can submit questions.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Cox to approve the minutes of December 3, 2007. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Director's Comments – Dr. Hugo

Dr. Hugo reported that the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees has approved a request for a campus master plan. Architect, Polk Stanley, has been selected to do the work. Dr. Hugo stated that the request was being submitted for legislative review on February 6th and she will be going to Little Rock for the presentation to the legislature.

Dr. Hugo stated that in her conversations with Polk Stanley she has indicated to them that in their final report she wants to know the viability of the current facility for the future campus and what is needed for future expansion.

Dr. Hugo reported that she will be meeting with the interior designer for the science labs renovations and is receiving bids for the electrical work in the former convent.

Dr. Hugo reported that after 7 ½ years, Kay Provus will be retiring effective February 15, 2008. Ms. JaNan Abernathy, who has worked with ASMSA during the transition to the University System, has been hired to replace Ms. Provus.

Dr. Hugo also reported that Diana Hampo has resigned and will be working at a local radio station.

Mr. Nelson asked Dr. Hugo if she could talk about the STEM Coalition.

Dr. Hugo reported Mr. Nabholz, has been selected as the new president of the STEM Coalition. Mr. Gordy interjected stating that the STEM Coalition was backed by Dr. John Ahlen, President of the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority. A parallel group, Accelerate Arkansas, a supporting force for STEM education in Arkansas, is chaired by Jerry Adams (Acxiom). They are combining efforts to determine the next step to develop priorities on what is needed in the state to advance the support of many STEM education advancements. Mr. Gordy stated that this is a state-wide effort to develop a P-16 initiative for STEM. Dr. Hugo stated STEM is a group that has come together to improve STEM education in the public schools in Arkansas and how it will impact business in the future.

2. Financial Report – Mrs. Kay Provus

Mr. Gordy said that on behalf of the Board, faculty, staff and students, he thanked Mrs. Provus for her service to ASMSA and wished her the best of luck in her retirement.

Mrs. Provus stated that improvements and spending are on schedule.

Mr. Gordy asked if ASMSA received any NFLA funding for free and reduced lunches. Dr. Hugo reported that the institution does not receive any federal funding or grants for free and reduced lunches. Dr. Hugo stated that ASMSA receives Education Excellence Trust Fund money only.

Mr. Gordy commended Dr. Hugo on her efforts in developing support and confidence with the legislature.

3. Residential Life Report – Mr. William Currier

Mr. Currier stated that the residential life program is up to full strength on staff and is in the process of recruiting people for next year. Mr. Currier reported that a home theater has been installed in the Peach Room along with some new furnishings. He also stated that the semi-formal dance went well. Mr. Currier reported that Maintenance was making some flooring improvements and is in the process of improving the fitness center. Mr. Currier reported that the nurse is looking for ways to improve dispensing night-time medication to the students.

In answer to Mr. Lowe's question regarding how medication is dispensed, Dr. Hugo stated that the nurse handles all the prescription medication. She reported that the problem of providing medication to the students occurs during the evening and night hours and she does not like the idea of a residential mentor dispensing medication to students. Dr. Hugo reported that guidelines have been published recently from the State Nursing Board describing how school nurses and LPN's should be supervised by at least an RN or a doctor. Dr. Hugo is working with National Park Community College to review these guidelines. Dr. Hugo reported that an RN has to put together the plan for dispensing medications and she will be meeting with representatives from NPCC next week.

4. Dean of Academic Affairs – Mrs. Melanie Nichols

Mrs. Nichols reviewed her report to the Board. Mrs. Nichols highlighted her report stating that there were 225 students this year versus 215 last year. Thirty-four percent of the students have As and Bs and 6% have all As. Mrs. Nichols stated that students are on the radio every month at a local station and Folk and Acoustics students will be playing on the air next month. The band and choir performed at Garvan Woodland Gardens at the Anthony Chapel during the Christmas holidays.

Mrs. Nichols reported that Science Fair will be held February 27-29th and invited the Board to attend. She also stated that ASMSA has once again been invited to the Keystone Science School Youth Policy Summit located at Keystone, Colorado. Normally, invitations to return only occur once and this will make ASMSA's fourth time. The topic is "The Future of Sustainable Fuels in America".

Mrs. Nichols reported that professional development for teachers will be offered once again during the summer months and summer classes will be offered for ASMSA students.

Mr. Gordy stated that ASMSA has its first nationally board certified teacher, Mr. Walt Levissee, and that the program is incredibly rigorous and is a great program. He stated that there are approximately 850 nationally board certified teachers to date in Arkansas and encouraged everyone to support the program.

Mr. Cox, President of National Board Affiliate of Arkansas, stated that the rigorous program makes teachers better teachers and it is the best professional development a teacher can experience.

5. Outreach Report – Mr. Chris Robbins

Mr. Robbins was attending a conference and was not present at the meeting.

6. Admissions/Public Relations – Mr. Jeff Nixon

Mr. Nixon stated that that he is receiving applications and everything is going well.

7. Institutional Advancement – Mr. Mike Carpenter

Mr. Carpenter advised the Board that the ASMSA Foundation Golf Tournament will be held at the Diamante Golf Course in Hot Springs Village on Monday, April 14th. He reported that there will be two flights and the cost is \$400 per team and \$100 per individual that will include golf and dinner.

Mr. Carpenter stated that April 26th will be Junior Orientation Day, and he is working on setting up community fair booths so that students and parents can be in contact with local banks, doctors' offices, hospitals, churches, dentists, etc. during the course of their stay at ASMSA.

Mr. Carpenter reported that interviews will be held the following week for a replacement for Diana Hampo.

Mr. Carpenter stated that he received a gift from the parents of Kane Allen, an ASMSA student who was killed in a car accident last year. Mr. & Mrs. Allen will fund an endowment in the amount of \$10,000, hoping to increase it to \$15,000, for a lecture series in Kane's memory on environment and recycling issues.

Mr. Carpenter stated that there are several groups in Hot Springs who have been pursuing performance arts venues for ASMSA – Hot Springs Music Festival, Hot Springs Jazz

Festival. He reported that a few local benefactors were asking the same question about a creation of a performance venue so he scheduled a meeting with these groups and developed a partnership with them to hopefully develop a performing arts venue by the school that would include 1,000 seats for plays, productions and assemblies. Mr. Carpenter stated that he received a call from one of the partners from the Wilcox Group in Little Rock offering their services pro bono to get ASMSA to the Letter of Inquiry stage with the foundation that they work with. The Wilcox Group also has worked with Polk Stanley and will incorporate this into the campus master plan. Mr. Carpenter reported that he has also worked with a local grant writer, Ruth Smith, who wrote the original proposal to bring ASMSA to Hot Springs. Mr. Carpenter reported that there are two benefactors that are members of a larger group called "The Circle of Giving" and they have already started setting aside money of approximately \$60,000 in the last couple of months. Mr. Carpenter also stated that he will be working with the Music Festival and the Hot Springs Convention and Visitor's Bureau, and the City of Hot Springs has been cooperative in helping ASMSA secure the land located behind the institution.

Ms. Branch inquired if the school would own the land because if the school did own the land, there would be more grant opportunities for ASMSA. Mr. Carpenter stated that he did not know how the City would like to structure that.

8. Parents' Association Report - Mr. Wayne Williamson

Mr. Williamson reported that the Parents' Association was getting ready in March to add netting on Charter field. He also stated that plans were being made for Prom.

9. Student Government Report – Alex Cooper

Mr. Cooper reported that the students are really enjoying the movie room and it is currently being used by teachers for classes as well. Mr. Cooper stated that the students have talked about getting a television in the Student Union. Mr. Cooper reported that a fund raiser called "Butler Day" took place where student services were sold and it was enjoyed by all. Mr. Cooper stated that the students are enjoying the experience of learning much about each other and have benefited from being with other people from different backgrounds and religions.

Mr. Lowe stated that after the last Board meeting, he sat down with Mr. Cooper to discuss issues that the students are concerned about and he stated that he went to the Library and went on line and noticed that the school filtering system seemed a too restrictive and it does not let students participate in essential networking sites.

Dr. Hugo interjected stating that the Library is to be used by the students for studying and not for emailing and web-surfing because it reduces the bandwidth. Dr. Hugo stated that Facebook and MySpace are blocked and these sites are blocked by all public schools in Arkansas. Mr. Cox also concurred with this statement.

Mr. Lowe stated when he was a senior at ASMS, that during study hours, he was on his email all the time with his mentors at several universities and that going to the sites like MySpace and Facebook was a good place to go and reach out and meet people and make decisions about what university environment one might be interested in and to receive information.

Mr. Lowe stated he is concerned about protecting students and finding a healthy balance with networking sites. He stated that there is much to be gained by using these sites and is something that should be re-addressed by the school.

Mr. Gordy asked the staff to come back with a report at the next Board meeting that addresses the issues that were raised by Mr. Lowe and state why the policies have been developed.

V. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to report.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Hugo reported that a new database product developed by Blackbaud, called Education Edge, will be implemented and personnel will be trained at the end of March and the beginning of April. This program will be used as the new school system and will be replacing the current OSCAR system.

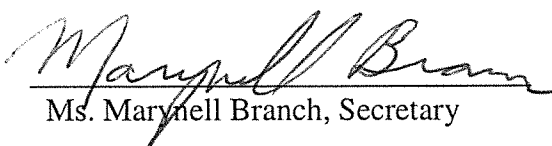
VII. AUDIENCE WITH INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS

No request or comment from an individual or group.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Approved as written _____ Approved as amended _____

 
Ms. Marynell Branch, Secretary (Date)