

MINUTES
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES AND THE ARTS
BOARD OF VISITORS REGULAR MEETING
April 13, 2015
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. Garcia, Chair convened the Board of Visitors regular meeting into open session at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed all Board members.

II. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Members Present

Mrs. Karen Garcia, Chair
 Mr. Hayward Battle, Vice Chair
 Dr. Cynthia Miller, Secretary
 Mrs. Donna Casparian
 Mrs. Donna Hutchison
 Mr. William Watson

Members Absent

Ex-Officio Members Present

Mr. Johnny Key, Commissioner,
 Arkansas Department of Education
 Mrs. Marta Gwyn Collier, designee for Tim
 Atkinson, Ph.D., President, Arkansas
 Science and Technology Authority
 Ms. Joy Pennington, designee for Stacy
 Hurst, Director, Department of
 Arkansas Heritage
 Miss Maggie Easley, Vice President, Student Government
 Association

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Mr. Brett Powell, Director, Arkansas
 Department of Higher Education
 Mrs. Amanda Nall, President, Parents Association

Administrative Members Present

Mr. Corey Alderdice, Director
 Mrs. JaNan Abernathy, Director of Finance
 Mr. William Currier, Dean of Students
 Mr. Bob Gregory, Dean of Academic Affairs
 Ms. Valerie Carpenter, Director of Admissions
 Mrs. Vicki Hinz, Interim Director of Institutional Advancement
 Mrs. Lorraine Munroe, Administrative Assistant

Administrative Members Absent

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Battle and seconded by Mr. Watson to approve the minutes of December 1, 2014. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Hutchison asked Chair Karen Garcia if she could ask some questions regarding the Director's Report on Page 2 of the December 2014 minutes. Mrs. Hutchison stated that Mr. Alderdice reported that, over an eight year period, approximately 32.9% qualified as low income students. Mrs. Hutchison asked Director Alderdice to please give her this year's percentage. Mr. Battle asked that this question be brought up under Old Business since the information was not handily available.

Per the Agenda, Director Alderdice introduced Residential Mentors Margaret Humphrey and Briana Crowe, along with some students, who discussed their experience on this year's Alternative Spring Break Program -- a trip to Selma, Alabama.

1. Director's Comments – Corey Alderdice

In his opening comments, Director Alderdice welcomed Johnny Key, the newly appointed Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education. Director Alderdice stated that he was sad to lose Mr. Key as a colleague in the UofA System but very happy to have him at ADE.

Director Alderdice stated that ASMSA had reached the end of the current legislative session. He reported that he and others made a fair attempt at passage of SB388 but after going through the Senate Education Committee, they began to run into some pushback from various groups. Director Alderdice stated that he, Melissa Rust (from the System office) and Senator Sample began working with the Governor's staff - the Budget Director, the Education Specialist, and others - to convey ASMSA's needs and reach a solution through a route other than through the legislation.

If one looks at the talking points memo that was distributed, it is a challenging picture of where the institution has been in the years since the recession. The school has received less than \$200,000 in new revenue and has yet to reach the pre-recession levels of EETF funding that is the primary revenue stream. He stated that if the forecast continues as he is planning for a flat EETF forecast this year, it will still be down that amount going into FY 2016. Director Alderdice stated a specific challenge is that the legislators want to look at ASMSA's budget as one that is strictly divided by 230 students, which gives an incorrect assessment of \$36,000 spent per pupil. Director Alderdice reported that if one looks at the various parts of the mission of the institution -- the residential component, outreach, etc. -- that drive the cost down but sometimes the base effect is to simply divide by 230. Director Alderdice stated that, unfortunately, while the Governor's staff and others were sympathetic, they were not willing to add any additional allotment to either RSA this year. He reported that ASMSA did receive a general improvement allotment of \$25,000 and is very grateful to Senator Sample for filing the bill and Senator Woods provided ASMSA a portion of his GIF allotment.

Director Alderdice reported that many alumni, including Board member Mr. Watson, spoke with Representative Leding and others, expressing an interest to take action to bring back the AEGIS summer programs. He stated that a small \$10,000 GIF allotment was allocated for that purpose. Director Alderdice reported that he has reiterated his interests to AGATE and others and is happy to play a role. He said that he received 25 emails and messages from alumni articulating their experience, and it really speaks to how important it is to have out-of-school opportunities for gifted and talented students.

Director Alderdice reported that health insurance rates have increased after several years without adjustments. The UofA System is forecasting a rather substantial increase this year. ASMSA will incur a 19% increase in insurance premiums. ASMSA's responsibility in the budget is approximately \$60,000. An ad-hoc campus committee was formed to look at the alternative ways to deal with the increase. Director Alderdice stated that the goal -- particularly for the employees who make below \$40,000 -- is to try to take on a little more of the share from the institution instead of passing that directly on to employees.

Regarding budget priorities for FY2016, Director Alderdice stated that he is looking at a 2% cost of living adjustment for employees to help in offsetting insurance increases. He reported that, in November, Governor Beebe anticipated a 1% increase in EETF based on the information that the Department of Higher Ed distributed toward the end of the legislative year. With fixed increases in utilities and contract services, Director Alderdice stated that he is not looking at a tremendous amount of wiggle room going into the next budget session.

Director Alderdice reported ASMSA was one of six organizations to receive a grant from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. He stated that, of the 200 schools that were invited to the conference, approximately 100 attended, 45 submitted proposals and 6 were funded. Director Alderdice reported that ASMSA will receive \$61,000 to establish Project HELIX, (Helping Elevate Low-Income Students to Excellence). It will run concurrent with the College Algebra Readiness Camp in July and will allow ASMSA to bring in 40 low-income students to campus for two weeks in the summer in both 2015 and 2016. Director Alderdice stated that ASMSA will continue to follow up with the students and encourage their application in the fall. They will also attend a PM Preview in December and ASMSA will provide the fee for the students to take the ACT in December as well. He reported that of those 40 students per year, he is hoping to see 20 students complete the application process and that ASMSA will be able to yield at least 10 of those students for the classes of 2018 and 2019.

Director Alderdice gave a report on the updates to the Campus Master Plan, referring to the proposed 20,000 sq. ft. Creativity and Innovation Complex. As the Student Center was completed in 2012, some of the rhetoric that proceeded his time at ASMSA said that the next obvious step would be to renovate the Cedar Street building. Director Alderdice stated that the figure that was put "out there" was \$5MM for renovation. He reported that many questions have surfaced as to how accurate that statement was. The primary rationale for undertaking the feasibility study was to find out if the Cedar Street building was a fiscally practical route. At a cost of \$15MM for the renovation, the answer was a fairly solid no. Director Alderdice reported that even if it were feasible financially, the transition process would extend into at least 4.5 years, which is also a concern. In absence of Cedar Street being a viable option, what size building could be looked at as minimally viable. The Creativity and Innovation Complex, which is forecast at around a 20,000 sq. ft., would cost right at \$7MM for new construction. Additional questions focused on

potential locations on campus for the building. Director Alderdice reported that the 2008 Master Plan called for Classroom Building One to be built behind the Student Center. Director Alderdice stated that option spreads the campus out too far. Based on that observation, Polk Stanley Wilcox then provided two alternative sites for consideration. One is the Courtyard option, which would be left of the Student Center. The Gateway Option would be in the parking lot of the Administration Building. Director Alderdice reported that, in the absence of either GIF or additional operational funds to take on debt service, the document provides the broad strokes of what potentially can be possible. He stated that upon securing funding, he believes that a little more earnest engagement with the document would be beneficial to see what is the most practical route.

Mr. Watson asked for clarification that the 20,000 sq. ft. building that Mr. Alderdice referenced in the plan is the Creativity and Innovation Complex (CIC). Mr. Alderdice confirmed that if the CIC used the Courtyard option, it would be a three-story building. The Gateway Option (Administration building parking lot), would be a two-story building. Mr. Alderdice stated that the other reason why the courtyard option was of interest is because of the ADA accessibility to the campus. Currently, the accessibility route is across the skywalk and through the Pine Street wing. Mr. Alderdice stated that eliminating the facility results in a fairly substantial elevation change. The courtyard option would function much in the same way that the book's spine on the Student Center does to transition from street level to the courtyard level.

Director Alderdice also noted by not renovating Cedar Street, along with the desire to retain the Chapel and former convent, the cost would be about \$1.3-1.4MM to do independent mechanical systems for those two buildings. Director Alderdice reported that the CIC building would replicate the Networks office and computer science program as well as the maker space and woodshop. It would also replicate the Counseling offices, study center and then the digital arts labs, music spaces and the arts studios as well. The faculty offices that are currently on the 6th floor of Pine Street would be moved over to the former convent known as Faculty Hall. Director Alderdice reported that the institution continues to work with the City who is pursuing some of the Brownfield proposals to go in and do a full on-site assessment but have not been successful in receiving a federal grant to do so.

Dr. Miller asked if the new building will be built in a green fashion (i.e. geothermal heat, solar panels, etc.) Director Alderdice responded stating that it was not a part of the discussion since front-end cost would be a major challenge.

Information Technology Report – Corey Alderdice

Director Alderdice reported that over spring break the IT staff completed a series of broadband updates to campus. He also stated that, over the last few months, IT updated all of the wireless access points on campus to bring them up to current technology. Director Alderdice reported that the institution was able to reduce the internet service bill by \$10,000 a year while quadrupling broadband access for students. Director Alderdice stated that an individual student cap at 3 MB per student has been implemented. It means that the intensive-use students are not taking away from the general-use students.

Director Alderdice reported that the IT staff has continued to work with the Library staff to migrate the research project archives. The goal with that change is to be able to provide access off campus.

Mr. Battle asked Director Alderdice if he was speaking at a UABP conference. Director Alderdice confirmed that he was on April 22nd and the theme for the conference was STEAM – Integrating Arts Into STEM Education. Dr. Suzanne Mitchell, who is the Executive Director of the STEM Coalition, recommended that the organizers extend an invitation to Director Alderdice. He reported that he will be doing an individual session discussing happenings at ASMSA and afterwards will be serving on a lunch panel with other attendees from around the state.

Mr. Battle asked Director Alderdice if he would present particulars about graduation. Director Alderdice reported that Eric Jackson will be serving as keynote speaker this year. Mr. Jackson is the General Manager of Oaklawn Jockey Club in Hot Springs and was one of the community stakeholders who played an important part in not only winning the bid for Hot Springs but also came up with the \$500,000 to do the initial renovation work on the hospital complex. Director Alderdice stated that given the Oaklawn Foundation plays a substantial role in the community and the school has not had a tremendous amount of engagement with them in recent years, Director Alderdice thought it was fitting in recognizing both Mr. Jackson and Oaklawn's involvement in the early history of the school, particularly since the institution is celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Charter class.

Commissioner Key stated that the Governor's Task Force in computer science was coming up on April 17th and noted that the Arkansas Department of Education has some interest in assisting with it. He stated that ASMSA has quite a bit to offer in that area. Commissioner Key asked Director Alderdice how ASMSA might be able to help with that initiative.

Director Alderdice responded stating that ASMSA is very lucky that Carl Frank, who is one of school's Computer Science instructors, will be serving on the Task Force in the capacity of president of the Computer Science Teachers Association. Director Alderdice stated that if one refers to the February packet there is inclusion that refers to the four domains that ASMSA is specifically offering programs that are within computer science – out of school enrichment, digital learning, teacher training and the residential experience.

The STEM Pathways Initiative this year is already offering AP computer science to districts. Director Alderdice reported that he is especially excited about Daniel Moix agreeing to return to ASMSA in the capacity of Computer Science Education Specialist. Director Alderdice stated that the program that he is envisioning would be a blend of distance education and teacher professional development. He stated that Mr. Moix will be teaching the Essentials of Computer Programming course, a new ADE-approved class. Director Alderdice reported that rather than simply offer delivery of the course similar to what Virtual Arkansas is doing, the goal is to help districts that have teachers excited about the opportunity who want to jump in and offer the course, but may be feeling a little nervous going on their own on their first attempt. He stated that Mr. Moix will offer digital delivery three days a week and the teachers would then serve as the local facilitators the other days of the week. Mr. Alderdice stated that Mr. Moix will offer a week of professional development and then on-going support throughout the year. He reported that ASMSA's goal is to have ten to twelve districts participate.

Dr. Miller interjected, stating that the twelve STEM education centers at universities across the state have been charged with providing professional development for teachers this summer to help get them prepared to walk in on August 19th and teach Essentials of Computer Science. Dr. Miller stated that Mr. Frank has been wonderful in helping the various STEM centers design that professional development. Dr. Miller reported that Stacey Smith from ADE attended the last STEM center director's meeting and stated that everyone will get a provisional certificate the first year and will want the teachers to pass the Praxis by the end of the school year so they can be in

place the second year. Dr. Miller stated that the twelve STEM centers are very busy working on that at the present time. Director Alderdice stated that Mr. Moix will be attending the Praxis meeting coming up in the next few weeks. Director Alderdice reported that Arkansas will be piggy-backing on top of Texas' Praxis exam for now.

Director Alderdice asked Commissioner Key what his sense was of how the districts are responding to the new requirement. Commissioner Key responded saying, as with most things that are new, there is excitement about the requirement as well as concerns of doing it right and how ADE will make it work. Commissioner Key reported that the State Board just adopted the new rules and regulations for the computer science components.

Mr. Watson stated that the day the Governor signed the bill, Arkansas was trending as the #1 topic in the whole world for something that was truly positive. Mr. Watson said that this is something that the state is going to require schools to offer but not jump into requiring all students to take the course because students take different paths. Mr. Watson stated that he is really excited to hear that Mr. Moix is returning to ASMSA to teach the class. He reported that when he attended ASMSA in 2005, Mr. Moix was the only high school teacher in the country who was teaching an ORACLE SQL Database class. Mr. Alderdice said that Mr. Moix has been doing some phenomenal work in the Bryant School District. Mrs. Hutchison asked if Mr. Moix will be working exclusively with the online instruction. Director Alderdice stated that he will be in the foreseeable future.

2. Academic Affairs Board Report – Bob Gregory

Dean Gregory reported that one of the rewarding aspects of his job is working with talented people. He reported that Vickie Parke, ASMSA's Registrar, has left to take a position at UCA. Also, Dr. Crystal Rofkar, who wanted to be personal counselor and was doing much of her work in Fayetteville, has left. Her husband Aaron Novotny (a math instructor), will also be leaving at the end of the school year. Dean Gregory also reported that some retirements were happening in the Counseling office. He stated that Penny Lock has been hired as the new Assistant Dean for Counseling Services and that the Counseling office will be transitioning to a twelve month unit.

Dean Gregory announced that Dr. Neil Oatsvall, a Ph.D. from Kansas University, has been hired to teach history. Dean Gregory reported that Dr. Oatsvall has a background in Japanese and has studied abroad. He has experience with the North Carolina Governor's School summer programs.

Dean Gregory reported that the spring break trips were life changing. A large number of students went to Greece, Spain and the British Isles.

Dean Gregory stated that, along with the cancellation of the February Board meeting due to weather events, some science fair and FIRM judges could not make it to the school. He stated that some judges were able to make it, along with faculty and staff, to judge the Science and Engineering Fair and Senior Research Symposium. Dean Gregory reported that three students qualified for the International Science Fair from our region. When ASMSA competed at State, two more students qualified. In total, there are five students and four teachers that will be going to Pittsburg as part of the International Science and Engineering Fair.

Mr. Battle inquired as to the reasons why the school lost 5 students – 4 juniors and 1 senior - in the past few months. Dean Gregory stated that it was due to personal reasons. Dean Gregory reported that the senior class is doing great. He touched on senior retention statistics – last year's attrition rate was 27% and this year's senior class is 20.1%. Dean Gregory stated that the seniors thought the two-week orientation before junior year and the one week before senior year has been helpful. Dean Gregory stated that, when a student comes to ASMSA, the student is moving away from their support system. He stated that the school is trying to develop additional and strong support systems for the students while having them recognize that these systems are available.

3. Residential Affairs Report – William Currier

Dean Currier reported Prom was coming up the following weekend. He reported that Stacey Perry, Community Developer, is doing a great job and has notified the school that she will be moving on after this school year. She is taking a position at Ouachita Baptist University as Assistant Director of Residence Life. Dean Currier stated that the students are looking forward to Prom, which will once again be held at the Arlington Hotel.

Dean Currier stated that Garland County Health Department had been scheduled to make a presentation at the school regarding sex education but had to be cancelled due to the weather. He stated that the nurse was not able to reschedule because the Health Department had no available times. Mrs. Casparian asked if it could not be handled earlier in the year in next year's planning. Dean Currier stated that it does make sense to schedule it sooner in the school year.

4. Admissions and Public Affairs – Valerie Carpenter

Ms. Carpenter stated that she and Director Alderdice went over the numbers for incoming juniors for the next school year. Ms. Carpenter reported that currently she is looking at 117 juniors (out of 194 qualified student applications) with an average ACT score of just over 27, which is higher than the incoming class from last year which was 25.7. Forty counties have been represented in the application process to date. Ms. Carpenter stated that 270 students started the profile on the online application process, which is new this year. Out of the 117 juniors that were initially accepted, 25.6% are minorities.

Ms. Carpenter stated that one of the goals this year was to reach more students not just by going to the different schools but contacting over 4,000 students via specialized letters: computer science letters geared to computer science and engineering; arts, and letters to minorities that had shown interest in ASMSA. Ms. Carpenter said that she is receiving positive feedback from tours on campus.

Ms. Carpenter reported that January 9 -10, 2015, ASMSA hosted the first annual Arts Preview Weekend. She stated that the students arrived on Friday night and were paired up with Community Leaders. Twenty-four spots were available and approximately 12 students spent the night. Ms. Carpenter stated that with the letters that were sent out, more potential Humanities emphasis students applied this year versus last year. Ms. Carpenter stated that leads are purchased through the College Bound Selection Service, Duke TIP Service, etc., and students will indicate what they are interested in. Afterward, the students are contacted with an email stating that ASMSA might be an opportunity for them to look into. Ms. Carpenter reported that on the following day, there was an event from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. with arts instructor, Brad Wreyford. At 11:00 a.m., parents were invited to

attend an Admissions presentation, tour the campus and have lunch that was provided for them.

Director Alderdice stated that as he is looking at the fall schedule he would like to have a biomedical, a computer science and a math Preview Weekend.

Ms. Carpenter stated that another way to get exposure for ASMSA is to attend different conferences around the state that the school has not previously had exposure to. Ms. Carpenter stated that she attended the Mid South Black Expo on February 28th that is held yearly at the Clear Channel Metroplex in Little Rock. She stated that it was a good event to not only advertise ASMSA but also to meet many diverse students. The Expo hosts approximately 4,000 people during that day and many people had stopped by who were either familiar with ASMSA or those that never heard of the school. Ms. Carpenter also stated that presenting and exhibiting at the EAST Conference was also beneficial in exposing the school. She also reported that her department was on top of things trying to reach out to some of those students ahead of time and urging them to go through the application process.

Directing her statement to Ms. Carpenter, Dr. Miller reported that there is going to be a computer science conference scheduled to be held on June 8 and 9 and encouraged Ms. Carpenter to exhibit at the Arkansas Curriculum Conference that will be held November 5 and 6 at the Marriott Hotel and Convention Center in Little Rock. Ms. Carpenter reported that she will be attending the Arkansas State Coalition. Ms. Carpenter also reported that she will attend Girls of Power event at UCA on April 24th.

Mr. Watson stated that STEAM is very important component of what ASMSA is trying to do by juicing up the Arts program while also maintaining the STEM components as well. Mr. Watson stated that in talking to students, some stated that they were interested in law school, getting involved in politics or felt they had to choose between law school and science. In talking with these students, Mr. Watson stated that it is not the case to have to choose because in higher education some of the students that perform their best on the LSAT and moving into government are people who have the more technocratic backgrounds.

Mr. Alderdice stated that instead of using the term STEAM, he prefers using STEM+. He stated that most folks tend to think of STEM as research and inquiry essentially traditional researcher routes. Director Alderdice reported that it depends on how one applies STEM -- STEM+ critical languages, STEM+ entrepreneurship and innovation, STEM+ arts, where you get the STEAM. STEM+ public policy are for people who want to go into environmental law and other things.

Mr. Watson stated that he is really interested in drilling down into the demographics and income data to see what is representative of what Arkansas looks like. Director Alderdice reported that he had looked at the last five years of data leading up to the legislative session and in terms of the general regions of the state, the school is about 1% higher in the delta region than the actual population. He stated that if you look at the expanded delta, it is on par at approximately 1.5% higher than the population density. Pulaski County is on par in terms of the population density there. Director Alderdice reported that the only area that is a bit heavier is Garland and Saline counties compared to Benton and Washington counties in the northwest. He stated that it is easier for students and parents in Hot Springs, Benton and Bryant to be comfortable and enthusiastic about it compared to those students who are making a three to four hour trek to the school.

Mrs. Hutchison stated that Director Alderdice made a good point about proximity. Mrs. Hutchison reported what has to be considered is that in Benton and Washington counties enormous amounts of

money is being spent for education. She reported that in talking with alums who have small children who are living in Benton and Washington Counties have said that they will not send their child to ASMSA because there is a better school system in those counties that offers the same things as ASMSA does and they get to stay home.

Mr. Watson added that he also has had the same conversation with alums. He stated that he came to ASMSA because it was an opportunity that he did not have at his home district. Mr. Watson stated that although there is a challenge recruiting from Washington and Benton counties, he believes recruiting is still going to be good in surrounding rural counties.

Dr. Miller stated that it would be interesting to look and see the counties in which there were decreased applications and compare them to the counties in which you have such programs as Project Lead The Way schools, which are engineering high schools; New Tech high schools, STEM Academies and Schools of Innovation. She reported that ASMSA really wants students all over the state to have wonderful opportunities.

Mrs. Hutchison stated that recruiting is going to be an increased challenge for ASMSA in northwest Arkansas.

5. Institutional Advancement – Vicki Hinz

Mrs. Hinz reported that in the beginning of 2014 the department initiated the “forwARd, together” Annual Appeal and has raised \$22,475. She stated that the school participated in ArkansasGives, which supports non-profits across Arkansas raising money for the different organizations. Mrs. Hinz reported that nearly 50 donors contributed to the one-day event, raising \$9,158. Mrs. Hinz stated that when all the donations are tallied, it may be over \$10,000+.

Dr. Miller interjected stating that she knew about the ArkansasGives program because it was discussed at an Arkansas STEM Coalition meeting. She stated that they sent a reminder email stating that if you give on the assigned day, you can receive bonus dollars for your donation. Dr. Miller stated that if ASMSA was to set up a group distribution email list and send a blast out to all alumni, board members, faculty members, etc., it would have a great impact. Mrs. Hinz stated that a notice did go out to employees, parents, alumni via email, as well as the school’s social channels.

Director Alderdice stated that “the needle that the school was trying to thread” was not to overly tap the natural donation base, particularly since the Community of Learning Luncheon was being held on May 1st. He reported that most of the posts were within social media to the Parents Association’s Facebook page, the institution’s main Facebook page and Association for Alumni and Friends Facebook page. He reported Institutional Advancement has been sending monthly emails to alumni and putting the Development information at the bottom of it. Mr. Alderdice stated that what he is hearing from alums is that they want to know what is happening at ASMSA but do not want to be overly asked for money.

Director Alderdice stated that the Arkansas Community Foundation was curious as to how ArkansasGives was going to play out for the first time and were hoping to receive \$1 million in gifts, which was realized before 11:00 a.m. that day. The final figure was \$1.9 million received.

Mrs. Hinz stated that it was a close line on who to ask with the ArkansasGives happening in April and ASMSA’s big event happening in May. There were several people who gave to both events. Mrs. Hinz stated that with “forwARd together”, ArkansasGives, the

luncheon coming up May 1st , and the grants coming in, it looks like the ASMSA could be well over \$200,000 in gifts.

Mrs. Hinz stated that the Happy family Endowment and the ASMSA Foundation established the Clifford O. Happy Memorial in honor of Humanities instructor, Cliff Happy, who died unexpectedly in September. Mrs. Hinz thanked Donna Hutchison, who helped with those efforts as well and informed the Board that a website has been created and folks can go online and make a donation. To date, Mrs. Hinz reported that there is \$1,040 in contributions in addition to the \$20,000 that was given intended for helping students during the Christmas holidays. Mr. Happy was generous to needy students at that time and will continue to do so in his stead. Mrs. Hinz stated that the Class of 2015 got together and raised funds and will be purchasing a Japanese maple that will be planted by the Student Center, along with a plaque in his memory. Mrs. Hinz stated that a reception will be planned having the Happy family and others who contributed to his memorial when the tree will be planted.

Mrs. Hinz stated that the Community of Learning luncheon is a centerpiece of outreach and advocacy. She reported that, at last year's event, there were over 200 people who attended honoring Governor Beebe for his help in building the new Student Center. This year's event will be honoring Governor Hutchinson and is entitled, "Coding Arkansas' Future." The event will be held Friday, May 1st . Mrs. Hinz stated that students will be present to demonstrate 3-D printing, robotics and perhaps the top three Computer Science research projects.

Mrs. Hinz reported that in collaboration with the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, the ASMSA Golf Tournament will be held on September 28 at the Hot Springs Country Club.

Mrs. Hinz stated that Dr. Johnnie Roebuck is contacting the original Board of Trustees members and is asking for pledges of \$1,000 (an additional \$20,000) that will be applied to a Trustees Service Fellowship Endowment. A rising senior will be awarded this fellowship to pursue a project or program intended to benefit their local community.

Mrs. Hinz reported receiving \$58,250 in grants.

6. Financial Report – JaNan Abernathy

Mrs. Abernathy stated that in just a few weeks the quarterly reports and budget exhibits are due for the next school year. She reported that there are some major deadlines that are coming up. Mrs. Abernathy stated that she met with Director Alderdice regarding the preliminary budget to project what the funding and revenue sources will be the next fiscal year.

Mrs. Abernathy stated that there will be increases in insurance premiums for employees and she will be meeting with the committee to determine some of the options that can be presented. Some of the options go into salary tiers having a higher subsidy rate than lower paid employees. Mrs. Abernathy stated that the committee has had good input and have been inquiring with other employees what their thoughts are on the most viable option for them. A recommendation will be made shortly. Mrs. Abernathy informed the board that ASMSA can not withdraw out of the insurance pool since the school is part of the University of Arkansas System. She reported that every campus was incurring a 19% increase. Mrs. Abernathy reported that there was a 3% insurance increase in January that

the school absorbed, and had another 19% increase in March that the school absorbed. She stated that there was another 19% increase that the school just cannot afford to absorb again.

Mr. Watson asked how many employees were covered by insurance. Mrs. Abernathy stated that ASMSA had 77 employees and all but 4 were covered by insurance. Mrs. Abernathy stated that the school will be absorbing about \$60,000.

7. Parents Association – Mrs. Amanda Nall

Mrs. Nall was absent from the meeting. No report was submitted for review by the Board.

8. Student Government Association – Miss Margaret Easley

Miss Easley reported that in December 2014, the SGA sponsored a toy drive that donated to local families that were in need. Another fundraising event was held before Valentine's Day and proceeds were donated to the American Red Cross. Also in February, students participated in Random Acts of Kindness, where each residential floor presented a card to their Residential Mentor. Miss Easley reported that the students worked to purchase a tree and plaque for Mr. Happy and are hoping to have a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Alumni Weekend. Mrs. Hutchison asked what the plaque said and Miss Easley stated that Mr. Happy had said he didn't want to be remembered by the silly things he said but rather that he cared about what the students were learning. Miss Easley stated that new officers were elected and other students are currently being interviewed to be picked as Parliamentarian and Publicist. Miss Easley reported that the students are planning on hosting an autism awareness movie night in April. Popcorn and soda will be served and proceeds will be donated to an autism awareness fund.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Hutchison asked Director Alderdice for the number of low-income students. Referring back to the December 2014 meeting,

Director Alderdice reported that by examining the family financial statements that are on file, there is reliable data going back to the Class of 2009. The figures are expressly based on the federal benchmarks for each year and then compared to the family financial statement. Typically, a medium household income going back to 2009 is around \$60,000, the percentage of low-income students this year was 25.8%, which was lower than the previous years. The number reported in September also includes local waivers which makes it higher. The data is based strictly on family financial data not including additional local waivers. Director Alderdice stated that the Board could see information on overall student attrition over the same period and comparative numbers for low-income students, student attrition, as well as entry and exit ACT.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Garcia reminded the Board of the upcoming events of May 1st and May 23rd.

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. Casparian to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Approved as written

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Approved as amended

Cynthia A. Miller

Cynthia Miller, Ph.D., Secretary

9/15/15

(Date)