

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

December 7, 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

Mr. Battle, Vice 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

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

Members Absent

Ms. Ann Xu

Ex-Officio Members Present

Ms. Mary Kathryn Stein, Ed.D.,
 Arkansas Department of Education
 Ms. Joy Pennington, designee for Stacy
 Hurst, Director, Department of Arkansas
 Heritage

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Designee for Brett Powell, Director, Arkansas
 Department of Higher Education
 Designee for Tim Atkinson, Ph.D., President,
 Arkansas Science and Technology Authority
 Mr. Rex Hearn, President Student Government
 Association
 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, Director of Institutional Advancement
 Mrs. Lorraine Munroe, Administrative Assistant

Administrative Members Absent

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Hutchison and seconded by Mr. Watson to approve the minutes of September 14, 2015. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Director's Comments – Corey Alderdice

Director Alderdice stated that Governor Hutchinson has provided ASMSA with \$500,000 in General Improvement Funds toward the Creativity and Innovation Complex. He reported that the funds are important to move the project forward on an accelerated timetable. Approximately \$380,000 is allocated toward the design phase of the facility, the architects and engineering fees, and the remainder of that would go to first year debt service. Director Alderdice stated that the UofA Board of Trustees has given approval of the project at their November Board meeting and he has been working with the System office to examine mechanisms to finance approximately \$6.5 to \$6.75 million for the project. Director Alderdice stated that he is hoping to “piggy-back” on a bond issue from one of the four-year campuses in the System. An academic facility project must be presented first before the Board. Currently, it looks like it may be at the March or May 2016 meetings. At that time a slate of architects, engineers and contractors may be presented for consideration and approval by the Board to go through the design phase over the middle part of 2016 and then present final project approval to the Board at their September meeting. Director Alderdice stated he is hopeful for the groundbreaking to happen in October 2016. The timeline for the project is approximately 18 months for construction and completion in April/May 2018. The offices in the Pine Street building would then vacate going into the new facility by August 2018.

Director Alderdice stated that he was pleased with several faculty members who presented at NCSSS, and with Bob Gregory's continued participation on the Executive Council, notably his service as Treasurer.

Director Alderdice reported that three students competed in the Cyber Security Competition that was sponsored and held at New York University.

Director Alderdice stated that he will be working with the Public Affairs staff to update the ASMSA website. Apptegy is the company who will be updating the website that will include the web platform and mobile app.

Regarding the new website, Mr. Battle asked the Board their feelings of listing a brief bio for each member. The consensus of the members agreed that it would be a good idea to do this. Mr. Battle suggested that Director Alderdice have the IT representative devise a standard information form to distribute to the Board members to list on the website. Mrs. Hutchison added that the sheet should include the question of why the Board member chose to serve on the Board.

Mr. Faris stated that he was very pleased that the Governor released the GIF funds and stated that it speaks well that the institution is now on the Governor's radar. Mr. Faris stated he feels that the institution may get more improvement money during the next General Session. He also stated that he hopes that Director Alderdice will follow up and have the Governor spend a day at the school at some point so that he can see where the money is being spent. Suggestions were made by some Board members to have the Governor come to the school to view the students' science projects. Another suggestion was made to reach out to the First Lady, who was a former science teacher, and may have an interest in the projects. Mr. Faris also suggested that perhaps the first prize award should be named the Governor's Award where the Governor, his wife, or someone from his office, could be at hand to present the award to the winner.

Mr. Faris stated that the institution does not receive or have access to the resources that other high schools receive because it is under the umbrella of the University of Arkansas System. Mr. Faris stated that he is troubled that the institution is not able to receive any money for the facility that is available to other high schools. He stated that because the institution is part of the higher education system, it cuts out the possibility of receiving money that other high schools receive. Mr. Faris suggested talking to Senator Sample about the situation to perhaps change the law in order for the school to receive facilities money.

2. Academic Affairs Board Report – Bob Gregory

Mr. Gregory stated that final exams will begin the following week. He reported that the 3rd group of Humanities Emphasis students, consisting of 25 students, has been selected. Mr. Gregory stated that the Global Learning program is moving forward. He reported that there was a visit from Japanese students the week before from Hanamaki, Japan, the sister-city of Hot Springs.

Mr. Gregory stated that the Global Learning trips have been filling up. Trips to tour Italy and an immersion in Spain over Spring Break have been scheduled. Dr. Lindsey Waddell, geoscience instructor, has been finalizing some travel through Henderson State and will be doing a program in aquatic research experiments.

Mr. Gregory reported that four more teachers asked to participate in the Research in the Park program along with a group of students. Some of the students are going to carry the research through into a documentary film. Dr. Lindsey Waddell has been the liaison between the National Park Service and the school.

Mr. Gregory reported that five faculty members attended the NCSSS meeting in New York City in November. Dan McElderry, Bryan Adams and Dr. Jack Waddell presented on using alternative interdisciplinary activities.

Mr. Gregory stated that senior Taryn Imamura was named a semifinalist in the Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology. She was one of two national semifinalists from Arkansas in the nation's premier research competition for high school students.

A discussion ensued regarding student retention and the role of the Counseling Department in monitoring and assisting the students who may have at-risk issues. Mr. Watson brought up the issue of the financial cost to the students going to college with financial college debt in Arkansas of approximately \$25,000. Mr. Watson stated that it is important for the school to shepherd the students and making sure that they are applying for all of the state scholarships and financial aid that they are eligible for.

Mr. Gregory mentioned that three students qualified as finalists for QuestBridge Scholarships. Two of the students will be going to the University of Chicago and one to Vanderbilt. Mr. Gregory stated that the costs that are not covered by FAFSA should be covered by the universities. He reported that it is a great opportunity for low-income students to apply early.

3. Residential Affairs Report – William Currier

Mr. Currier reviewed his report with the Board. He stated that the Residential Life program continues to do an outstanding job and is interacting well with the Counseling Department. Mr. Currier also reported that he is fortunate to have nurse Maliah Wernette who has been very active in presenting student programs as well. He commented that he is impressed with

the quality of junior students that have been admitted this year. Dean Currier stated that they are mature and take on the challenges that are presented to them. He also stated that his department has been proactive with the Title IX information working with the Counseling and Human Resources Departments.

Dr. Miller stated that in speaking to her daughter who graduated ASMSA in 2013, there was not much sex education information provided to the students. She claimed that 20% of the girls who graduated in the class of 2013 are now parents and is very surprised by that percentage. Dean Currier stated that sessions are offered and there is a mandatory session that all students must attend.

Mrs. Casparian also commented that just addressing the economics emphasizing the results of having children at a young age should be part of a course that exams real-life situations that should be brought into the curriculum across the board. Mrs. Casparian reported that perhaps faculty can be asked to insert the information into the curriculum.

Mrs. Casparian stated to take the opportunity to inform the legislature and the impact it has and what it means to the State. She reported that regardless of what personal decisions are made in one's own life, education is important.

Dean Currier responded that RMs have to do programs every year based on the concept of wellness. He stated that the institution tries to give a well-rounded program and education on a regular basis that gets reviewed by the Community Developer.

Student Life, the nurse, secretary and the residential life receptionist, as well as Dean Currier, ask the students for an evaluation to determine if they are being treated with respect and if they are receiving the answers to their questions. Dean Currier stated that Senior Residential Mentor, Katie Johnson, did a suicide presentation session; Margaret Humphrey did Closeline – which is about sexual abuse and developing self worth. Dean Currier stated that he believes the school is being proactive in bringing these programs to the attention of the students.

Mrs. Hutchison stated that she agreed with Dr. Miller and Mrs. Casparian that pregnancy prevention at ASMSA is a desirable goal. She stated that having been on the faculty for 20 years she is aware that smart students do foolish things and no matter what the institution does to help prevent pregnancy, students are still going to do foolish things.

Mr. Watson stated that the school also needs to speak to financial literacy. He stated that when he attended the school, he believes the students left with everything they needed to succeed academically but they were not necessarily prepared either socially or financially.

Dr. Miller suggested that Dr. Constance Meadors be invited to speak to both male and females students. Dr. Meadors spoke at Dr. Miller's STEM Leadership Conference for girls about her path being born to a teenage mother, several children with different fathers, and how she broke the cycle of poverty and lack of education and homelessness. Dr. Miller stated that 11th and 12th graders are examining and pulling away their family histories wondering what type of life they want for themselves.

Mr. Currier stated that he has very strong, caring female role models on the staff. He reported that the Residential Life staff is trying to be very proactive in trying to educate the students in this area.

Director Alderdice reported that some students have made inquiries about ASMSA's transgender student policy. He stated that a conversation has been started with Residential Life, Human Resources and the

Counseling Office, and that Mr. Gregory has had conversations with other peer institutions. Director Alderdice reported that at this time, no other peer institution has an articulated transgender student policy. However, Illinois is finalizing their policy at this time. He stated that Mr. Currier, Mrs. Lock and Mrs. LaRue have put together a draft that will be shared with the System Office very soon.

4. Admissions and Public Affairs – Valerie Carpenter

Ms. Carpenter reported that travel to the various school districts throughout the state had finally wrapped up for the year. She stated that more schools are opening up their classroom doors, and she is giving 35-45 minute presentations to students about ASMSA. Ms. Carpenter stated that, as of this date, 14 students have completed applications and 217 have started the application process, having three months to go by the deadline date.

Ms. Carpenter reported that the weekend of December 11th, the HELIX project participants will return to campus to take the ACT which is being funded by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. She stated that the parents of the HELIX participants will be provided accommodations at the Springs Hotel and Spa. Ten of the students have already started the application process to attend ASMSA.

Ms. Carpenter stated that specific topics have been added in to Focus Weekends. Dr. Krakowiak presented *What's New in Biotechnology* on November 6th & 7th. Many students were so impressed with her presentation that they inquired as to when she was going to make another presentation so they could attend that one as well. Ms. Carpenter stated that the Focus Weekends have been important in that the students can meet the actual teacher that they would have if they attended ASMSA.

Ms. Carpenter reported that the computer science Focus Weekend was so popular that the weekend of February 12th & 13th has been scheduled for an additional Computer Science Focus Weekend. Daniel Moix will be presenting the session. January 23rd has been scheduled for a French Focus Weekend with faculty member, Bryan Adams.

Ms. Carpenter stated that applications are due by March 1st and admission decisions will be made by April 22nd. She stated that there will be two interview weekends – April 2nd and 16th.

5. Institutional Advancement – Vicki Hinz

Mrs. Hinz reported that the Office of Institutional Advancement is experiencing another banner year. Mrs. Hinz stated with the involvement of the institution in Leadership Hot Springs and the various SEI's across the state has raised awareness of the school, and people are now reaching out wanting to make donations.

Mrs. Hinz reported that working with the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce has been a great experience. They have been sending out emails to companies across the area collaborating with them to get involved with ASMSA. Mrs. Hinz stated that the annual golf tournament raised \$38,110.

Mrs. Hinz stated that the Wingate Foundation has submitted a grant for \$50,000 over a two-year period with \$25,000 going toward the expansion of the arts. She stated that some of the Student Ambassadors that she is involved with on a regular basis had come to ASMSA

thinking that they would be in the STEM program but are now changing their focus because of their interest in the arts.

Mrs. Hinz reported that the Director's Circle Dinner was held in October that celebrated the original ASMS Board of Trustees. A Trustees' Service Fellowship has been established in the amount of \$12,000 from the Board of Trustees that will provide financial assistance to a rising senior.

Mrs. Hinz stated that the Murphy USA Summer Research Fellowship is currently at \$15,000. Mrs. Hinz reported that a total of \$59,300 in grants that have been received.

Mrs. Hinz reported that the Community of Learning Luncheon will be held April 1st in the Crystal Ballroom at the Arlington Hotel.

Mrs. Hinz reported that the largest gift on behalf of an alumnus has been made to the school. The gift will support the new CIC building. More information will follow.

6. Financial Report – JaNan Abernathy

Mrs. Abernathy reviewed her financial report to the Board which included the quarterly reports. She stated that much needed to be done during the couple of weeks in December since it was going to be short month. Mrs. Abernathy stated that the legislative request for the fiscal session is due December 11th.

6. Parents Association – Mrs. Amanda Nall

Mrs. Nall did not submit a report and no representative was present at the meeting.

7. Student Government Association – Rex Hearn

Mr. Hearn was not present at the meeting, and no report was given at the meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Faris and seconded by Mr. Watson that the reports be received. Motion was passed unanimously.

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, a motion was made by Mr. Faris and seconded by Mr. Watson to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Approved as written ✓

Approved as amended _____

Cynthia Miller
Cynthia Miller, Ph.D., Secretary

3/7/2016
(Date)