

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

May 6, 2013

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. Luther Lowe, Chair, convened the Board of Visitors regular meeting into open session at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed all Board members.

Mr. Lowe stated that Board member Julie Mullenix had resigned and another Board vacancy exists. He asked the Board to please submit any recommendations to the Governor's office. Mr. Lowe moved by acclamation that Mrs. Merry serve as Secretary of the Board.

II. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Members Present

Mr. Luther, Lowe, Chair
Mrs. Karen Garcia, Vice Chair
Mrs. Leigh Merry, Secretary
Mr. Hayward Battle
Mrs. Donna Casparian

Members Absent

Ex-Officio Members Present

Ms. Marta Gwyn Collier, designee for Tim Atkinson, Ph.D., President, Arkansas Science and Technology Authority
Mrs. Mary Kathryn Stein, designee for Tom Kimbrell, Ph.D., Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education
Miss Sorena Lo, President, Student Government Association
Mrs. Pamela Knapp-Carver, 2013-2014 President, Parents Association

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Mr. Shane Broadway, Interim Director Arkansas Department of Higher Education
Ms. Joy Pennington, designee for Cathie Matthews, Director, Department of Arkansas Heritage
Mrs. Martha Carlson, President, Parents Association

Administrative Members Present

Mr. Corey Alderdice, Director
Mr. Bob Gregory, Interim Dean of Academic Affairs
Mr. William Currier, Dean of Students
Mrs. JaNan Abernathy, Director of Finance
Mr. Greg Reed, Director, Institutional Advancement
Mr. Chris Robbins, Dean of Distance Education and Information Technology
Mrs. Lorraine Munroe, Administrative Assistant

Administrative Members Absent

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Merry and seconded by Mrs. Casparian to approve the minutes of February 4, 2013. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lowe at this time suggested that Mr. Alderdice introduce the new Interim Dean of Academic Affairs and then have Miss Lo introduce the new SGA president.

Mr. Alderdice welcomed Mr. Bob Gregory to the Administrative staff at ASMSA as the Interim Dean of Academic Affairs. Mr. Gregory has served as an instructor in the math department and brings a wealth of experience in selective and specialized institutions. Mr. Gregory spent considerable time at the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts as well as time at an independent school in Knoxville, Tennessee. Director Alderdice stated that Mr. Gregory is well aware of the expectations, challenges and demands of a program like ASMSA.

Miss Lo reported that the SGA held elections for the 2013-2014 school year and introduced the incoming SGA president, Bryan Hernandez.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Director's Comments – Corey Alderdice

Mr. Alderdice referred to his report regarding the Office of Distance Education. Director Alderdice stated that in 2014-2015, ADE will launch a new, consolidated entity for distance learning. He stated that, initially, ASMSA's Office of Distance Learning would no longer be able to participate in ADE's efforts for Distance Education. However, due to the interests of some legislators and stakeholders, Commissioner Kimbrell has expressed willingness to explore ways to continue the partnership. Director Alderdice stated that the proposal that he and Chris Robbins have submitted is to focus specifically on language instruction. He reported that the considerable component of Distance Learning presently funded by ADE is in global languages. For 2013-2014, ADE will fund fourteen positions in that area of ASMSA. He reported that in 2014-2015 he would like to take the four current additional positions and transition them to global "critical needs" languages – primarily Chinese (Mandarin), Arabic, Russian and Japanese. Director Alderdice stated that he will be meeting with Commissioner Kimbrell over the summer to explore that consideration.

Director Alderdice stated that there were some concerns during the legislative session that the Governor's Distinguished Scholarships were going to be drastically cut from approximately 300 awards to about 70. Of the 390 students eligible for the award, 30 were from ASMSA. Twenty ASMSA students were included in the first round of the awards. At last check, the number has moved down to 360 on the list so that pulled in 5 more students from ASMSA who were eligible for the scholarship. Mr. Alderdice stated that there were legislators behind the scene who were pivotal in ensuring that the funding remained at that level. Mr. Alderdice stated that he did not think the challenges were over. As he prepares for the next legislative session, he anticipates a continuing conversation on funding for various state scholarships.

Director Alderdice discussed the JENESYS program that selected ASMSA to send 22 students and 3 chaperones to Japan at the end of May to attend a ten day all-expenses-paid exchange program. Director Alderdice stated that he has been meeting weekly with the

students and going over preparatory sessions on language, culture and Japanese history. These planning meetings have been led by Ron Luckow, a history instructor at ASMSA, who has been on multiple trips to Japan. Nicole Clark, a Residential Mentor, will also be a chaperone on the trip. Director Alderdice also thanked Mary Neilson, Coordinator for the Sister Cities Program in Hot Springs, for bringing ASMSA to the attention of this program.

Director Alderdice reported that ASMSA is getting closer year-by-year to being eligible for the *Washington Post* rankings that list high schools with elite students. Director Alderdice stated that he preferred the list because most of the residential peers and many NCSSSMST institutions are included on the list of schools. Director Alderdice stated he hoped ASMSA will be on the 2014-2015 list.

Director Alderdice reported that *Newsweek* released their high school rankings and ASMSA appeared 13th in the nation and 9th in the South region. He stated that the data represents the efforts and the learning of the class of 2012 and will see elements of improvements in the data as it is submitted for next year. ASMSA is the second highest residential STEM school on the list, with the Gatton Academy in Kentucky being first.

Director Alderdice referred to budgeting priorities for the next year. He stated that there is some money from the ODE program that will be reallocated to reinvest in the residential program. Director Alderdice reminded the Board this next year will be ASMSA's 20th anniversary. During this special time, the biggest areas of reinvestment are student recruitment and marketing to better spread the institution's message. Director Alderdice also stated that the school is committing \$30,000 toward the concurrent credit program to ensure that the students who are on fee waivers would be able to attend ASMSA, eliminating the financial barrier that may otherwise cause them not to attend.

Director Alderdice discussed global learning opportunities and his awarding \$50,000 towards offering two to three programs in the next year. He stated that one of the faculty members will be appointed a Global Learning Coordinator (likely a Humanities instructor) to shepherd the program over the next several months.

Director Alderdice stated that mastery of the PSAT, ACT and SAT are essential elements of the ASMSA experience and are the pathway in which students are admitted to selective universities. They are the means by which students earn scholarship awards from the institutions as well as the Governor's Distinguished Scholarship Award. He stated that the better prepared the students are for the exams, the better it reflects on ASMSA.

Director Alderdice addressed concerns regarding hosting contestants on campus for the Miss Arkansas pageant. He noted that the information was shared with the Board during the December 2012 and February 2013 meetings that the pageant officials had requested availability for the participants to stay in the Student Center. He stated that only in late February/early March did he receive some concerns from the Board about the pageant contestants staying at the school, and asked the Board, in the future, to please let him know in a timely manner if they have any concerns about upcoming events to prevent any future discomforts. Mr. Alderdice stated that the pageant officials were very disappointed that the school had to bow out of the proposed partnership.

In response to Mr. Lowe's inquiry, Director Alderdice stated that Mr. Lee Watson will be this year's commencement speaker. Mr. Watson is one of three champions for Startup Arkansas and is the founder of several technology startup companies. Director Alderdice

stated that he heard Mr. Watson speak at the Arkansas Academy of Computing Conference. He added that one of the reasons he wanted to invite someone from the entrepreneurial angle is that it would encourage entrepreneurial thought and activity in the students. Director Alderdice stated that Mr. Watson, along with his two other colleagues, were speaking about the EAST Initiative at the conference. Director Alderdice stated that he would like to be a part of their remarks on the great things that are happening in STEM education as well.

2. Financial Report – JaNan Abernathy

Mrs. Abernathy stated that her department has been busy with the administrators reviewing their budgets. Mrs. Abernathy reported that quarterly reports and budget narrative were submitted to the Board of Visitors for review. Also included in the packet were exhibits that discussed some of the issues and initiatives that Director Alderdice reflected in his report regarding global learning and the concurrent credit changes. Purchasing deadlines are being set up for the remainder of the school year along with the influx of paperwork that is related to it.

Mrs. Abernathy stated that there will not be an increase in the general revenues but the institution will be getting an increase of approximately \$145,000 in the Educational Excellence Trust Fund. There will also be a 2% increase in salaries for employees. Mrs. Abernathy stated that some money will be put aside for Pine Street renovations, as well as a new microscope for Biology and interdepartmental FIRM projects, and the Computer Science department is very excited about the purchase of a 3-D printer.

Mr. Alderdice reported that the request for a microscope by Dr. Ruehle had been discussed early in the school year to ensure that the students had the resources for their research projects and learning opportunities that are on par with the universities whenever possible.

Director Alderdice stated that the 3-D printer will be an exciting purchase and reported that representatives from the school visited with QU-BD, a startup company in Little Rock. The company will be providing the school with one of the first models in their full production and will assist in the setup. Director Alderdice stated that it is a good partnership to have with a group that is doing great work.

3. Residential Affairs Report – William Currier

Dean Currier stated that he and Dean Gregory have been working together to make some changes in the coming year.

Dean Currier stated that prom went very well and this year was the largest group of students that attended prom in recent history.

He also reported that the picnic tables for the outside area have been purchased and installed.

Dean Currier reported that room assignments have been made for the next school year for the rising seniors.

Dean Currier stated that he has met with the Hot Springs Music Festival, who will be coming on campus this summer.

4. Academic Affairs Board Report – Bob Gregory

Dean Gregory stated that the previous Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. Janice Sullivan, had resigned.

He stated that there are currently 215 students - 116 juniors and 99 seniors and that graduation will be held May 25, 2013, at 2:00 pm.

Dean Gregory reported that new Junior Orientation had taken place. Both the students and parents were very excited with many questions from both.

Dean Gregory stated that the Library, under the guidance of Beth Gourley, has been exceptional in instituting Poetry Month and Poem in Your Pocket Day.

Dean Gregory reported that the campus welcomed visiting Japanese students from the “super science” school in Osaka, Japan. The students spent the night in the dorms and went to classes and visited local crystal mines. Dean Gregory stated that it was a wonderful experience interacting with Japanese teachers and students exchanging their thoughts and views. The Japanese visitors are currently at the end of their grant and are re-applying in hopes that their grant will be reinstated; however, if their grant will not be renewed, they plan to either have students, parents or their school to pick up the cost to come visit us again. Dean Gregory reported that the school may have some offers to help them out as well.

Dean Gregory reported that the school is offering a two week summer school program – Pre-Calculus Readiness Camp – the weeks of July 8 and July 15.

Dean Gregory stated that ASMSA won the State’s Science Fair. Thirty one students competed and two students will be going to the International Science Fair. He also reported that ASMSA’s Quiz Bowl Team came in second in the State in their division.

Discussion ensued with Dean Gregory and the Board members regarding keeping track of the reasons why students may be leaving. Dean Gregory stated that since he is new in his position and only being at the school for two years, he has seen a lack of recordkeeping and vowed to do a better job than in the past in keeping track of why students leave.

5. Office of Distance Education and Information Technology – Chris Robbins

Mr. Robbins called the Board’s attention to three major grant projects that ODE is currently working on that range between \$750,000 and \$3.3 million. He stated that these grants are being loosely branded as the Rural Arkansas STEM and Strategic Foreign Language initiative. Mr. Robbins stated that this is a necessary step for ASMSA as a program to better align curricular offerings of ODE with those of the residential campus. He stated that several of the grants are targeting services to students in grades 8, 9 and 10. The notion at play is that ODE would create an ASMSA preparatory track for students who are interested in matriculating at ASMSA to bolster the pool of qualified applicants. Mr. Robbins reported that ODE would also create pathways for those students who did not matriculate at ASMSA. Mr. Robbins stated that, at the same time the content initiative is going on, the department has loosely called the transition *ODE 3.0*. Mr. Robbins reported that this will be the third technology shift. Currently, compressed interactive video is the vast majority of direct instruction that is taking place in his department. They are now

targeting any device, anytime, anywhere education to penetrate to the desktop, iPad, Android tablets, iPhone, etc.

Mr. Robbins stated that he believes it will put ODE in a good position to meet the definition of a digital learning provider required by Act 1280 of the 89th General Assembly. Mr. Robbins reported that Act 1280 requires all high school students beginning in the year 2014-2015 to take a distance learning class. He said that at the last meeting of the Distance Learning Coordinating Council it was estimated that there are 30,000 students (a low number –graduating seniors) in the State of Arkansas needing a digital learning course. Mr. Robbins reported that the State has not defined the percentage of digital learning required for a course – what percentage will be video, what percentage will be asynchronous, etc. He said that his department is positioning itself to be able to meet whatever the requirements will be established.

Mrs. Casparian asked with so many students, who evaluates the student and how is it done. Mr. Robbins stated that Act 1280 requires student evaluations that can either be standardized or locally developed but the language is somewhat vague. He said that some of the classes are relatively easy to assess because there are end-of-course evaluations that the State already has in place for those courses. Mr. Robbins stated that the “who” of student evaluations has yet to be determined.

Director Alderdice asked Mr. Robbins to address the pathways that Act 1280 opens up for the residential faculty to get involved in distance education opportunities. Mr. Robbins stated that Act 1280 requires that a list be developed to approve digital learning content providers that will be disseminated to schools beginning 2014-2015, and then the schools can choose to take courses from those providers. The courses have to meet all of the state frameworks or meet or exceed all of the criteria that the State sets forth for those classes. It also specifically requires the faculty to be highly qualified but specifically exempts them from having to be certified educators or administrators. Mr. Robbins stated that the shift will open up a lot of potential cross-over with the residential faculty. Virtual Arkansas, which Director Alderdice referenced in his report, already plans on having a fully certified faculty. Mr. Robbins does not know what the repercussions are, but the legislation is specific enough stating that he does not think that ADE cannot do anything punitive to schools that use instructors that are not certified. Again, the rules and regulations have not yet been developed. He reported that it is a brand new piece of legislation that was passed very late in the session. The certification exemption is good for ASMSA because it does allow for the cross-over from the residential faculty.

Mr. Robbins stated that he is doing all he can to bolster enrollment to make sure the program remains in a good position for future growth. He said that he is aware of fourteen non-ASMSA originated grants that ASMSA has been included as a content partner. Mr. Robbins reported that he is doing everything possible to position ODE to thrive and to be an even bigger asset to the institution. Mr. Robbins stated that he does see continued demand for his department’s services so long as it aligns itself with the definition of digital learning provider that will help in and out of state.

In answer to Mr. Battle’s question as to who will be responsible for each individual school district’s funding for the programs, Mr. Robbins stated that the Virtual Arkansas initiative is going to be the second iteration of the Distance Learning Consortium. Virtual Arkansas will provide its courses to those schools that choose to join the Consortium and pay a \$2,500 annual fee. Virtual Arkansas, with a budget of \$12 million, will provide its courses

at no additional charge to schools until they are out of seats. The funding includes the educational service cooperatives, connectivity charges that they will have to continue to pay, software and maintenance. Virtual Arkansas has selected Blackboard and Blackboard Connect to provide the video component. Mr. Robbins stated that it is his understanding that they are subcontracting with a company in Virginia to provide the connectivity and will outsource the web hosting and the video component.

Mr. Lowe asked that the Parents Association report be given next, followed by the SGA report and then the Institutional Advancement report.

6. Parents Association – Mrs. Pamela Knapp-Carver

Mrs. Carver introduced herself as the new President of the Parents Association for the 2013-2014 school year. Mrs. Carver reviewed the activities that the Parents Association has been involved in that included prom and after-prom activities and student orientation. She stated that, with the parents being all over the state, Facebook is the best tool to communicate with parents. At present, there are over 300 members on the PA's Facebook page.

Mrs. Carver stated that the Parents Association established a \$500 scholarship in honor of Donna Hutchison. The award was presented at the Honors Convocation for the best essay on the prompt, "How I Plan to Stay Involved with ASMSA in the Future."

Mrs. Carver reported that she will be a president who prefers to delegate duties to committees, assigning parents to lead roles in the committees, for them to take charge and she will be there to help in any way she can.

7. Student Government Association – Sorena Lo

Miss Lo reported that the SGA had a Val-O-Gram fundraiser that raised \$131.72. Also, at a General Assembly, two bills were presented -- an Xbox 360 Tournament and Concession Stand Bill. Both bills were passed. The Concession Stand Bill is a bill where the SGA sold snacks during the Xbox Tournament. Profits from the concession sales were \$52.72.

Miss Lo reported that SGA elections were held for the 2013-2014 school year: Bryan Hernandez was elected President; Kevin Fialkowski, Vice President; Tabettha Ridgway, Secretary and Jesse Dai, Treasurer.

Miss Lo stated that votes were cast for the class song, motto and flower that took place on April 30th, and the senior trip will either be at Lake Catherine State Park or Crystal Springs.

Mr. Lowe thanked Miss Lo for being on the Board and asked where she would be attending college. Miss Lo stated that she will be attending Agnes Scott College, an women's college located outside of Decatur, Georgia. She will be majoring in biology.

8. Institutional Advancement – Greg Reed

Mr. Reed reviewed his report with the Board. Regarding the Alumni Report, Mr. Reed stated that he has met with several Arkansas alumni, and plans for a reconstructed Alumni Association are coming together very well. The group stated that they would like to meet and visit with the new students.

As part of the Development report, Mr. Reed summarized the breakdown of the Kinnect 2013 gross funding revenues.

Mr. Reed reported that the Open Book Celebration event occurred on April 25, 2013. Mr. Reed stated that it was a great success in raising awareness across the state. The event took place in two stages. Over 1,250 ninth graders from seven Garland County school districts attended a gathering at Hot Springs High School to listen to guest speaker Kareem Abdul-Jabbar talk about STEM education. The second stage included over 200 supporters who attended the evening's *Open Book Celebration* at the Clinton Presidential Center. The event was covered by radio, television and print media. Mr. Reed stated that he established new relationships with legislators outside Garland County as part of those efforts. Mr. Reed also has established a new and relevant relationship with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's Foundation called the Skyhook Foundation.

Director Alderdice stated that Senator Woods, Representative Cozart and Representative Vines attended the event.

Mr. Reed discussed the creation of the ASMSA Student Ambassador Program, citing that the program is comprised of students from across the state.

Mr. Reed stated that he held a preliminary meeting of the ASMSA Foundation Fund Board of Ambassadors in which a draft of by-laws, policy and procedures were presented and discussed.

Mr. Reed reported that he is working to develop a STEM Camp Model for Boy Scouts of America. In answer to Ms. Collier's question adding Girl Scouts to the program, Mr. Reed stated that he could combine both the Girls and Boy Scouts together, though representatives from the Boy Scouts made first contact on such a collaboration.

Mrs. Garcia thanked Mr. Reed about continuing to list grants in his report and stated that there would be \$250,000 in GIF Funds that will be coming back into the community in September and it may be a good time for the school to try to tap into the funds for some projects. Mrs. Garcia stated that the funds are allocated by the legislators.

Mr. Lowe asked Director Alderdice if some type of overt solicitation was planned to the parents at graduation for a donation to the school. Director Alderdice responded that a mailing was being sent out with a letter from the president of the Parents Association asking for graduating parents to make a contribution to the school. Director Alderdice stated that he wanted to keep messages to the parents on graduation day minimal. Mr. Lowe stated that he believed it was important for some type of mention be made at graduation since it is a time of great pride that the parents are feeling at the accomplishments of their student.

On behalf of Mr. Les Warren, Mrs. Garcia stated that Mr. Warren wanted to convey that he was very appreciative for all the work that was done at the *Open Book Celebration* and he would be willing to help and work in the area of being an ASMSA Ambassador.

Mr. Lowe stated that he listened to the recording of the September 2012 meeting when the Open Book initiative was originally proposed to the great concern of himself and some of the other Board members regarding the amount of resources that were being invested at the

time. Mr. Lowe stated that the original target amount for the event was \$200,000. He stated the reality of the net revenues of the event was \$1,479.97. He stated that another point brought up during the May 2012 meeting was that there was \$1 million in outstanding grant monies that were requested. Mr. Lowe stated that when he had asked how much of the grant monies were received, he was advised at that time by Mr. Reed that it was \$2,500. Mr. Lowe stated that the pattern of applying for and monies received is incredibly unsuccessful.

Mr. Lowe questioned statements that were made in Mr. Reed's February 2013 report that costs at that point were covered; as such, he inquired as to why was it that the net return for the event in April was so low. Mr. Lowe stated that the results of the fundraising and grants that have been applied for have fallen short of the goals that have been communicated by the Institutional Advancement unit. Mr. Lowe stated that it seems to be counter-intuitive to him that the history of our relationship with the ASMSA Ambassadors program has been to dismantle and then reassemble the program only after some pressure and concerns were raised by the Board. Mr. Lowe stated that it appears to him that the natural friends of ASMSA would be around the Garland County community and beyond to assist the school and figure out a way for them to help advance the institution. Mr. Lowe stated that he had grave concerns regarding fundraising and development at ASMSA.

Mr. Lowe had questioned Mr. Reed about his fundraising plans for the coming year. Mr. Lowe asked Mr. Reed what the net fundraising dollar amount has been over the last eighteen months. Mr. Reed responded that he would have to research that information since he did not have the figures with him. Mr. Lowe wanted to know if it was enough to cover Mr. Reed's salary. Mr. Reed replied that it was not. Mr. Lowe also inquired how many large gifts the school has received since his tenure. Mr. Reed responded that a gift of \$20,000 for the Mead Digital Arts Lab as well as an \$8,000 gift for the Open Book Celebration were received. Mr. Lowe asked Mr. Reed if there was ever a period that after the concerns were raised that the event (Open Book Celebration) might be overly ambitious and perhaps a smaller event would have been better where the net would have been larger. Mr. Reed stated that the event was vetted on four different occasions with four different groups. The first group was with the Administrators where the positives and negatives were discussed. Mr. Reed also stated the he met with some of the ASMSA stakeholders and talked about the challenges, and the consensus of the group agreed that this was a good program and to move forward. The third and fourth meetings were follow-up meetings to discuss the event and the Ambassadors again agreed that Mr. Reed should move forward with the event. Mr. Reed stated that he constantly touched base with the groups and they consistently said to go forward with the event.

Mr. Lowe asked if any of the state legislators had asked for information about the event. Director Alderdice responded stating that Senator Sample had requested and was provided information regarding the expenditures of the event and the amount of money that was raised. Mr. Lowe asked if Senator Sample cited any concerns and Director Alderdice stated that he did not.

Mr. Lowe asked Mr. Reed that if he thought of having a target to be married to as well as a transparent plan is a reasonable approach. Mr. Reed stated that almost four years ago, it was stated that \$35 million was needed to construct buildings that are needed on campus. It would not be done through "galas," it would not be done with golf tournaments and not through faculty or graduate contributions. Mr. Reed reported that in order to receive the level of money needed for capital projects, a solid donor base of influential people needed

to be built first. Mr. Reed said that it was not through sales but through philanthropy where one has to connect with the donor base. He stated that relationships have to be built, locally and throughout the state. Mr. Reed stated that things have to be done strategically and tactically to arrive at a base of donors. Mr. Reed explained that last year he applied for a \$400,000 grant to the Walker Foundation, thought he made a great connection with them and was anticipating a positive response. Mr. Reed then said that he was not given the grant because the administrators of the Foundation stated that they did not know who we were well enough to provide the funds. Mr. Reed stated that in building these relationships it must be done strategically and tactfully.

Mr. Lowe asked why he has not received a phone call to make a donation. Mr. Currier responded to Mr. Lowe's question stating that he believed that was one of the reasons why the student Ambassadors have been organized this past year. He stated it would be difficult to have three people in Mr. Reed's office that can do what they need to do and also make calls to everyone. Mr. Currier stated that he believed the student Ambassadors will be making the calls in the next year.

Mrs. Garcia wanted to recognize the alums that worked at the *Open Book Celebration* stating that they were awesome and was amazed at what they did.

Ms. Collier stated that she thought it was important to recognize the hard work of the academic unit in applying for the grants. She stated that it was not easy to get grants from some of those listed in the report i.e., NASA, The Ross Foundation, etc. Ms. Collier stated that it was a very good track record on the part of Academic Affairs for bringing in that support. Ms. Collier stated that it is not Foundation fundraising but another form of support for the students and their research.

Mr. Battle stated that he had some experience with non-profit organizations and said that in this economy it is very difficult to raise money. Mr. Battle said he attended the *Open Book Celebration* event and thought it was a resounding success and stated that the radio station, "The Buzz," is the number one station in the State of Arkansas and the publicity was great. Mr. Battle said that although he had reservations about the event and did not know who Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was and how very popular he is, he stated it was a booming success with some very heavy hitters from the Governor's cabinet and other very influential people who attended. The event did well to lay a good foundation to build upon and the event was a great start. He continued to give Mr. Reed kudos for a great turnout.

V. OLD BUSINESS

In response to Mrs. Garcia's question regarding student's having availability to the computer and art area in the old Pine Street Building, Mr. Gregory responded stating that a monitor had been hired so the students now have access to that area, and crash bars have also been installed on the doors that was a concern of the Board from the February meeting.

Mr. Lowe reported that the process of having telemeetings is almost in place. Mr. Lowe stated that he may do some diagnostic testing over the summer months when it is convenient for the remaining Board members.

Mr. Battle inquired about the future accommodations of the Miss Arkansas Pageant at the school and if there was a possibility of that happening. Director Alderdice stated that with the

response that he received from the local stakeholders that it would be very difficult to move forward in doing that in the future.

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, a motion was made by Mr. Battle and seconded by Mrs. Merry to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Approved as written _____

Approved as amended _____

Leigh Merry
Mrs. Leigh Merry, Secretary

9/23/13
(Date)