

MINUTES
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES AND THE ARTS
BOARD OF VISITORS REGULAR MEETING
September 14, 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
 Ms. Ann Xu

Members Absent

Ex-Officio Members Present

Ms. Mary Kathryn Stein, Ed.D.,
 Arkansas Department of Education
 Mrs. Amanda Nall, President, Parents Association
 Mr. Rex Hearn, President Student Government
 Association

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
 Ms. Joy Pennington, designee for Stacy
 Hurst, Director, Department of Arkansas
 Heritage

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. Lorraine Munroe, Administrative Assistant

Administrative Members Absent

Mrs. Vicki Hinz, Director of Institutional Advancement

Mr. Battle asked the Board to introduce themselves to the audience.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Watson and seconded by Mrs. Hutchison to approve the minutes of April 13, 2015. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Director's Comments – Corey Alderdice

Director Alderdice welcomed new Board members, Ann Xu and Steve Faris.

Director Alderdice stated that the school was thrilled to host an announcement for the Coding Arkansas Future initiative. He stated that the headcount was 271 students as of 9/14/15 who are participating in the Essentials of Computer Programming course being led by Daniel Moix, with supporting instruction by Carl Frank. He stated that 40 students were taking the AP Computer Science course that is being taught by Carl Frank. A total of 317 students from more than 30 Arkansas districts are benefiting from the initiative.

Director Alderdice reported that he is looking forward to working with the STEM Coalition to host the Computer Science Education Summit 2.0 in Hot Springs. He stated that interest in Computer Science was high, and ASMSA has received high attention in the Tri-Lakes Edition of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, KARK Fox 16, THV-11, and Arkansas Money & Politics.

Director Alderdice stated that ASMSA will be hosting a reception, along with the Hot Springs Hanamaki Sister City Program, in celebration of the \$30,000 grant the school and Lakeside (Hot Springs) has received to begin the Japanese language and cultural program. The Consul General from Nashville will be attending the event, as well as Fumiaki Sasaki who is the President of the International Exchange Association in Hanamaki. Mr. Sasaki will be accompanied by two English teachers from Hanamaki-Kita High School, which is a school ASMSA is hoping to build a sister-school relationship.

ASMSA is in the process of becoming a BYOD (bring your own device) one-to-one technology campus. Director Alderdice reported that, over the last three years, a student technology survey has been conducted at the beginning of each school year that informs the school of the many types of devices that students bring to campus. This information has provided what kind of technology support and what infrastructure is needed to support it. Information taken from the survey indicates that more and more students are bringing personal laptops. This year, only about 12 students neither had a laptop or a desktop computer. To accommodate these students, the faculty laptops were replaced and refurbished ahead of schedule in order to provide these students with laptops. Director Alderdice reported that all students at ASMSA now have either a laptop or desktop computer. He stated that the program will be sustained with the cycled-out faculty computers. He reported that the program may have to be scaled up from the 12 being used currently to around 40 computers for next year.

2. Academic Affairs Board Report – Bob Gregory

Mr. Gregory reported on the new faculty members, including new Japanese teacher, Aozora Ishizaki. Ms. Ishizaki was hired in conjunction with Lakeside High School (Hot Springs) and will split her time teaching Japanese at both ASMSA and Lakeside. Mr. Gregory reported that there are three new members in the Counseling office and explained the responsibilities of each position in the Counseling Office.

Mr. Gregory reported on the second iteration of the Research in the Park seminar. The seminar connects the school with the National Park Service where the students are able to do park research by conducting field work and exploring historic archives of the Park. Because the program was so successful, four teachers have requested to become part of the program this year.

Mr. Gregory stated that there are 233 students on campus (130 are juniors) currently enrolled in 978 concurrent credit classes; the average load being 4.2 classes per student.

Mr. Gregory reported on a new program -- the HELIX program -- that took place over the summer. The program serves low-income rising sophomore students from the extended Delta region. The program was funded by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. Mr. Gregory also reported that the HELIX program ran concurrent with the College Algebra Readiness Camp for rising juniors at ASMSA.

Regarding the HELIX Program, Director Alderdice interjected stating that formal approval to promote the grant was given about the first week in May, which gave a very narrow window to seek out students. He stated that the Admissions department, who will be starting their road trips shortly, can inform students that this is an opportunity they can consider as an option if they meet the eligibility requirements.

Mr. Battle stated that he was pleased to hear about the HELIX program and noticed the high percentage (approximately 30%) of low income, free and reduced lunch students which equates to about twice that of other peer institutions. Director Alderdice said that through the program he is hoping to see 40 participants in the summer, with 20 students applying to ASMSA with 10 matriculating at the school.

Dr. Miller asked that when it comes time to recruit students for the HELIX program, is ASMSA going through counselors or STEM teachers at the high schools? Ms. Carpenter responded stating that letters were sent out to students in the database that already indicated that they were low-income students. She also stated that letters went out to the counselors in their districts to advertise about the program. Dr. Miller stated that she would be happy to assist in recruiting for next year's program.

Mrs. Hutchison asked Dean Gregory how the course registration went this year having three new members of the Counseling Department. Dean Gregory stated that the Counseling Department is transitioning to a twelve-month office. Although there were some lessons learned and a few things that need to be tidied up, the department is where it needs to be. Dean Gregory stated that notes were made and he is hopeful that next year will run smoother.

Mrs. Hutchison asked about the new Japanese class that was being organized. Director Alderdice stated that there were 19 students who have signed up in the Japanese I class. He reported that what Lakeside will be focusing on this year, in addition to a Level 1 course at the high school level, is middle grades enrichment. Director Alderdice stated that Lakeside would like to see more of a longitudinal pipeline, building into the culmination of their experience in their senior year.

Mrs. Hutchison stated that Crystal Bridges Museum is doing a great amount of outreach to Marshallese and Spanish speaking people. She reported that, in the three counties in northwest Arkansas, there are 50,000 Marshallese residents - the largest population outside of the Marshall Islands. She stated that she was interested in having ASMSA reach out in some way to this population that has a very low college entry rate and a very high poverty rate. Mrs. Hutchison reported that language is very often a barrier in the same way it is for the children of Hispanic influence. She stated that the Museum is partnering with Donna Owen at the Northwest Arkansas Reading Council to increase literacy rates and give children enrichment opportunities in Marshallese as well as in English. Director Alderdice responded that it would be

interesting to lean on the content of the ASMSA person, but have a local bridge to help facilitate an experience through the Pathways initiative. Mr. Gregory wondered if the school needed to create a pipeline so when the students transition to ASMSA they are at the level they need to be. Mrs. Hutchison stated that she was in a conversation with Donna Owen recently about contacting ASMSA and anticipated that she would do so. Mr. Battle advised the Board that there was a large contingent of Marshallese people in Jefferson County and may be able to reach out to them as well.

In response to Dr. Miller's question, Mr. Gregory stated that the school will be doing six SEI@'s – Little Rock, Jonesboro, Fayetteville, Conway, Monticello and Magnolia.

3. Residential Affairs Report – William Currier

Mr. Currier reviewed his report with the Board. He stated that the summer was busy with conferences and workshops, as well as hiring new personnel. Mr. Currier stated that HRM (Human Relations Media) contacted him with a program along with a film that they can present regarding sexual relationships, sexuality, health relationships, etc. He also stated that the school nurse, Maliah Wernette also has a number of programs that may be offered. Mr. Currier stated that the school is being educational and proactive in these areas. He also stated that he will be contacting the Garland County Health Department for presentations to the student body. Mr. Currier also stated that the flu clinic is coming to campus to dispense flu shots.

Regarding the residential stays during the summer, Mr. Currier stated that the Miss Arkansas Pageant contestants stayed at the school and commented that they were well organized, polite and left the building in great shape. He stated that the HELIX participants were very pleasant to work with also. Mr. Currier reported that there were a few bumps with the APSI Conference, but overall it went well.

4. Admissions and Public Affairs – Valerie Carpenter

Ms. Carpenter gave an update about the end of the year. Ms. Carpenter reported that there were 270 students who submitted their application and a class of 130 students was chosen. She stated that the average ACT was 27, almost 2 points higher than last year, and of the 130, the average GPA was 3.89.

Ms. Carpenter reported that 32.5% are low-income. She stated that when she travels to the Delta region she is meeting students that feel intimidated and tend not to apply. However, some of the SEI students in the Magnolia, Monticello, and Pine Bluff areas see what type of faculty members teach and, because of this, the students are building more confidence to investigate ASMSA. Ms. Carpenter reported that 21.54% of the 130 students are of ethnic background, and ASMSA is trying to achieve geographic diversity amongst the students across the state.

Ms. Carpenter stated that the next Preview Weekend will be the September 25-26. She indicated that 24 students can come and shadow with one of the Community Leaders on campus. Ms. Carpenter reported that, by participating in the program, students can see ahead of time what type of experiments and activities are conducted on campus.

Ms. Carpenter reported that FOCUS Weekends have been added that will target students who have an interest in medicine, computer science and the arts.

Ms. Carpenter stated that she, and new Admissions Counselor Laquilla Jones, had started the traveling season to various schools around the state.

Dr. Miller added that the Perry Initiative is an international company that deals primary in prosthetic devices and also work with NASA and do robotic devices. Dr. Miller reported that the Perry Initiative sponsors a day-long event called "The Perry Initiative" for senior-level and freshman college-level girls. Dr. Miller said she would be curious to know if they would be willing to have an event on the school's campus. Director Alderdice said that many students are aware of the program and have participated at UAMS but is not sure if the school's facilities would support the program.

5. Institutional Advancement – Vicki Hinz

Director Alderdice gave the department's report since Mrs. Hinz was absent from the meeting.

Director Alderdice reported that the total receipts for the Foundation over the last year was just shy of \$260,000 – a sizeable gain over the past several years. He stated that one of the things that had been focused on is creating endowments. Director Alderdice stated that two endowments have been added over the summer and one is in the process of being added: Computer Science Summer Research Fellowship, Murphy USA Summer Research Fellowship, and the Trustees Service Fellowship that is being spearheaded by former ASMS Trustee, Dr. Johnnie Roebuck.

A goal of \$200,000 is being set for the fiscal year. Director Alderdice stated that the golf tournament is approaching and the teams are maxed out at 36, and gross receipts are at \$36,000. To date, gifts and commitments are at \$89,555. Last year at this time, the school was at \$50,619.

Dr. Miller stated that she was surprised that the business/corporate donations are only 11.2% since corporations talk about the critical need to have STEM employees from Arkansas, and wonder why state corporations are not supporting the school.

Director Alderdice stated that he believes one of the challenges that he is faced with is that the school is looked at as a Hot Springs program. A significant donor in southwest Arkansas is focusing on their own hometown and county. He stated that it is now time to reach out and build new relationships with new organizations as the school has with the Jack Kent Cook Foundation. He stated that it is important to establish relationships with organizations that have interests that align with the institution.

Dr. Miller stated that she is going to intervene on behalf of the school with Rose Kirk, president of the Verizon Foundation, who attended a STEM Leadership Conference for K-12 teachers and is very much interested about helping the Delta region. Dr. Miller reported that she will see if Ms. Kirk will be able to help ASMSA.

6. Financial Report – JaNan Abernathy

Mrs. Abernathy reviewed her financial report to the Board. She stated that with the exception of one report, all fiscal reports have been submitted for FY15 to the UofA System office. Mrs. Abernathy gave highlights of the budget summary stating that an adjustment was made to the Education Excellence forecast. She stated that she met with the USDA auditor and

there were no findings to report. Mrs. Abernathy stated that in August \$25,000 was received in GIF money from Senator Woods.

Director Alderdice stated that he and Senator Sample met with Governor Hutchinson in July to request \$500,000 in executive General Improvement Funds but has not yet heard back on his request. He stated that should the Governor meet the financial request that has been made, the process to move toward with the CIC project will be about this time next year.

Director Alderdice stated would like to get the Governor to come to the school as often as possible. Mr. Faris concurred that the more the Governor can be on campus the better it will be for the school. Mr. Faris also suggested that if the Governor's calendar will not permit him to be at graduation, perhaps an assembly can be scheduled to have the Governor speak to the student body to highlight some of the institution's programs and the progress that has been made. Mr. Faris stated that it may be better to have him for a day at the school to give the Governor the opportunity to see what the school is achieving. Comments from the Board reiterated that it would be great to try to schedule the Governor on campus for a day, and if that did not work, to try to schedule him for graduation.

7. Parents Association – Mrs. Amanda Nall

Mrs. Nall reviewed her report with the Board. There were no questions or comments for Mrs. Nall.

8. Student Government Association – Rex Hearn

Mr. Hearn reported there was not much to report at this time since the school year just started. He stated that from August 18th to September 3rd students campaigned for Student Government Representative positions. Mr. Hearn stated that the SGA hosted a town hall meeting to discuss issues between the Residential Life staff and the student body. Mr. Hearn reported that the SGA will be having its Second Annual Training Retreat, September 18th and 19th to discuss goals and review the goals and responsibilities of SGA.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Battle congratulated Director Alderdice in doing a great job in securing Mr. Eric Jackson as speaker for last year's graduation. Mr. Alderdice stated that Mr. Jackson's remarks were very well received.

Mr. Faris stated that he is pleased with the new format of TANGENTS magazine.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Battle stated that it was time to open the floor for nominations for new officers for the year.

A motion was made by Dr. Miller and seconded by Mr. Faris to nominate Mr. Battle as Chair. Motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Faris and seconded by Ms. Xu to nominate Mrs. Hutchison as Vice Chair. Motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Faris and seconded by Mr. Watson to nominate Dr. Miller to continue as Secretary. Motion was passed unanimously.

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 Mrs. Hutchison and seconded by Mr. Watson to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 pm.

Approved as written _____ Approved as amended _____

Cynthia A. Miller
Cynthia Miller, Ph.D., Secretary

Dec. 7, 2015
(Date)