

**MINUTES**  
**ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES, AND THE ARTS**  
**BOARD OF VISITORS REGULAR MEETING**  
**March 16, 2010**  
**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**

Mrs. Lynne Dardenne, 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**

Mrs. Lynne Dardenne, Chair  
 Mr. Luther Lowe, Vice-Chair  
 Mr. Mickey Cox  
 Ms. Karen Garcia  
 Ms. MaryJane Rebick

**Members Absent**

Ms. Marynell Branch, Secretary

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

Jim Purcell, Ph.D., Director and  
 Designee, Arkansas Dept. of Higher Education  
 Blake A. Perry, Ph.D., designee for John  
 Ahlen, Ph.D., President, Arkansas Science  
 and Technology Authority  
 Ms. Annie Xu, President, Student  
 Government Association  
 Ms. Amanda Peebles, designee for Tom  
 Kimbrell, Ph.D., Commissioner, Arkansas  
 Department of Education  
 Ms. Cheryl Rawls, President, ASMSA Parents'  
 Association

**Ex-Officio Members Absent**

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

**Administrative Members Present**

Janet Hugo, Ph.D., Director  
 Mrs. Melanie Nichols, Dean of Academic Affairs  
 Mr. William Currier, Dean of Residential Affairs  
 Mr. Chris Robbins, Director of Outreach  
 Ms. Susan Lancaster, Director of Institutional Advancement  
 Mrs. Lorraine Munroe, Administrative Assistant

**Administrative Members Absent**

Ms. JaNan Abernathy, Director of Finance &  
 Administration

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Mrs. Garcia to approve the minutes of December 1, 2009 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

#### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Dr. Hugo reviewed her report with the Board.

Dr. Hugo stated that all the approvals for construction of the new residential facilities were approved; however, she received notification on this day that any project using ARRA funds must be completed by September 30, 2011. Dr. Hugo reported that if the construction is not completed by this time, the stimulus money must be repaid.

Dr. Hugo reported that the budget has been reduced substantially due to the reduction in EETF money. She stated that departmental budgets were initially cut by 20% and another reduction was necessary cutting budgets by another 20% that results in a total reduction of 40%. Dr. Hugo reported that there would be no salary increases or purchasing of new equipment.

Dr. Hugo reported that the ASMSA Gala that was held on March 14 was a huge success. Dr. Hugo stated that the incoming Speaker of the House and incoming Senate President Pro Tempore stated that they would pledge money for the school when they are in their new positions. Dr. Hugo believes that the school will have on-going support from the legislature.

Dr. Hugo reported that the school had a really nice student, faculty and community art exhibit that ran for approximately 3 weeks.

Dr. Hugo stated that the Director of Academic Affairs, Mrs. Melanie Nichols, is retiring after the end of the school year and the Search Committee is in the process of interviewing candidates for this position.

Dr. Hugo reported that graduation is scheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

##### 2. Financial Report – JaNan Abernathy

Ms. Abernathy was absent from the meeting. There were no questions regarding the financial report.

##### 3. Residential Affairs Report – William Currier

Mr. Currier reviewed his report with the Board.

Mr. Currier reported that the prom will be held at the Arlington Hotel. This has been a popular choice since the students do not have to drive and can take carriage rides from the school to the hotel. The date of the prom is April 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Currier stated that Board members are more than welcome to attend the prom if they wish.

There was a lengthy discussion by Board and administration regarding disciplinary policies of the school. A review of Level 5 violation policy will be conducted.

#### 4. Academic Affairs Board Report – Melanie Nichols

Mrs. Nichols reviewed her report with the Board. Ms. Nichols pointed out in her report that ASMSA was again the host for the T<sup>3</sup> (Teachers Teaching with Technology) Conference that was held January 28-30. Over 200 teachers attended the conference.

Mrs. Nichols stated that two administrators and 12 faculty members went to Blytheville to visit the NUCOR (steel manufacturer) facility.

Mrs. Nichols stated that ASMSA has once again been selected to participate in the Keystone Science Policy Summit in Keystone, Colorado.

Mrs. Nichols reported that four students are taking part in an archeological dig in Bull Bayou area of Arkansas.

Mrs. Nichols distributed a professional development summer opportunities brochure for teachers. Teaching Algebra I and Geometry have been requested by teachers to be included in the program, along with Genetics and Microbiology, which is a grant-funded workshop. Also included in the workshop is The Science of Music, Teaching Applications in Mathematics Classes and Google Workshop.

Mrs. Nichols reported that the school has received 153 qualified complete applications for next year. She stated that for the first time in a long time, ASMSA will have a dramatic increase in juniors that are being invited. Mrs. Nichols credits these results to the outstanding work of the Admissions Team.

#### 5. Office of Outreach – Chris Robbins

Chris Robbins stated that he would be happy to review his report with the Board.

Dr. Hugo stated that the change in scholarships from the Challenge Scholarship to the Lottery Scholarship resulted in no requirement of a foreign language for graduation. Dr. Hugo stated that about half of distance education teaching is in foreign language. Dr. Hugo reported that there is a concern about the offering of foreign language for next year. She stated that Mr. Robbins and his department have been traveling outside of the state for business in order to make up for any shortfall that ASMSA might encounter due to this change. Dr. Hugo stated that she hoped that the Department of Higher Education will help correct this problem and include foreign language as a graduation requirement.

Dr. Purcell stated that some of the committees have sent letters to the Department of Ed because if they can include foreign language in the SMARTCORE, the Department would not have to go through legislation and that Board can now make that determination. Dr. Purcell stated that he has the same concerns as Dr. Hugo.

Mr. Robbins stated that he knows of no Arkansas public college that requires students to have a foreign language; however, he added that private schools and out-of-state schools do require it. Mr. Robbins stated that the University of Arkansas – Fayetteville recommends it.

#### 6. Institutional Advancement – Susan Lancaster

Ms. Lancaster stated that ASMSA now has 60 Ambassadors. The Ambassadors are Hot Springs area residents who have banded together to promote the school. Ms. Lancaster reported that these Ambassadors are the core of the Gala fundraising event that took place

at the Arlington Hotel on March 14. Approximately 350 people attended the event and it was extremely successful. Ms. Lancaster stated that she and Dr. Hugo have received very positive complimentary comments from the local community and Little Rock attendees about the Gala. She said that she believed that \$35,000 was raised from the event.

Ms. Lancaster informed the board that the next fundraising event was the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Tandberg Classic that will be held Friday, April 16, at the Hot Springs Country Club. The Governor has been invited to play.

Ms. Lancaster reported that the school is looking for a new Public Relations Specialist. The former PR person has resigned due to having a baby and the school is looking for a replacement.

7. Student Government Association – Ms. Annie Xu

Ms. Xu stated that because of the holidays and student breaks that there was really no new information to report. She did state that officers of the Student Government Association will be elected by the end of the school year.

8. Parents' Association – Mrs. Cheryl Rawls

Mrs. Rawls stated the last year the Parents' Association transitioned to a regional configuration and it is off to a slow but steady start. The Association is relying on meetings that are held centrally during Monday afternoons after extended weekends. Mrs. Rawls is trying to find the right "fit" for parent meetings for the next year and is trying to energize junior parents to step up to the plate. Mrs. Rawls reported that Junior Orientation is coming up and the PA has designated parents to chaperone for the prom. The Parents' Association has donated six toasters for the residence halls. The next Parents' Association meeting has been scheduled for March 28 at 4:00 p.m.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to report.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to report.

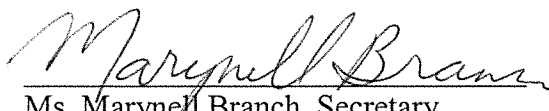
**VII. AUDIENCE WITH INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS**

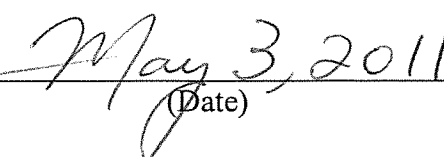
No request or comment from an individual or group.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

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

  
Ms. Marynell Branch, Secretary

  
(Date)