

**MINUTES**  
**ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES, AND THE ARTS**  
**BOARD OF VISITORS REGULAR MEETING**  
**May 6, 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**

In the absence of Mr. Luke Gordy, Chairman, Mrs. Lynne Dardenne, Vice Chair, conducted the meeting. The Board of Visitors regular meeting convened into open session at 5:00 p.m. and Mrs. Dardenne welcomed all Board members and newly assigned Board member, Karen Garcia.

Mrs. Garcia introduced herself and stated that she is a CPA with Weyerhaeuser Company and has a history with the school and looks forward to serving on the Board.

**II. ESTABLISH QUORUM**

**Members Present**

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

**Members Absent**

Mr. Luke Gordy, Chair  
 Mr. Mickey Cox

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

Karen Wheeler, Ph.D., designee for  
 Jim Purcell, Ph.D., Director,  
 Arkansas Department of Higher Education  
 Gail McClure, Ph.D., designee for John  
 Ahlen, Ph.D., President, Arkansas Science  
 And Technology Authority  
 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 Matthews, Director, Department  
 of Arkansas Heritage  
 Mr. Wayne Williamson, President, Parents'  
 Association

**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  
 Ms. JaNan Abernathy, Director of Finance and Administration  
 Mr. Chris Robbins, Director of Outreach

**Administrative Members Absent**

None

Mrs. Lorraine Munroe, Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Dardenne recognized the new President of the Parents' Association, Mr. Edward Wood who was in the audience. Mr. & Mrs. Wood have a daughter, Tobe, who is currently a junior at ASMSA.

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Lowe to approve the minutes of February 5, 2008. Motion passed unanimously.

### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

#### 1. Director's Comments – Dr. Hugo

Dr. Hugo reported that the second floor in the Administration Building is in the process of being renovated.

Dr. Hugo introduced the new Director of Finance and Administration, Ms. JaNan Abernathy, who was employed by UALR and was instrumental in the transition of ASMSA to the University System.

Dr. Hugo reported that all required reports have been sent to ADHE for the next biennium. Dr. Hugo also introduced new employees, Ashley Muldrew, Admissions Coordinator and Beunka Sinclair, Annual Giving and Events Coordinator.

Dr. Hugo stated that Fred Zipkes has been hired as a graphics designer who is currently a professor at Ouachita Baptist University. He will be starting at ASMSA on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Zipkes will be splitting his position teaching graphic design to the students and marketing design for the school (i.e. website, *Tangents Magazine*, recruiting materials, etc.).

Dr. Hugo advised the Board that this year's graduation speaker is Governor Beebe. Dr. Hugo also stated that Dr. Sugg will say a few words. Alex Cooper, President of the Student Government Association, will also speak, as well as senior, Lacy Selig.

Dr. Hugo advised the Board that they needed to be at the Summit Arena at the Hot Springs Convention Center by 1:30 p.m. on May 24<sup>th</sup> for graduation and reminded them to bring their hoods.

Dr. Hugo stated that one of the classes that is taught is a math modeling class called "ORACLE". The class entered an ORACLE competition and the ASMSA team won first place in the nation and fifth in the world.

Dr. Hugo reported that the City is in the process of getting bids to replace the Chapel roof.

Dr. Hugo stated that she received a call from Nucor Corporation, a steel producing firm that has two facilities in the Blytheville area. They are interested in partnering with ASMSA to provide students a career path and summer opportunities. Dr. Hugo stated that she believes it may produce some good research opportunities for ASMSA students.

Dr. Hugo introduced academic and college counselor, Diana Arms, who presented to the Board a proposal, *Tools for Success*, of ideas for retention, transition and study skills.

Mr. Lowe stated that using the internet and list serves would also be a good tool so that students can interact on the sites with other students to find out various information about one another.

There was discussion by the Board and Administrators of how to transition present students into the ASMSA Alumni Association after graduation.

Dr. Hugo stated that since the charter class there have been 1,366 total graduates and will be 112 graduates in this year's class.

Mr. Carpenter stated that a survey was sent to all alumni that asked for updated information. Mr. Carpenter stated that he is working with the Alumni Association to re-engage the alumni. He reported that the alumni were very important for various events, i.e. fundraising, receptions, recruiting, etc.

2. Financial Report – Ms. JaNan Abernathy

Ms. Abernathy distributed the 2008-2009 budget to the Board that included education and general fund revenues and expenditures. The Board discussed the report with administration.

Dr. Hugo stated that she has already been advised that there will not be any capital money next year.

Mr. Nelson asked if Dr. Hugo will recommend a 2.5% pay increase next year for personnel. Mr. Nelson stated that he would like to see a comparative raise of at least half of what the teachers were getting for the support staff.

3. Residential Life Report – Mr. William Currier

Mr. Currier reviewed his report with the Board.

Mr. Nelson also stated that he is concerned about the mold issue in the rooms, air conditioning and the health problems some have experienced.

Dr. Hugo responded that the City of Hot Springs has made some changes, i.e. a new chiller, new wrapping of pipes, insulation, etc. to the Residential Life Building and the mold situation continues to be corrected. Dr. Hugo stated that she is waiting to see what the architects will say who are working on the campus master plan in regard to their evaluation of the building. Dr. Hugo stated that Powers of Arkansas and the ASMSA Maintenance Department monitor the humidity in the building and there has

been a drastic reduction in mold. Dr. Hugo stated that the halls are being repainted, the fitness center is being updated and some of the showers and flooring are being replaced. However, future decisions will be made based on the report from the architects. Dr. Hugo stated the school deserves to have good facilities and that the work is slow and no money is received from the Department of Education for improvements. Approximately \$20 million is needed for renovations based upon the facilities assessment conducted by the State in 2004.

4. Dean of Academic Affairs – Mrs. Melanie Nichols

Mrs. Nichols reviewed her report with the Board. She advised the Board of the attached Science Awards list and to note the highlighted areas of awards that were won by ASMSA students. Mrs. Nichols also asked the Board to review the attached list of the 42 concurrent credit courses that are offered to ASMSA students.

In response to concurrent courses, Mrs. Nichols stated there are some concurrent courses with National Park Community College and UALR. Mrs. Nichols stated that UALR works well with ASMSA and gives the school the flexibility that is needed.

5. Outreach Report – Mr. Chris Robbins

Mr. Robbins reported that there are 2,700 students and 80 districts currently taking part in the distance education program with \$1.25 million in revenue and \$1 million in grants that are currently outstanding. Mr. Robbins stated that Mrs. Hogue won ASMSA's second USDLA award for instructional excellence.

Mr. Robbins reported that the Office of Distance Education charges \$600 per student per course.

6. Institutional Advancement – Mr. Mike Carpenter

Mr. Carpenter stated that Education Edge has been installed on employees' computers and everyone has been trained and the program will be a huge asset to the institution.

An endowment in the amount of \$15,000 was given by Dr. and Mrs. Bob Allen for the Kane Allen Lecture Series. Kane was an ASMSA student and the son of Dr. and Mrs. Allen who was killed in an automobile accident during the school year last year. Dr. Allen was the first one to lecture in the Kane Allen Lecture Series. He is an Environmental Chemistry professor at Arkansas Tech University.

Mr. Carpenter stated that golf revenues from the 2<sup>nd</sup> *Annual Spring Into Golf Classic* were up about 50% and participation increased 25% from last year's tournament. The tournament was held at Diamante, which is located in Hot Springs Village, and the course has been secured for next year's event.

Fundraising has been up \$32,000 to date. Mr. Carpenter stated that ASMSA faculty and staff have contributed \$7,000 by payroll deduction this year to the Foundation Fund. Mr.

Carpenter stated that all of ASMSA's vendors contributed in some way to the golf tournament.

The Board requested information on student demographics so that they can see the gaps in the areas of where the students are coming from.

7. Parents' Association Report - Mr. Wayne Williamson

Mr. Williamson was not present and no report was given.

8. Student Government Report – Alex Cooper

Mr. Cooper reported that seniors are looking forward to and are ready for graduation.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to report.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

Meeting dates have been set for September, December of 2008 and February and May of 2009. Specific dates will be decided in the future.

**VII. AUDIENCE WITH INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS**

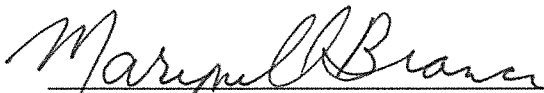
No request or comment from an individual or group.

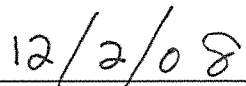
**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

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

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

  
Ms. Marynell Branch, Secretary

  
(Date)