

MINUTES
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES AND THE ARTS
BOARD OF VISITORS REGULAR MEETING
December 5, 2016
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, 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, Chair
 Dr. Cynthia Miller, Secretary
 Mr. Steve Faris
 Mr. William Watson

Members Absent

Mrs. Donna Hutchison, Vice Chair
 Mr. Gary Dowdy
 Ms. Ann Xu

Ex-Officio Members Present

Ms. Rebecca Burkes, designee for Stacy Hurst, Director, Department of Arkansas Heritage
 Mary Kathryn Stein, Ed.D., designee for Johnny Key, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education
 Maria Markham, Ph.D., Director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education
 Mr. Jason Ly, President, Student Government Association

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Tom Chilton, Director, Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Division of Science and Technology
 Mrs. Tonya Roberts, President, Parents Association

Administrative Members Present

Mr. Corey Alderdice, Director
 Mrs. Ashley Smith, 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 Mr. Faris and seconded by Mr. Watson to approve the October 3, 2016, minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Director's Comments – Corey Alderdice

Director Alderdice reported that the UofA Board of Trustees granted project approval and selection of a design professional on the Creativity and Innovation Complex project. Eight firms submitted RFPs with interest in the project and the Campus Committee recommended Harris Architects of Hot Springs. The Legislature will give approval on both the funding scope and the design professional on Tuesday, December 13, and final confirmation will be on Friday, December 16. At that time, design work will begin with Harris Architects on the project. Director Alderdice stated that the architects will provide preliminary concepts when the campus reopens in January after the winter break.

Director Alderdice reported that the Oaklawn Foundation will be awarding ASMSA a \$300,000 grant toward the CIC project. The presentation of the grant will be made on December 6, and President Bobbitt will be present for the presentation. To date, Director Alderdice stated ASMSA has received \$500,000 in gifts and commitments to the project.

Director Alderdice stated that the institution is planning for year three of Coding Arkansas' Future. He reported that ASMSA will be celebrating as part of its computer science outreach the impact that the initiative is having in teacher training. Director Alderdice stated that of the 45 newly certified computer science teachers, ASMSA has played a significant role in training at least half of those licensed teachers. Director Alderdice reported that Daniel Moix will be recognized at the State Board meeting on December 8, when he will receive his Presidential Excellence in Math and Science Award.

Director Alderdice reported that the team of Will Duke and Nick Nahas has been recognized as 1 of the 48 Regional Finalists in the Siemens Competition for Math, Science and Technology, and 1 of 8 teams in the West/Midwest region this year. The team was able to conduct their research in coral reef preservation through ASMSA's Global Learning Program. It was a trip sponsored in partnership with Henderson State University during the summer of 2016. This team was also the inaugural recipient of the Murphy USA Summer Research Fellowship, which was endowed last year through gifts from an ASMSA parent and matched by Murphy USA.

Director Alderdice reported that the QuestBridge College Match is a college admissions program that works to identify high ability, low-income students to pair them with the nation's top independent colleges and universities. He stated that ASMSA had 10 seniors who were selected as finalists for that competition. Director Alderdice reported that 7 were selected for the match portion, and as of December 1, there were 3 students who had matches – two to go to Vanderbilt and one to Haverford.

Director Alderdice reported that the students competed in the Congressional App Challenge, the Governor's All-State Competition and Apps for Good, and took first place. ASMSA took 4 out of the 5 places in the competition.

2. Academic Affairs Board Report – Bob Gregory

Mr. Gregory reported that as of December 5th, ASMSA has not lost a student. He stated that the school has done a good job of helping the students understand that the transition point would be at semester. Mr. Gregory reported that the transition for the “transformational

students” has been a good experience. He stated that ASMSA has put in a College Bridge path to graduation, and the graduation requirements include a math class and a bridge to college chemistry. Since this is the first semester of the bridge experience, Mr. Gregory stated that he will be monitoring on how it impacts the students longitudinally and expects it to have a good impact on retention.

Mr. Gregory reported that the students are currently registering for their spring classes. He stated that there are 12 seniors who are National Merit Semi-finalists, and they will be notified in the spring if are named finalists.

Mr. Gregory also reported that the BEST Robotics Team had competed and qualified in the Regions, and they also won for the most robust robot.

Mr. Gregory reviewed the test schedule with the Board.

Director Alderdice also stated that the October ACT scores were in, and the class average is up to 30.3. He reported that 37 students have a 32 and higher. He stated that if their GPAs are in line, it will make them eligible for the Governor’s Distinguished Award.

3. Residential Affairs Report – William Currier

Mr. Currier highlighted several events that the students participated in. They are:

- The Winter Formal and dinner were a success.
- A trip to Garvan Woodland Gardens has been planned for 50 students to view the Christmas lights.
- Mr. Currier is interviewing candidates for the open Residential Mentor positions.

Mr. Currier stated that he will be retiring at the end of the school year. He stated that he has been at ASMSA for 10 years.

Director Alderdice acknowledged that Mr. Currier’s retirement plans were shared with the campus the previous week and the search has officially begun for the Dean of Students. He reported that the deadline to submit applications for this position is February 1.

Mr. Faris added that Mr. Currier has done an excellent job with good leadership and will be very much missed.

4. Admissions and Public Affairs – Valerie Carpenter

Ms. Carpenter stated that there are currently 174 students who have begun applications for the next school year and has received 10 completed applications to date. The deadline to apply is March 1, 2017.

Ms. Carpenter reported that she is working with the HELIX program students who took part in ASMSA’s 2016 summer experience. She stated that she is encouraging them to explore ASMSA as an option and will help getting them set up to take the ACT. The cost for these students to take the test is covered by a grant. Ms. Carpenter reported that out of the 25 students that participated in the summer program, ten students have started the application process with hopefully more to follow.

Ms. Carpenter stated that she and Mrs. Jones have wrapped up their on-the-road recruiting efforts for the school year. Ms. Carpenter reported that they have a few make-up schools that they will be visiting after receiving calls from counselors stating that they have some students who are interested in attending ASMSA.

Ms. Carpenter reported that she has been in contact with a teacher who is an ASMSA alum at one of the schools in Chicot county. Mrs. Carpenter stated that she is trying to recruit more Chicot County students for ASMSA and are working with them in completing and reviewing their applications.

5. Institutional Advancement – Vicki Hinz

Mrs. Hinz reported that 50 supporters attended the Director's Circle Luncheon. Mrs. Hinz stated that the students made their presentations and talked about fellowships that they received during the summer. The student ambassadors thanked the group for what they have personally done to help them.

Mrs. Hinz stated that as of November 18th, the gift total to the Foundation was \$111,894. As of the meeting, the total is \$131,294. Mrs. Hinz reported that she received \$15,600 from the Director's Challenge and additional funds from the Director's Luncheon bringing the total to \$20,000.

Mrs. Hinz reported that the golf tournament raised \$17,718 and has turned into a relationship-building tournament with more parents being involved in the golf activities.

Mrs. Hinz advised the Board to mark their calendars for April 28, 2017, which is the Community of Learning Luncheon that will be held at the Arlington Hotel Ballroom. Mr. Eric Jackson, General Manager of Oaklawn Jockey Club, will be the guest of honor.

Mrs. Hinz stated that she is retiring at the end of the school year 2017, but will be working part-time in Institutional Advancement.

Director Alderdice reported that he and Mrs. Hinz are working toward keeping her in a part-time capacity. He stated that Mrs. Hinz has done a great job and has made wonderful progress in raising funds for the Foundation.

6. Financial Report – Ashley Smith

Mrs. Smith stated that the first quarter reports were submitted to the University of Arkansas System office. Mrs. Smith also reported that the budget reports were also included.

Mrs. Smith stated that she and Director Alderdice have attended the Arkansas Legislative Joint Budget Committee budget hearings on November 1st, and ASMSA's proposed appropriation request was approved.

Mrs. Smith reported that ASMSA held a Benefits Fair in November. It is at the Fair that employees are encouraged to attend and speak to the various vendors on campus about their benefits.

Governor Hutchinson's proposed budget recommendation for state revenue for years 2017-2019 was released and his recommendation shows flat funding for all higher ed institutions including ASMSA.

Director Alderdice stated that the direct allocation from the legislature is approximately 15% of ASMSA's overall operating budget. He reported that he will continue to watch the EETF forecast. He stated that the sales tax collections are down about .2% so far this year and that is what the EETF portion would be allocated from. Director Alderdice stated that it would not be until March or April 2017 that he gets a sense of what the budget will be for 2017.

7. Parents Association – Mrs. Tonya Roberts

There was no report or representative from the Parents Association.

8. Student Government Association – Jason Ly

Mr. Ly reported that in October, the SGA hosted a Fall Fest for club fundraising and advertising. Mr. Ly stated that all fundraising and \$5 club entry fees went to the Village Cancer Walk for Cancer Research. Mr. Ly reported that in November the SGA focused on Spirit Week. At the end of Spirit Week, a homecoming-like dance was planned.

V. OLD BUSINESS

No old business to report.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Battle asked if anything had been done in the past for departing Board members. Mr. Alderdice stated that the usual gift to Board members has been the medallion that is given to each Board member at the time of their appointment by the Governor. Mr. Battle stated that he thought it would be a good idea for members who are leaving to receive some type of recognition for their years of service. Mr. Alderdice concurred with Mr. Battle.

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. Watson and seconded by Mr. Faris to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Approved as written ✓

Approved as amended _____

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

2/23/17
(Date)