

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

**May 9, 2016**

**5:00 p.m.**

**Amended**

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. Gary Dowdy  
 Mr. Steve Faris  
 Mr. William Watson

**Members Absent**

Mrs. Donna Hutchison, Vice Chair  
 Ms. Ann Xu

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

Mary Kathryn Stein, Ed.D.,  
 Arkansas Department of Education  
 Mr. Rex Hearn, President,  
 Student Government Association  
 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  
 Tom Chilton, Director, Arkansas Economic  
 Development Commission, Division of Science and  
 Technology  
 Mrs. Amanda Nall, 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  
 Mrs. Vicki Hinz, Director of Institutional Advancement

**Administrative Members Absent**

Mrs. Lorraine Munroe, Administrative Assistant  
 Ms. Valerie Carpenter, Director of Admissions

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Watson and seconded by Mr. Faris to approve the minutes of March 7, 2016, minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

#### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

##### 1. Director's Comments – Corey Alderdice

Director Alderdice reported that two main items needed to be addressed. The first was the Director's letter to Dr. Bobbitt regarding their meeting concerning the Creativity and Innovation Complex. Director Alderdice stated that he did receive approval to begin the solicitation for architects and contractors on the project. Director Alderdice reported he is awaiting confirmation from the General Counsel on what the financing route will be for the project. He stated that there will be a conference call meeting of the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee sometime during the summer. Director Alderdice stated he would like to get confirmation of the architects and engineers confirmed at that time. Director Alderdice reported that it does not appear financing the bond issue will come up probably until the September meeting which will begin to set the picture for ASMSA to move forward at that point. He stated, at this stage, it does appear that they are looking to tie ASMSA's request into the stadium project. Director Alderdice reported that he will go with whatever route the UA System decides. The alternative plan is an intra-campus loan that is not directly tied into the stadium bond. Clarity of answers should be known in the not-too-distant future.

Director Alderdice stated that he had expected a 1% EETF increase (\$75-80,000) for the institution. Unfortunately, he received an updated EETF forecast that projects a .01% decrease. Although that loss would not be much of an issue, it is more challenging this year as work is being done to bridge the remaining payment to Delta Student Housing on the Student Center and ramping up the CIC Project.

Director Alderdice reported that in the shared resources between the Residential program and the Outreach initiatives, efficiencies have been found in the cost of faculty in not having a separate distance faculty and a separate residential faculty. The other sizeable cost is still an uncertain picture on pension liabilities. Because of changes of Federal Accounting Principles regarding pension liabilities, ASMSA now has to expense \$91,000 a year in the budget. Director Alderdice stated that there is a 2% increase in health insurance that ASMSA will also absorb.

Director Alderdice reported that the junior class took the universal ACT in March and their average score was a 29.3 which is the best to date with one tenth of a point behind the 2016 seniors. They are on track to finish their senior year with a 30 composite average.

Director Alderdice stated that the campus is continuing to build partnerships within Japanese/American cultural exchange. He reported that he will be going to Japan with a delegation with the Japan Foundation this summer, and the Consul General has recommended ASMSA for participation in the Kakehashi Project once again. Director Alderdice stated that ASMSA has hosted students and educators from Tennoji High School in Osaka, Japan, for the past several years. A delegation of five adults and four students will be visiting both Osaka and Hanamaki where a Sister School Agreement will be signed.

Mr. Watson had asked Director Alderdice with the initial funds from the Governor what is the total amount needed for the CIC Project?

Director Alderdice responded that the total estimated project cost is approximately \$8.25 million. He stated that once the project is finished ASMSA may have some responsibility of cleanup to unify the campus spaces. Director Alderdice reported that the Governor provided



ASMSA with \$500,000 in General Improvement Funds (GIF) and will have approximately \$1 million in carry-over funds from the last two fiscal years. Director Alderdice reported that there is \$1.5 million in the appropriation bill this year toward construction. He said that there would be a much clearer picture at the end of the fiscal year.

Director Alderdice stated that the thought from the development aspect has always been to use the money on the backend to either deal with surprises or to enhance the overall quality of the facility. He reported that he does not want to piecemeal the project. Director Alderdice stated that he would like to know the amount of money the school is working with on the frontend of the project and keep the changes to a minimum.

Director Alderdice stated that Anna Beth Gorman, Executive of the Women's Foundation, will be the commencement speaker at this year's graduation. The Foundation has been a good friend of ASMSA. The institution received a grant from them two years ago that launched the #glrlscøde initiative, which has been the most popular outreach activity this year.

Mr. Faris stated Director Alderdice ask Dr. Bobbitt to consider consulting with the University of Arkansas School of Landscape and Architecture when doing the landscaping for the CIC project.

Mr. Faris also asked Director Alderdice if the new City Manager has been briefed on the City's obligation on the razing of the old hospital. Director Alderdice stated Susanne Davidson had talked to David Frasher (City Manager) specifically about ASMSA and had visited with him briefly at the Chamber DC Fly-In trip to Washington, but had not yet talked specifically about the City's obligations. Mr. Faris asked if the funding to raze the old hospital would be affected by the Majestic demolition project. Director Alderdice reported that he has to get the new CIC building built first before the institution can get out of the hospital. He explained that the CIC building replicates the programs and facilities currently in the Pine Street wing.

Mr. Faris expressed concern stating since the City is getting ready to collect bids on taking down the old Majestic Hotel, he wants to avoid a situation where the City had the money at one point to take down the hospital but because the school was not ready, the City used the money for the Majestic project instead. Mr. Faris stated the City's priority via resolution already passed, is to take down the hospital. He asked Director Alderdice to discuss the City putting money into a fund where it could be available when needed. Mr. Faris stated there have been many personality changes in City government since the original commitment was made and he wants to make sure any new City board members and employees are aware of the original commitment.

Mr. Gregory stated that last month the Leadership Hot Springs Group met with four City Councilmen, including the Mayor, and pushed the group hard on the hospital situation. Mr. Gregory stated that the Deputy City Manager, Bill Burrough, was present and they have a good understanding of the situation.

Director Alderdice introduced the incoming Student Government Association President, Jason Ly.

## 2. Academic Affairs Board Report – Bob Gregory

Mr. Gregory reported that there are 217 students as of April 20: 121 juniors and 96 seniors. Eight students have withdrawn since the last meeting. Unfortunately, several students volunteered to withdraw with pending discipline issues. Mr. Gregory reported that the institution has created a good core faculty. He reported that Dr. Mullins is retiring after many

years of service and is being replaced by Caleb Grisham. He stated that over the years the institution has brought in a great group of quality teachers to add to an already great existing staff.

As part of the NCSSS, a UK connection has been made with a group called Apps For Good, and Daniel Moix has been in charge of that connection. The first Apps For Good Festival was held and ASMSA has a Memorandum of Understanding for Apps for Good for ASMSA to be the Arkansas clearing house for their program.

Mr. Gregory stated that the summer applications for the Arts Bridge Camp, as well as the HELIX Program, are being mailed out to rising sophomores. The Arts Bridge Camp will be held from June 12-17.

Mr. Gregory reported that last year there were 36 students who participated in the HELIX Program and seven of those students were admitted to the school this year. The HELIX Program is a program for low-income delta students and is held at no cost to the students. An ACT preparation class was also offered to them which was part of a grant from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. The program will be held July 10-27.

Mr. Gregory also discussed the Japanese visit by the Osaka Science School scheduled for March 23, 2017.

Mr. Gregory also reported that eight students were recognized by the Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce Academic Excellence Awards Banquet.

Mr. Gregory stated that two students were selected to attend the MIT Beaver Works Summer Program. The program is a 4-week tuition-free residential program on the MIT campus where students interact with autonomous robots.

### 3. Residential Affairs Report – William Currier

Mr. Currier reported that the semester is going well and having a good year overall. He stated he is holding to the standards that were set at the beginning of the year. He reported the loss of the Community Developer mid-year, and a number of residential mentors stepped up to take over certain responsibilities. SLAM and Prom were successful and very well done.

Mr. Currier reported that he is preparing to interview candidates for position openings for the next school year. He stated that a great positive benefit is the 90% tuition waiver that is offered in graduate studies. Mr. Currier also reported that it is also a positive influence when students see the staff working toward a graduate degree and moving forward in their careers.

### 4. Admissions and Public Affairs – Valerie Carpenter

Due to Ms. Carpenter's absence, Director Alderdice presented the Admissions Report. Director Alderdice reported that 415 students began the applications process, 230 submitted qualified applications, and 170 students have been interviewed. He stated that 119 students have been selected and part of that number includes forecasting student withdrawals. Director Alderdice stated the new group average ACT composite is 26.2, and 41 of the 119 students qualify as low income, which is 34.5% of the incoming class at this time – a 6% jump over what the number has traditionally been in recent years, or over one-third of the incoming students.



Mr. Watson followed up on the question from the previously meeting asking about the demographic figures on the 20% increase of applicants.

Director Alderdice reported that a student is doing a FIRM project that is looking at the five to six year pre-admissions data. He stated that the information is helpful since it gives him a sense of the changes that have been made in the last couple of years as the school has shifted to the message about the concurrent core being our framework. Director Alderdice stated that there are four counties that have not been represented in the last four to five years. At the moment, there are 45 counties that are represented among the incoming class.

Director Alderdice reported that the school hosts one SEI on campus and one a month at various locations around the state as part of the school's outreach. Director Alderdice reported that an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student, who attended the SEI's four years ago, now has a turn to apply to the school. Much of the work that is done is focused on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade years and it is the SEI's that really spark interest early on.

#### 5. Institutional Advancement – Vicki Hinz

Mrs. Hinz thanked the Board for attending and supporting the ASMSA Community of Learning Luncheon that was held on April 1, 2016. She reported that the luncheon was a great success especially with the participation of the Dan Fredinburg Foundation.

Mrs. Hinz stated that the month of April was a great month receiving close to \$100,000 in donations that included the \$50,000 that was given from the Dan Fredinburg Foundation, \$23,765 from Arkansas Gives, and additional contributions made by attendees at the luncheon. Mrs. Hinz stated that the ASMSA Foundation has received \$270,600 in gifts for the current fiscal year.

Mrs. Hinz reported that the institution took four students to Washington, DC, April 11-13 and had an opportunity to visit with several Senators and Representatives. While there, Congressman Bruce Westerman gave the group a tour of the Capitol Building. One of the students applied for an internship with Congressman Westerman's office in Hot Springs and has since been called, and will be interning with his office during the summer months.

Mrs. Hinz stated that Alumni Weekend will be held May 20-21. The weekend will start on May 20<sup>th</sup> with a BBQ lunch at noon. Following lunch, alumni will interact with the students and will share information with them. An alumni and faculty reception will follow in the evening, and Mrs. Hinz informed the Board that the reception will be held at Rolando's Speakeasy if they were interested in attending.

#### 6. Financial Report – Ashley Smith

Mrs. Smith provided the Board with the quarterly report that was submitted to the System Office.

Mrs. Smith stated that a new accountant had been hired to replace her in her previous job.

Mrs. Smith stated that she has been working on and submitted the FY17 budget. She reported that the institution was expecting a 1% increase in the large portion of funding and

learned that it would remain flat. Mrs. Smith stated that she worked with Director Alderdice to make adjustments without compromising the academic components of the program.

Mrs. Smith stated that there were some changes in the retirement plan. She stated that as of July 1, 2016, the System office is now requiring all employees to contribute at least 1% of their salary, which will increase by 1% for 5 years until all employees meet a minimum contribution of 5%. Employees who contribute more than that will be matched up to 10%. Mrs. Smith also stated that employee insurance premiums will be going up 2% which the school has decided to absorb.

7. Parents Association – Mrs. Amanda Nall

There was no report or representative from the Parents Association.

8. Student Government Association – Rex Hearn

Mr. Hearn reported that in March the SGA held the annual election for the new Executive Board members. Mr. Hearn stated that two final positions have been added to the selection process – Publicist and Parliamentarian – who are now elected at the same time as the rest of the Board.

Also, Mr. Hearn stated that the Policy Committee worked on the new dress code and late night policies which were passed and will be in the Student Handbook for the next year.

The Activities Committee sponsored a Chick-Fil-A night and Domino's fundraiser to build SGA funds for next year and to fund cords for graduation. Mr. Hearn reported that the SGA plans on hosting a spirit week centered around Dolphinstock and a tournament-style competition called "Ultimate Dolphin" which is designed to provide some stress relief as final exams approach.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business to report.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

Director Alderdice reported that, looking toward the 91<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of 2017, there is an opportunity to make some updates to ASMSA's legislation which was last touched in 2003. He asked the question to the Board, as advocates for the community, what is the most appropriate relationship that a student should have with their sending school? They are not dually enrolled at least by the existing statute; the request to do the things that the home school is legally obligated to do are often points of friction in certain districts. The flip side is what is the identity of an ASMSA student? Does not being exclusively an ASMSA student give them a "mental out" as to whether or not they want to commit to the home school experience, or is there always this idea of the student feeling they exist in two worlds? Director Alderdice stated that this is one of the many questions within the legislation. He stated that he is having this discussion because of a very long conversation he had with a district about a young lady who wants to be a honor graduate at her district which is noted that students are eligible for consideration as honor graduates. But, because she did not take AP English she is not eligible for it even though she has taken the college-level Introduction to Composition and college-level Literature course. The district said it is not willing to yield on it. Director Alderdice stated that it is frustrating because



he hopes that all districts would recognize students who pursue challenging coursework. Director Alderdice asked how important is that dual relationship between the sending school and the student, or is there a better way to fray that relationship than is stated in the existing legislation?

Mr. Hearn stated that there is a sentimental desire that exists to do things with their home school especially with prom and graduation. Not necessarily a sense of community with their home school but a sense of participating with friends whom they have grown up with. They want to have that moment of graduating with them. Although Mr. Hearn's personal feelings did not coincide with other students, he stated that many students care very much about these home school activities.

Mr. Battle suggested contacting Fred Harrison, UA System General Counsel, to send a letter citing the specific statute. Director Alderdice stated that the district's Director of Legal Affairs has looked at the statute and still has denied the request from the graduate. Director Alderdice stated that his next conversation will be with the Superintendent and then with the UA System Counsel's office. Director Alderdice stated that he acts in the service of students and tells the districts that had it not been for the preparation that the students received from their sending district, the student would not be as successful at ASMSA as they are.

#### **AUDIENCE WITH INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS**

No request or comment from an individual or group.

#### **VII. 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 6:54 pm.

Approved as written \_\_\_\_\_

Approved as amended \_\_\_\_\_



Cynthia Miller, Ph.D., Secretary

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(Date)