

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

February 23, 2017

4:00 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 4:00 p.m. and welcomed all Board members.

II. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Members Present

Mr. Hayward Battle, Chair
 Dr. Cynthia Miller, Secretary
 Mr. Steve Faris

Members Absent

Mr. Gary Dowdy
 Ms. Ann Xu

Ex-Officio Members Present

Mr. Patrick Ralston, interim designee for Stacy Hurst, Director, Department of Arkansas Heritage
 Mr. Jason Ly, President, Student Government Association

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Tom Chilton, Director, Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Division of Science and Technology
 Maria Markham, Ph.D., 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 Board members who were present.

Mr. Battle discussed the resignation of Board member, Mrs. Hutchison, and a desire for the continued attendance at meetings by former Board member, Will Watson. Mr. Watson's term had expired in January and has expressed an interest to continue to serve on the Board. However, the Governor has not yet announced Mr. Watson's continued appointment or replacement.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Faris and seconded by Mr. Ly to approve the December 5, 2016, minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Institutional Advancement Board Report – Vicki Hinz

Mrs. Hinz referred to and reviewed the Foundation report that was included in the Board packet. She reported that the Foundation is close to \$185,000 in gifts and commitments to date. Mrs. Hinz stated that John Selig contacted Mrs. Hinz wanting to do an endowment for his wife, Helen Selig, (former Mayor of Hot Springs), who was a staunch ASMS supporter for being located in Hot Springs. Mr. Selig made a \$20,000 endowment in her name - The Helen Selig "Promise Kept" Endowment. The gift was matched by a family member's employer to establish the endowment at \$40,000 in her honor. The endowment will support annual grants to faculty.

Mr. Faris interjected stating that when the institution has the formal opening of the Creativity and Innovation Center, the former Directors and faculty members should be invited to showcase the accomplishments of the school. He also stated that it would be a good opportunity to do something to recognize Mrs. Selig's work and efforts in establishing the school.

Mrs. Hinz touched on some ASMSA events that were coming up. She discussed the Community of Learning Luncheon, which will be held on April 28th at the Arlington Ballroom, and will honor Oaklawn General Manager Eric Jackson. Mrs. Hinz asked the Board if they would be a table ambassador at the luncheon. She added that Mr. Jackson will be the Visionary Speaker. Also, the student projects will be displayed on the mezzanine level for viewing.

Mrs. Hinz reported that a \$1,500 Arkansas Community Foundation grant request has been made in collaboration with Lake Hamilton Middle School regarding coding. She also stated that a \$5,000 Entergy Charitable Fund submitted has been written to support a "Coding Boot Camp." Mrs. Hinz reported that ASMSA and the Confucius Institute at the University of Central Arkansas celebrated the Chinese New Year by dedicating a Confucius Classroom at ASMSA.

2. Director's Comments – Corey Alderdice

Director Alderdice reported that he has been working with Senator Sample on revising ASMSA's enabling legislation. Proposed changes to the legislation are:

- Charter School Provision – remove the charter school provision as it is unnecessary and would be regressive for the school.
- Point of Entry - Director Alderdice stated that it is not the intent for ASMSA to be ninth-through-twelfth-grade school. He stated that, on occasion, through the Admission's process the institution does interact with exceptional students that already have had accelerated opportunities in their schooling and are more than ready to take advantage of ASMSA's program. Director Alderdice stated that when those occasions arise, he would like to have the flexibility to address those students' needs. The current legislative

language specifically states eleventh and twelfth grade students. Director Alderdice reported that, at one point, ASMSA proposed special language that would allow ASMSA to explore a pilot cohort for sophomore students. The suggestion at the time was to utilize the traditional amendment process via legislation in lieu of special language.

- Since the transition from Board of Trustees to Board of Visitors, the Board has met on quarterly basis. The language needs to be changed to be in line with time currently practiced.
- Director Alderdice stated that legislation has been submitted that would open the school to international students. He stated that the peer schools in Missouri, Kansas and Maine are currently accepting international students. Director Alderdice reported that he has received interest from some international organizations that work with student services that he has rebuffed in the past, but is important to the school to consider in the future. Director Alderdice stated that the school has made investments in the global learning program and are one of the few schools in the state that offers Chinese as language for students to study. He reported that the primary interest in international student enrollment is from China. Director Alderdice also stated that it would be a great prospect to enhance the opportunity for students studying that language and also recognize that the peer schools having this program are charging in excess of \$25,000 a year to do so. He reported that investing further in our students' experiences positions them to serve leadership roles in organizations like the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. It also gives them the tools necessary in the private sector to work with global businesses. Director Alderdice stated that the revenue generated would give a consistent pathway for ASMSA's long-term facilities needs. He continued stating that it is important to have a more traditional revenue structure and it is a point where the institution would like to start.

At this juncture in the meeting, Mr. Faris asked the Chair to recognize and introduce Mr. Patrick Ralston, Director of the Arkansas Arts Council. Mr. Ralston introduced himself to the Board and stated that he would be an interim representative, replacing Rebecca Burkes, the Deputy Director and General Counsel of the Arkansas Department of Heritage.

Director Alderdice stated that he had 49 applicants for the Dean of Students position which will be narrowed down to 8 to 10 who will be interviewed via Skype. After the interviews, the candidates will be narrowed down to 3 or 4 applicants for campus visits. Director Alderdice stated that when the finalists are chosen, the Board will be advised at that time.

Director Alderdice reported that 9 candidates have expressed their interest in the Director of Institutional Advancement position. He stated that this will be a challenging position to fill and wants to select someone who is able to work with the local core constituency in Hot Springs but remains being committed as a state-wide program with friends, advocates and donors.

Director Alderdice stated that his deadline to hire a Dean of Students is June 1st, and the start of the Director of Institutional Advancement by July 1st.

3. Academic Affairs Board Report – Bob Gregory

Mr. Gregory stated that Science Fair has been all consuming and gave praise to the faculty for all their efforts in helping the students with their projects.

Mr. Gregory reported that the student count to date is 225 students – 118 juniors and 107 seniors.

He also stated that there was a special event dedicating and celebrating the new Confucius Institute Classroom. The classroom is a part of a five-year \$50,000 grant from the Confucius Institute.

Mr. Gregory reported that the Spring Break trips were ready to go with trips to Greece and the British Isles.

Mr. Gregory stated that there are 225 students taking 951 concurrent credit classes that equates to 4.25 per student.

Mr. Gregory reported the wonderful successes of students. Eight ASMSA seniors were recognized as National Merit Finalists. ASMSA's "A" team won the Dolphin Challenge, the northern Texas regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl. They advance to the NOSB competition finals to be held in Corvallis, Oregon on April 20-23rd.

4. Residential Affairs Report – William Currier

Mr. Currier reported that five hires have been made which brings the Residential Life staff to full strength.

Mr. Currier stated that his last day is July 1, 2017.

Mr. Currier reported that he met with the Food Service Director and the Food Service Committee. He stated that the students have asked for calorie counts and they can now be viewed on the items that are being served.

Mr. Currier reported that the Dean of Students Selection Committee will be interviewing the candidates but he will not participate in the process.

Mr. Currier stated that The Closet has been thinned out by giving clothes to the Bargain Bin at the Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Miller asked if the school had a transgender policy for students. Director Alderdice reported that a committee was established to look at the policies of the peer schools. A policy was developed by the committee and was reviewed by the Counsel's office at the UA System. The recommendation that was received from them was that with the current political climate to not proactively include it in our current policies, but to have it available to us should the need arise in the future.

5. Admissions and Public Affairs – Valerie Carpenter

Ms. Carpenter reported that 279 students started the application process, and 80 have completed applications to date. Two hundred sixty-one applications were still unfinished and 120 completed. The deadline for application submission is March 1st. Ms. Carpenter stated that she is working with students to ensure that they get their applications in on time.

Ms. Carpenter stated that she is attending some conferences in the coming months – Career Fair at the Academies of Jonesboro High School, AGATE Conference in Little Rock and the EAST Convention in Hot Springs. Booths will also be set up at each conference.

Ms. Carpenter reported that they have been several Admission Events that have taken place – the Online Information Session took place January 10th; Preview Day January 28th; French Focus Weekend and Online Information Session February 7th.

Director Alderdice interjected that the online information sessions have been an important part of developing recruitment tools. He stated that there has been great success in the response to the mailer that has been sent throughout the months of December and into January. Director Alderdice reported that the online session is helpful because it provides a way for the parents to enter into the discussion without having to first come to Hot Springs. He reported that the summer Admissions and Outreach programs are targeting rising sophomores. There are two camps in June – the summer’s Arts Bridge and a hybrid math and computer science camp.

6. Financial Report – Ashley Smith

Mrs. Smith included a copy of the report that is reported to the System Office on a quarterly basis, along with the internal budget report. Mrs. Smith stated that everything was on track as expected for where the school is at this point of time. Mrs. Smith referred to the architect’s meeting with the Board prior to the Board meeting and she stated that the CIC building was formally approved by the Arkansas Legislative Council on December 20, 2016.

Mrs. Smith informed the Board that the janitorial services will no longer be contracted out, and the school has created an internal department hiring its own staff to perform these services. The transition began on February 1st.

Mrs. Smith reported that several staff members will be attending the AR-NICP conference in March which will be held in Hot Springs. The conference will help staff network with purchasing officials around the state.

Mrs. Smith stated that she has not as yet received an update to the funding forecast.

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 SGA focused on the Student Handbook, and the Policy Committee focused on ideas and changes that would be brought to the committee meetings.

Mr. Ly stated that the SGA was able to start a Domino’s fundraiser where cards were sold for discounts to certain Domino locations. The fundraiser raised \$975 for SGA funds.

Mr. Ly reported that students were chosen to be part of the committee that would narrow down candidates to fill the position of the Dean of Residential Life.

A motion was made by Mr. Faris and seconded by Mr. Ly to accept approval of the Consent Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Miller expressed concern that the Parents Association has been absent from numerous meetings. Mr. Alderdice responded stating that numerous efforts have been made to contact the Parents Association representative to no avail. Mr. Alderdice reported that he has looked at the structure of the Parents Associations at some of the peer institutions and would like to explore what would be an Advisory Council with additional leadership and more accountability in how the responsibilities are handed over from year to year. Director Alderdice stated that historically the Parents Association had been very engaged in leadership and is looking at what can be put in place for accountability.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Director Alderdice stated as soon as a decision is made to file the legislation and have a bill number, he will advise the Board. He also reported he will advise the Board when Senator Sample chooses to run the bill in Committee.

Chair Battle asked the Board to be a part of the Community of Learning Luncheon on April 28th if at all possible.

Mrs. Miller stated that she is retiring after 45 years in education and moving out of state. She reported that after the May Board meeting and graduation, she will be resigning from the Board of Visitors and will send her letter to the Governor the following week.

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. Miller and seconded by Mr. Ralston to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Approved as written ✓

Approved as amended _____

Dr. Cynthia Miller
Cynthia Miller, Ph.D., Secretary

5/8/17
(Date)

ADDENDUM TO MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 23, 2017

This is an addendum to confirm and ratify the following actions that were taken during the Board of Visitors meeting held on February 23, 2017.

- The motion seconded by Jason Ly to accept approval of the Consent Agenda.
- The motion seconded by Patrick Ralston to adjourn the meeting.

The Board of Visitors voted to confirm and ratify the above referenced actions, after which the meeting adjourned.

Dr. Cynthia Miller
Cynthia Miller, Ph.D., Secretary

5/8/17
(Date)