

MINUTES
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES, AND THE ARTS
BOARD OF VISITORS REGULAR MEETING
May 04, 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 5:07 p.m. and welcomed all of the Board members.

II. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Mr. Mickey Cox

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. 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
 Ms. Annie Xu, President, Student
 Government Association

Administrative Members Present

Janet Hugo, Ph.D., Director
 Mrs. Melanie Nichols, Dean of Academic Affairs
 Mr. William Currier, Dean of Residential Affairs
 Ms. JaNan Abernathy, Director of Finance &
 Administration
 Ms. Susan Lancaster, Director of Institutional Advancement
 Mrs. Lorraine Munroe, Administrative Assistant

Administrative Members Absent

Mr. Chris Robbins, Director of Outreach

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Branch and seconded by Ms. Rebick to approve the minutes of March 16, 2010 meeting with the following amendments: Dr. Purcell referred to Page 3, Section 5. He asked to have the word "Higher" removed before the word Education so that it reads "... the committees have sent a letter to the "Department of Ed..." Correction was made.

Mr. Lowe stated that he would like to amend Section 4, #3, suggesting that the text be changed. The original text read: "There was discussion between the Board and administrators regarding the disciplinary policies of the school." Mr. Lowe stated that he would like it amended to read:

"There was a lengthy discussion by Board and administrators regarding disciplinary policies of the school. A review of Level 5 violations policy will be conducted." Correction was made.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Director's Comments – Dr. Hugo

Dr. Hugo reviewed her report with the Board. Dr. Hugo stated that environmental studies, appraisals, surveys must be done before the start of construction. Dr. Hugo reported that a feasibility study will be conducted for a capital campaign. The architect and general contractors are hoping that site work will begin in July. Dr. Hugo reported that at this point the money available will finish out the dorms and furnish them, shell the Residential Life complex, build the elevator tower and the central energy plant. It will not include finishing out the kitchen and the dining hall nor the Library. The students will go up to their dorms but will have to come down to the present building for food service.

Dr. Hugo stated that a new Dean of Academic Affairs has been hired and will start July 1st. Ms. Nichols' last day will be June 14. The school is in the process of searching for a new Librarian and Receptionist as well. Mr. Epperson, the Computer Science and Engineering teacher, will be leaving and will not be replaced due to the reduction of student numbers for classes. A new Public Relations Specialist has also been hired. Mr. Currier is also interviewing for Residential Mentors.

Dr. Hugo reported that maintenance issues are still plaguing the campus.

Dr. Hugo reported that the Class of 2000 is having their reunion in July and between that and interaction on *Facebook*, former students should be informed about the start of new construction on the campus. No specific date has been scheduled for the ground breaking, but Dr. Hugo stated that she is hoping that it will be the 1st of July.

2. Financial Report – JaNan Abernathy

Ms. Abernathy reviewed her report with the Board.

Ms. Abernathy stated that she had included the third quarter reports. She advised the Board that the school budget has been cut by \$400,000 for the 2010-2011 school year. Ms. Abernathy stated that ASMSA was the only agency taking a cut.

Ms. Abernathy reported that a spring cleanup took place and much trash was discarded throughout the school buildings.

Ms. Branch inquired about the spending of Recovery money. Dr. Hugo stated that she was originally advised that the money needed to be spent by September 30, 2011 but then was told that the date the project needed to be completed was changed to December 31, 2011. Dr. Hugo stated that if the project is not completed by December 31, 2011, the recovery money must be repaid.

Dr. Hugo stated that the feasibility study will determine how much money can be raised for construction by interviewing people throughout the state of Arkansas.

Dr. Hugo stated that \$20 million is needed to finish out the residential complex. Dr. Hugo reported that she has \$15 million which will complete the dorms and will shell out the remainder of the residential complex. Another \$5 million is needed to complete the construction. Seventy five percent of the money has already been raised.

3. Residential Affairs Report – William Currier

Mr. Currier reviewed his report with the Board.

Mr. Currier stated that the prom was a great success. The weather cooperated and everyone had a good time.

The Community Leaders have also been selected for next year.

Mr. Currier stated that candidates for Residential Mentor positions are being interviewed.

Mr. Currier stated that the Nurse is ordering supplies for the next school year. She has been very proactive in instructing students to take preventative measures for the N1H1 situation this past year.

4. Academic Affairs Board Report – Melanie Nichols

Ms. Nichols reviewed her report with the Board. She pointed out Item #9 in her report referring to the students' artwork that is being displayed at MOCA (Museum of Contemporary Art) in the Ozark Bathhouse in downtown Hot Springs.

Ms. Nichols stated that plans are underway for graduation that will be held on May 22.

Ms. Nichols stated that 141 juniors have been invited with 3 students declining, and 7 alternates.

Ms. Nichols reported that two students have been honored by the Arkansas School Band Orchestra Association - one received a superior rating; one an excellent rating.

Ms. Nichols also reported that a student (a junior) placed first in Arkansas in three levels in the National French Contest and placed eighth in the nation.

Ms. Nichols also stated that at the time of this meeting, ASMSA students have received \$9.448 million in scholarship offers which is expected to increase before graduation.

Dr. Purcell stated that the deadline for the Academic Challenge Scholarships has been changed to June 1. Dr. Purcell stated that a new rule of the scholarship states that students cannot receive more money than the cost of attending the college of their choice.

Dr. Hugo stated that the Counseling Department has all the information on each student stating where they have been accepted, what their scholarship numbers are, etc. Ms. Branch stated that student information would be a good recruiting tool for future students.

Dr. Hugo stated that there are two deadlines for incoming students – an early admit deadline for those students who come to the school for early interviews and if they qualify, are accepted; and the regular deadline.

Mr. Lowe asked if it was easier to be accepted in 2010 than in the year 2000. Dr. Hugo responded stating that it is not easier because based upon the numbers each year, the average GPA and ACT score has risen. Dr. Hugo stated that the standards at ASMSA have not and will not be lowered for admission and the school is doing a better job of interviewing students.

5. Office of Outreach – Chris Robbins

Mr. Robbins was absent from the meeting.

Dr. Hugo reported that Mr. Robbins was out of town receiving the USDLA Gold Award for Best Practices for having the top distance learning program in foreign language in the country. Dr. Hugo reported that \$2 million has been cut from the grant programs in distance education but ASMSA will not receive any cuts because the school's distance learning program is not fully funded. General revenue funds are used for the program.

6. Institutional Advancement – Susan Lancaster

Ms. Lancaster reviewed her report with the Board.

Ms. Lancaster stated that ASMSA had two really successful fundraising events – the ASMSA Gala that was held in March netted over \$35,000, and the 4th Annual Tandberg Golf Classic that was held in April at the Hot Springs Country Club netted about \$10,000 on the tournament. Ms. Lancaster also reported that groundwork is being laid for a capital campaign and that she is talking to different consultants that are proposing a feasibility study. Funds have been secured from Fifty for the Future (Hot Springs) for this study. Ms. Lancaster reported that the feasibility study will survey people statewide to determine the feasibility of raising money for the school.

Ms. Lancaster reported that ASMSA is continuing to build relationships with its Ambassadors.

A new Public Relations Specialist, Mia Anderson, has been hired.

Ms. Lancaster reported that *Tangents* will be mailed in early June.

Mr. Lowe stated that the connection for on-line giving on the ASMSA website is still not secure so people cannot make on-line donations to the school (showed laptop demonstration), and that the website actually prevented people from making a donation. Ms. Lancaster stated that she has received donations from on-line giving and advised the Board that the bank assured her that the website is in fact secure but she would check again with the bank to ensure that the website is working properly.

Mr. Lowe discussed the distribution of envelopes to the graduating parents for contributions to the school. He stated that graduation was a powerful opportunity to do a soft ask for donations to the Foundation.

Members of the Board concurred that graduation would be a good opportunity for the parents to make a donation following the ceremony. Mr. Lowe also stated that it would be a good opportunity to have a laptop following graduation to have graduate information entered in a database so that information can be sent to the graduates. Members of the Board discussed ideas of how information on students can be received to input into the alumni database (i.e. datamining).

Dr. Hugo stated that Mr. McCourt (the school's *Facebook* contact) is going to work on the alumni database during the summer. Dr. Hugo also stated that parents of alums have also been added to the database.

Ms. Dardenne stated that she liked the idea of having containers for people to make donations. Mr. Lowe made a motion that the Board of visitors supports the tasteful asking of parents for a donation during the upcoming graduation ceremonies. Motion was seconded by Ms. Branch. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Student Government Association – Ms. Annie Xu

Ms. Xu was not present at the meeting.

8. Parents' Association – Mrs. Cheryl Rawls

Ms. Rawls said "thank you" to the Board and stated that she enjoyed her tenure as president of the Parents' Association.

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

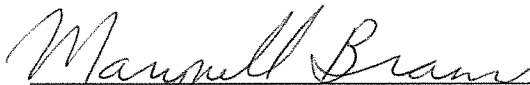
No request or comment from an individual or group.


VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Approved as written _____

Approved as amended _____


Ms. Marynell Branch, Secretary


(Date)