

MINUTES
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES AND THE ARTS
BOARD OF VISITORS REGULAR MEETING
May 13, 2019
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. Barnes, 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. Timothy Barnes, Chair
 Mr. Todd West, Vice Chair
 Mr. Brian Reed, Secretary (via Zoom)
 Mr. Steve Faris
 Mr. Gary Dowdy (via Zoom)

Members Absent

Ms. Ann Xu
 Mrs. Marlene Battle

Ex-Officio Members Present

Mr. Tom Chilton, Director, Arkansas
 Economic Development Commission,
 Division of Science and Technology
 Mr. Patrick Ralston, designee for Stacy Hurst,
 Director, Department of Arkansas Heritage
 Mr. Alex Kaye, President, Student Government
 Association

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Maria Markham, Ph.D., Director,
 Arkansas Department of Higher Education

Administrative Members Present

Mr. Corey Alderdice, Director
 Mr. Bob Gregory, Dean of Academic Affairs
 Rheo Morris, Ph.D., Dean of Students
 Mrs. Ashley Smith, Director of Finance
 Mrs. Marta Collier-Youngblood, ASMSA Foundation
 Executive Director
 Mrs. Lorraine Munroe, Administrative Assistant

Administrative Members Absent

Mrs. Munroe called the role of Board members who were present, and a quorum was established.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. West and seconded by Mr. Dowdy to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2019, meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Barnes stated it was the first meeting that he has chaired for this year. He wanted to remind everyone that he had sent an email to the Board members to take the time to review the Consent Agenda prior to the meeting. He stated that he was going to have the Director highlight his report. He further stated that when the review of the Consent Agenda was complete if there were any Board members who wanted to ask some questions to the various reports, that it would be the time to do so.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Director's Comments – Corey Alderdice

Director Alderdice welcomed the Chair and members of the Board. He reported that the school was honored to invite and receive confirmation from former Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton, to serve as speaker for ASMSA's 25th Commencement at the end of the month. He reported that as First Lady of Arkansas, Mrs. Clinton worked with statewide stakeholders to convene a meeting to begin the conversation about what a school like ASMSA in Arkansas would look like. In 1995, an invitation by the Charter Class was extended to Mrs. Clinton to speak at their Commencement, but she was unable to attend and offered pre-recorded remarks to the class. Director Alderdice stated that he is happy to provide this appropriate bookend for ASMSA's Silver Anniversary. He stated that one of the points of concerns has been additional costs associated with Mrs. Clinton speaking at Commencement. Director Alderdice stated that there was no speaking fee associated with her appearance, and her travel will be paid through private funding. He reported that he did have a walk-through with the Convention Center staff on the logistics for the meeting. He stated that he would prefer members of the Board to arrive for Commencement no later than 12:45 pm.

Director Alderdice reported that the search for the Dean of Academic Affairs has been concluded. He stated that a campus search committee guided the process and received forty-three applicants for the position, and brought four finalists to campus to interview for the role. He reported that the search committee offered an enthusiastic recommendation for Stuart Flynn as the new Dean of Academic Affairs. Mr. Flynn comes to ASMSA from the Alabama School of Fine Arts and is a native Arkansan who has a passion for seeing the state move forward and brings a wealth of experience to the role. Mr. Flynn will be starting in early July.

Director Alderdice stated that budget exhibits were due to the University System office on May 1. He is awaiting an actual budget forecast from the state before the budget is finalized for the coming year. He reported that the documents that were submitted to the System office had assumed a flat forecast; however, based on the April DF&A report, he is anticipating an approximate 2% increase in EETF funding. Director Alderdice stated that he will be making some decisions about cost-of-living increases, fixed cost increases, utility services, etc. He reported that the major drop in the EETF collections over the past several months goes back to the sun-setting of the grocery tax on January 1, 2019. The tax has been one of the primary drivers for growth. He reported that although the Legislature did pass Act 822 during the session which expands the on-line sales tax, he believes it will be some time before an impact is determined.

Director Alderdice reported on two big projects on the horizon now that the CIC is complete. The first is improvements to the overall campus' ADA accessibility. He stated that he has been working with Harris Architects to get a preliminary cost estimate and study. Director Alderdice reported that presently the ADA route goes through the Chapel, Convent, out through the hospital complex, and across the skywalk to the Administration building. He stated that the route will suffice as long as said buildings are in place, but the campus will be

at the point soon that at least part of that structure is no longer serviceable for foot traffic. Harris Architecture is estimating the cost at approximately \$125,000 for the project. Director Alderdice reported that the institution did receive a capital appropriation in the Higher Ed Appropriation Act during the session, and the institution does have the spending authority specifically for that project if it is decided to pursue it in the next year.

Director Alderdice stated that the institution is still pursuing avenues for renovation of the Chapel and Convent. He stated that he has worked with Taylor-Kempkes Architects, who are located in Hot Springs and are familiar with working at preserving older structures. Director Alderdice reported that the institution has allocated \$1.5 million over a 3-year fiscal period that can go into the project. He stated that the UofA System sent a request for a one-time funding of \$1 million to the Governor from his discretionary funding. He stated that, based on conversations that he has had with the National Foundation, Director Alderdice said he believes they will rise to the occasion between a \$1 and \$1.5 million ten-year, low interest (about 2% interest loan) through their PRI initiatives if the Governor will come through with that support. He reported that it would get the institution to the estimated \$3.5 million for the project. The true benefit of that is that it allows the institution to retain the Chapel and Convent, which are the most historic and viable components of the hospital complex. Director Alderdice continued stating that the real benefit would be that it would allow the school to add an additional 24 students to the enrollment.

Director Alderdice stated that the estimate report was in a Dropbox link on the website which Chairman Barnes stated was another avenue of transparency that people have if they wish to review it.

2. Student Government Association – Alex Kaye

Mr. Kaye stated that, the Winter Formal was held at the end of the last semester that was attended by many participants and the dance was quite profitable.

Mr. Kaye stated that, in February, the SGA sponsored a Town Hall meeting alongside with the school administration. He reported that this basically gave some transparency from both sides and ended with a Q&A session. Questions were gathered beforehand and asked live during the meeting.

Mr. Kaye reported that the Student Affairs Committee had been working on performing election policies and also in passing bills pertaining to various aspects of the Handbook, and they also started to work with the Administration to implement these policies into the Student Handbook.

Mr. Kaye stated that the Mental Health Committee has been working on seeing the results of the Mental Health survey and have done some educational programs based on the results of the survey. He stated that the Committee has passed a bill on wellness days and on bullying prevention.

Mr. Kaye reported that the Food Service Committee has worked with the cafeteria staff to improve their offerings. The Committee also sold food and beverages at Dolphinstock to fundraise for the SGA.

Mr. Kaye stated that the Activities Committee sponsored a free Easter egg hunt event for the student body. The winners of the event were treated to pizza and a basket full of treats.

He stated that the SGA E-Board elections were held after a week-long campaign process. The inauguration of the new E-Board was held on April 22nd.

Chairman Barnes humorously stated that it was refreshing to know that the cafeteria and food is the number one thing with teenagers at the school. He stated that the cafeteria concerns over the last couple of years appear to have been addressed and hopefully the suggestions made will be implemented. Chairman Barnes reported that there has been a lot of student involvement and engagement. He said that it is important to step up each year on the issues that are important to the student body and the school.

V. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to report.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to report.

VII. AUDIENCE WITH INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS

Chairman Barnes stated the Board is an Advisory Board to the school and has no authority whatsoever in law to address policies or personnel issues. He stated that the Board is available to listen and support faculty, staff, and administration and do what they can do to be a good-will Board not only to the school but also to the Legislature and also to the City of Hot Springs. He reminded everyone that there is an existing governance set up with the University of Arkansas System Trustees.

(Below is a list of names and issues of the people who were present making their Public Comments to the Board. The written remarks were presented to Mrs. Munroe to be a part of the record.)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Issue</u>
Chris & Leigh Anne Ross	Residential Life/School Operations
Amy Freeman	Residential Life/Privilege Walk
Gary Washam	Residential Life
Natasha and Gary St. Martin	Concerns About the School
Meri Hickey	Comments on Not Applying
Sharon Parrett	Non-Listed
Blake Jefferson	Concerns about Discipline
Valerie Carpenter	Concerns about School
Eric Edwards (not present when called)	Food

After the comments were read, Chairman Barnes thanked those who spoke regarding the issues that they felt were important whether they were in the minority or the majority of issues. He reported that the Board is an Advisory Board and by law, the Board does not have anything to do with policy, personnel or evaluations – but the Board can and will take the comments seriously. Chairman Barnes stated that the Board has the best interests for the school. He stated that it is a unique school in how it was created and designed.

Chairman Barnes strongly encouraged the Board to attend graduation to have a time of celebration with the students and their families.


Chairman Barnes asked the Board if they had any comments. Responding, Mr. Faris stated that he had one request of the Board and asked that the remarks and tapes of the meeting be immediately transmitted to President Bobbitt at the UA System and the Chairman of the UA Board of Trustees. Mr. Faris stated that he supports what the school has done and what the Administration has done to provide a good curriculum and direction. Mr. Faris addressed the Chair stating that he believes a message needs to be sent to the Board of Trustees at the UA System Office that there needs to be an avenue of communication from the institution, other than the Board, that the Board of Trustees of the University needs to take a strong look at putting the system of communication that can fit a high school – that they can fit people who are not eighteen years of age – and they can fit an administration that many of them feel a proper chain of command or a proper chain of appeal to go through.

Board Chair, Timothy Barnes, concurred with Mr. Faris stating that if you do not stand up and define who you are and what you represent someone else will define it, and most of the time it is not a good thing. Chairman Barnes reported that in working at the Department of Education one of the issues that are tackled is the communication within state government.

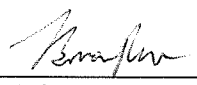
Chairman Barnes addressed the members who participated via Zoom and stated that he appreciated them calling in a being a part of the meeting. Chairman Barnes stated that he strongly urged the Board to attend the graduation ceremony on May 25th.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Mr. Faris and seconded by Mr. West to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 pm.

Approved as written 

Approved as amended _____


Mr. Brian Reed, Secretary

10-22-19

(Date)