

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

October 3, 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
 Ms. Ann Xu (via video conference)

Members Absent

Mrs. Donna Hutchison, Vice Chair
 Mr. Gary Dowdy

Ex-Officio Members Present

Ms. Rebecca Burkes, designee for Stacy Hurst, Director, Department of Arkansas Heritage
 Tom Chilton, Director, Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Division of Science and Technology
 Mr. Jason Ly, President, Student Government Association

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Maria Markham, Ph.D., designee for Brett Powell, Director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education
 Mary Kathryn Stein, Ed.D., designee for Johnny Key, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education
 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

Mrs. Munroe called the role of those who were present. Mr. Battle introduced new ex-officio members, Mr. Chilton and Mrs. Burkes, as well as the new Student Government President, Mr. Ly.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Faris and seconded by Dr. Miller to approve the May 9, 2016, amended minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Director's Comments – Corey Alderdice

Director Alderdice started the meeting by highlighting several points in his report. He stated that the institution continues to work with Dr. Bobbitt and UA System representatives on various financing packages for the construction of the Creativity and Innovation Complex. He stated that continued legal challenges prevent the institution from bonding on interest-bearing debt so the school will be unable to go that route. Director Alderdice reported that a conservative approach needs to be made to the budget for the project. Director Alderdice referred to his report that listed the amounts secured to date for the construction. He stated that there is a \$1.5 million carryover through FY16, \$500,000 from the Governor's GIF award, and additional funding sources totaling \$4.5 million. A final decision on moving forward with construction will be determined at the November Board of Trustees meeting. Director Alderdice stated that by employing an intentional annual budget, the institution's systemic building of carryover, and then support from the Governor as well as private sources, ASMSA can get to a project scope of \$5,000,000 about every 5 years or so.

Mr. Faris reported ASMSA is a high school and there is no money allocated to ASMSA from the Department of Higher Ed. Mr. Faris stated that although it is a constitutional issue, he reported that ASMSA should be entitled to some of the facilities money that high schools are receiving around the state. Mr. Faris stated that he believed it would be a good idea to talk to the legislative delegation to revisit that issue.

Director Alderdice reported that the request for qualifications for architects was posted on September 26, 2016, and various firms had until September 30 at 11:00 am to deliver documents. He stated that the System's goal is to have a minimum of five firms. There is a committee that will be meeting with those groups, and Director Alderdice intends to deliver a report to the UA Board of Trustees at their November meeting for them to select a firm. From there, ASMSA can begin the design process and would like to have a contractor selected by the January or March 2017 meeting in order to move into the construction phase. The goal is to have the facility ready by Fall 2018 that would also coincide with the 25th anniversary of the program.

Director Alderdice reported that during the month of September another ASMSA delegation went to Japan to visit with two of the partner schools. During that visit, a Sister School agreement was signed with Hanamaki Kita High School. Also during the visit, an agreement was signed with Tennoji Senior High School, a school attached to the Osaka Kyoiku University in Osaka, Japan, establishing a Global Learning Partnership. He stated that the school is in constant search for opportunities to promote the Global Learning program. Director Alderdice stated that ASMSA is in year 2 of the Japanese partnership program with the Lakeside School District. ASMSA received a \$30,000 grant from the Japan Foundation, and this will be the last year of the 2-year grant.

2. Academic Affairs Board Report – Bob Gregory

Mr. Gregory reported that there were 229 students – 121 juniors and 108 seniors – at the start of the school year, losing only one student to date.

Mr. Gregory stated that Bridge to College Algebra is now offered for the students who may not have had the preparation for college math, as well as offering a Bridge to College Chemistry.

Mr. Gregory reported that the Pathways and GLASS initiatives are doing well. He stated that Daniel Moix is doing most of the outreach. Mr. Moix has 27 schools and approximately 700 students that are participating, and he is training the teachers who are training the students. Mr. Gregory reported that Mr. Moix is piloting the new Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles Plus, in addition to the highly successful Essentials of Computer Programming Plus class.

Mr. Gregory stated that Mr. Moix, in addition to Denise Gregory, are doing a program together called #dARetocode with middle school teachers trying to get them ahead of the standards that are coming in a couple of years.

Director Alderdice interjected that Daniel Moix is one of the two recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science teaching this year. He also stated that the Governor did his computer science tour of the State to kick off the start of the academic year. Of the nine schools that he visited, three of those schools are members of our Coding Arkansas' Future cohorts.

Dr. Miller stated that the Governor this year will be attending the Computer Science Education Leadership Summit that will be held October 20 at Arkansas Tech. She reported that ASMSA's Daniel Moix and Carl Frank are busy getting the conference together.

Mr. Gregory discussed the program Accelerated Research and Entrepreneurship (ARES), which is affiliated with the NASA Tech Transfer Challenge. ASMSA is the only high school that is participating in this program. He reported that NASA is making available several patents that they have and is expecting students to go from an idea to a prototype over the course of the school year.

Mr. Gregory reported that this is the third year for the Research in the Park program with the National Park Service. He stated that the park has many requirements for training to use their facility and materials. Mr. Gregory reported that there are 12 students who are participating this year.

Mr. Gregory said there were 228 students enrolled in 834 concurrent credit classes and the average load per student is 3.7 classes.

Mr. Gregory reported that there were 12 students (11 projects) that were entered into the Siemens Competition.

Director Alderdice reported that much of the research is timed to coincide with the Science Fair in February. Science Fair is a compilation of research over a three-semester sequence. One of the benefits of the doing intensive research in the junior year is that it positions students at the NCSSS Student Conference.

Responding to Dr. Miller's question, Mr. Gregory stated that a group of 8 students under instructor Daniel Moix are doing the Congressional App Challenge.

Dr. Miller reported that the President of the Verizon Foundation is Rose Kirk who is originally from Pine Bluff, graduated from ASU with her undergraduate degrees, received her Ph.D. from Georgetown and asked Mr. Gregory if the students would like to do the Verizon App Challenge.

Director Alderdice reported that the students have decided to compete in the Congressional App Challenge, the Governor's All-State Competition and Apps for Good, an organization that came through the NCSSS.

Mr. Gregory reported that the Global Learning Program continues to be a great asset to ASMSA. Five students participated in a trip to Belize that was part of a Henderson State class and did some previous training at Lake DeGray.

Mr. Gregory stated that a Greece trip has been planned for the coming year; instructor, James Katowich is taking a group to the British Isles, and Bryan Adams will be taking a group to Quebec, Canada for three weeks.

Director Alderdice stated that over 200 ASMSA students to date have participated in the Global Learning Program over the past five years.

3. Residential Affairs Report – William Currier

Mr. Currier reported that most of the changes to date have been in personnel with some RMs moving up to new positions.

The Closet has gotten so large that now some of the clothes that have been there for some time need to be moved to Goodwill or to the Bargain Box across the street from the school.

The Residential Life staff has been working with the Library to keep it open to 10:00 p.m.

Mr. Currier reported that the summer conferences of 2016 went well and all plan to return for 2017. The Miss Arkansas Pageant, however, has been moved to Little Rock.

Mr. Currier stated that ASMSA has a new Food Service Director, Hannah Rivera. Mrs. Rivera had worked with the previous Food Service Director and is developing a good working relationship with the students, staff and faculty.

Mr. Currier reported that the security vendor has expanded and Allied Barton is now Allied Universal. Move-In Day was handled well under their direction.

4. Admissions and Public Affairs – Valerie Carpenter

Ms. Carpenter reported that 401 students started the application process with 265 students completing their applications, and 123 students were selected for admission this year. The average ACT for incoming students was 26.

As requested by the Board at the last Board meeting of May 9, Ms. Carpenter presented a breakdown by counties of students by class from 2015-2018.

Ms. Carpenter stated that a new program called “ASMSA upwARd Promise” is a new opportunity for students across the state. The program is a five-point commitment where students can apply by December 7 and if they qualify economically, they can receive a free ACT test during February 2017 provided by ASMSA.

Director Alderdice also added that he is anticipating about 40 students will take advantage of the opportunity which should approximately be a \$1,500 commitment. Director Alderdice reported that it is an easier process than in the past where one can now purchase a block of waiver codes.

Ms. Carpenter stated that the online application was set to launch on October 1 and will close on March 1, 2017, for the Class of 2019. She also listed Admission events that started September 7 going through November 17.

Director Alderdice stated that LaQuilla Jones and Valerie Carpenter are doing an incredible job in meeting students where they are in the districts at the schools during the day and know how important it is that parents are part of the conversation. He said that if Admissions can give the family a chance at a time that is convenient for them to spend an hour or two to hear about the program and ask questions, this increases the likelihood to make the commitment to come to ASMSA on a Focus/Preview weekend.

5. Institutional Advancement – Vicki Hinz

Mrs. Hinz advised the board that part of her job is to get companies and parents to contribute and get involved at events that are happening at the school. Mrs. Hinz stated that although gifts, donations and grants are very important, it is the relationships which are built that will continue to give to the school. Mrs. Hinz reported that she and the junior Ambassadors speak to the junior parents that attend the school’s first assembly of the year and advises them about how they can become involved with ASMSA. This includes the ASMSA golf tournament, hosted by the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Hinz stated that several parents stepped up and took part and sponsored a hole and brought a team to the tournament. She reported that the golf tournament has been a great way to build those relationships with the Chamber of Commerce. Having brought in approximately \$40,000 from the golf tournament, Mrs. Hinz stated that it is because the school is building those relationships that the tournament was a success.

Mrs. Hinz reported that there are 10 student Ambassadors this year who accompany her to businesses and organizations across Hot Springs so that the community can continue to see and hear from the students. This includes the Convention Center, the Chamber of Commerce, Oaklawn and others.

Mrs. Hinz reported that the ending balance of the Foundation is \$466,000 and is the first time in the Foundation history that there is \$500,000 in total assets.

Mrs. Hinz stated that the Foundation in 2017 is looking at another goal of \$200,000. Grants have already been received from the Japan Foundation. The Oaklawn Foundation has given a grant of \$5,000 which is to be used for student needs and wellness. Mrs. Hinz reported that the First Presbyterian Church which is located across the street from the school is giving Walmart gift cards for the students.

Dr. Miller asked Mrs. Hinz if students can help the Hot Springs Village residents (most are retired property owners) with technology issues.

Mrs. Hinz stated that she met with a representative from Hot Springs Village asking her how to get residents involved with the students. She reported that there may be several ways -- doing an on-line news article (in the Village newspaper, the *Village Voice*) about what the students are doing or perhaps receiving a call requesting a student to go and help. Mrs. Hinz stated that there is a fine line with what the students are doing and the time restraints that the students may have.

Mr. Faris suggested that it may be a good idea to have the residents come to the school and have students help them with their technology issues on campus. He also stated that he has found that the best way to communicate with the Village residents is through the station KVRE, the "Ask Your Neighbor" segment with host Tom Nichols.

6. Financial Report – Ashley Smith

Mrs. Smith explained the financial reports that were included in the Board packet. She stated that the campus had undergone a financial audit with good results, and the financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 were submitted to the U of A System office. Mrs. Smith reported that the FY17 Summary pages were also included in the report.

Mrs. Smith reported that there was an increase of approximately \$309,000 in EETF funds for FY17. The final funding was different than the expected flat revenue forecast at the May meeting.

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 the E-Board gave the State of the Union Address to the student body that consisted of a general overview of the SGA and the names of the E-Board members.

Mr. Ly stated that improvements to the SGA communication were enacted. He also reported in September there was an SGA retreat that newly elected floor representatives were required to attend.

A motion was made by Mr. Watson and seconded by Dr. Miller to accept approval of the Consent Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Battle commented on the success of graduation. Director Alderdice stated that the remarks made by Chairman Battle at graduation were very well received by the parents and students.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

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 7:00 pm.

Approved as written ✓

Approved as amended _____

Cynthia Miller
Cynthia Miller, Ph.D., Secretary

12/5/16
(Date)