

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

May 9, 2022

5:00 p.m.

The Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts (ASMSA) Board of Visitors met virtually via Zoom.

**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. Brian Reed, Secretary  
 Ms. Mary Alice Chambers  
 Marlene Battle ('97), Pharm.D.  
 Mrs. Mary Zunick

**Members Absent**

Mr. Todd West, Vice-Chair  
 Mr. Gary Dowdy

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

Mrs. Amy Stvartak ('11), Chair of  
 Association of Alumni and Friends

**Ex-Officio Members Absent**

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

Ms. Jennifer Fowler ('04), Director, Arkansas  
 National Science Foundation EPSCoR

Mr. Patrick Ralston, Director, Arkansas  
 Arts Council

Mrs. Krystal Nail, Program Director,  
 Division of Elementary & Secondary  
 Education Learning Services, Office  
 of Gifted and Talented Placement

Mrs. Whitney Moore, President, Governing Council

Traci French, M.D., Chair, Parents Advisory Council

Ms. Claire Green, ('22) President, Student Government  
 Association

**Administrative Members Present**

Mr. Corey Alderdice, Director  
 Stuart Flynn, J.D., Dean of Academic Affairs  
 Rheo Morris, Ph.D., Dean of Students  
 Mx. Charlene Feick, Director of Admissions  
 Sara Brown, Ph.D., Director of Institutional Advancement  
 Mrs. Whitney Moore, Director of Finance  
 Mrs. Lorraine Munroe, Administrative Assistant

**Administrative Members Absent**

### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Barnes called the meeting to order, stated that a quorum had been established, and asked for a motion to approve the March 9, 2022, minutes. Mr. Reed stated that a correction to the minutes needed to be made stating that he was Secretary and not Vice-Chair. A motion was made by Mrs. Zunick and seconded by Dr. Battle to approve the amended minutes of the March meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

### **IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATION - Student Presentation on Solar Adoption**

Director Alderdice introduced Dr. Allyn Dodd, Dr. Lindsey Waddell, and some of their students who were making a presentation on solar adoption at ASMSA. The students are in Dr. Dodd and Dr. Waddell's Environmental Science class, and the group of students have been tasked with reviewing and evaluating trends on implementing solar power into Arkansas schools and municipalities and evaluating the benefits of solar energy, which include environmental, economic, and educational opportunities. Dr. Dodd stated that there were a few components to the project that included a public awareness campaign as well as an energy audit of the school - specifically of what it would take for solar energy to meet ASMSA's needs. At this time, students Shawn Chen, Mika Brown, Sheridan Dethrow, and Claire Green made their presentation to the Board.

Mr. Barnes stated that Guy Perkins School District was the first to go solar. One of the key benefits to the school district was they were able to bank that electric power off the grid, which makes a difference dollar for dollar. Mr. Barnes also stated that Clarksville School District has solar panels that move with the direction of the sun so it gets maximum exposure every day. He agreed 100% that solar is probably something everyone needs to look at because geographically many people would benefit from the use of some type of solar power to some degree. Mr. Barnes stated that he was excited to follow-up on the project.

Members of the Board commented that the students did a great job, and their presentation was very interesting and informative.

Director Alderdice stated that he is thrilled to have the opportunity throughout this year to have showcased a variety of campus projects and initiatives that faculty, staff, and the students have been working on. He reported that Dr. Dodd is nearing the end of her first year at ASMSA and has been an incredible addition to the faculty.

Director Alderdice reported that he did visit with President Bobbitt on this topic last week. He stated that solar adoption has been one of the more interesting aspects of discussion among the Board of Trustees over the past few years. Director Alderdice said that the UA-Fayetteville project in particular that was referenced was at times outside of the comfort zone of the Board of Trustees, but the Board has worked diligently to better understand solar. He continued stating that the incredible thing about solar in particular was some of the innovations in private or third-party contracts can at times sound like it's too good to be true, and the Board is a bit weary of those promises when they hear them. Director Alderdice reported that it has taken a bit of work by the individual campuses that exploit those projects as well as the system itself to get the Board

in a comfortable place on that. He stated what he is excited to report from Dr. Bobbitt is that there is real interest in moving at the System level when it comes to solar energy production and adoption. Director Alderdice stated that the Fayetteville contract that the students have highlighted looks to be a potential model system-wide where, maybe in the not-to-distant future, the University of Arkansas System can enter into a contract with a provider to build projects in various areas of the state sufficient to meet the individual needs of the campuses, including ASMSA.

Director Alderdice reported that, at the same time on the local campus level, the design work on the new Administration Building is continuing to move forward. He stated that he has asked the architect to at least provide some preliminary numbers on what adding that to the project might include. Director Alderdice said that he did not think the roof is large enough on the building to make it a net-zero energy producer, but it is one that he continues to consider and explore as well. He stated that he thinks that there will be some bigger moves from the System, but this certainly has sparked some interest and conversations at the campus level as well.

Director Alderdice thanked the students for doing a tremendous job on sharing the information they presented. He stated that science is important not only in its research but also in having the ability to communicate and share those findings as well.

## **V. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **1. Director's Report - Corey Alderdice**

Director Alderdice reported that a draft budget had been submitted for FY23 to the UA System for approval. He reported that sales and use tax collections that make up a majority of the school's funding remains strong heading into the fiscal year and are anticipating at least a 3.9% increase in funding for next year. Director Alderdice stated that it allows ASMSA to do a few things, particularly on the front of salaries. He noted that a request has been put to ADHE for approval on a 4% merit pool for faculty and staff who are eligible, which would represent the highest year-over-year increase that has been done in the past decade. Director Alderdice reported that while that does not completely keep up with some of the current inflationary pressures, it is certainly a first step in that direction. He continued stating that funding has also been set aside for the Faculty Advancement Plan, which should be implemented January 2023. As stated in the report, Director Alderdice noted that the plan has the potential to raise individual faculty salaries by either five or ten thousand dollars against their current base. He reported that funding will be directed to capital projects particularly a roof replacement on the current Academic and Administration Building and depreciation costs have to be factored in for the renovated Chapel and Convent.

On campus facilities planning, work on the Chapel and Convent project continues along the planned timeline. There is a resolution for the Board of Trustees at the May meeting for the naming of the facilities so we can stop calling it the "former Chapel and Convent". Once it is approved by the Board later this month, then there will be an official word on the new name via a press release.

Director Alderdice reported that preliminary design work is complete on the Campus Administration Building, it is now going to the engineering design phase. He stated that he does anticipate to get the project under construction later this year and ready by early 2024. Director Alderdice reported that there are interesting conversations emerging with the City of Hot Springs as it pertains to capital needs and facilities. He said that initially a resolution considering a request to transfer a property in front of the Student Center between it and the hospital complex was on last Tuesday's agenda but was tabled. He stated that he and Dr. Sara Brown would be attending a City working meeting the next evening to visit with them and answer questions so that ASMSA can move forward. Director Alderdice reported that looking back at the original proposal of the Student Center and materials from 2010, the Assistant City Manager at the time noted that it would be at least \$10 million in capital investment beyond the Student Center to get the school out of the hospital complex. He continued stating that, as he has articulated regularly, capital projects are the school's biggest challenge; first, with the CIC; second, with the housing expansion; and third, with the new Administration Building. He reported that it leaves one minor piece for a permanent Maintenance Shop, which he should be able to decide a path for by the end of this year.

Director Alderdice called attention to the Executive Summary Report on the Stanford Challenge Success Survey. He stated that 161 ASMSA students responded to the instrument, and he has begun to sort through some of the preliminary data on it. He reported that part of the reason that he wanted to participate in this program was because there's a benchmarking cohort with members of the National Consortium of Secondary STEM schools. They are schools that are as challenging and as rigorous as ASMSA. Often looking at the national data set does not give as a robust a point of comparison. The data should become available sometime later this year. Director Alderdice reported that it was his hope to begin to dive into it this summer so he has contacted them about potentially having access to the data set on boarding schools, which include independent boarding schools.

Director Alderdice reminded the Board that Commencement is May 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 p.m. He stated that Education Secretary Johnny Key had originally been the planned Commencement Speaker; however, he had to bow out due to a surprise family obligation that came up a few weeks ago. In his place, State Representative Les Warren, who is also a member of the ASMSA Foundation Board of Ambassadors, had agreed to offer remarks.

## 2. Student Government Association – Claire Green

Ms. Green stated that many discussions had taken place in the committees, including legislation to clarify the language around free speech online as it that explains student speech and how it is described in the Student Handbook. Ms. Green reported that the Food Committee is exploring ways to better provide for dietary restrictions, especially on field trips. She also stated that the Activities Committee is planning an end-of year celebration. Ms. Green also reported that the Finance Committee approved funds for the geology and drama club.

Ms. Green stated that 6 students were elected to SGA leadership. Talana Small was elected President; Chelsea Nwankwo, Vice President; Beatrice Nkunga, Secretary; Courtland Callis, Treasurer; Ai'Yanna Tombs, Parliamentarian; and Jiya Patel, Publicist.

3. Parent Association Committee – Traci French, M.D.

Dr. French stated that the big focus of the quarter has been parent appreciation, where parents were encouraged to send thank you notes to instructors that have touched their children's lives. She reported that there were a couple of meal options for the instructors. Dr. French stated that the parents were happy that the students got to go off campus for their field trips.

4. Governing Council – Whitney Moore

Mrs. Moore reported that the Governing Council did not currently have an updated report.

5. Association for Alumni and Friends of ASMSA – Amy Stvartak

Mrs. Stvartak reported that the Association was able to host two of the on-line Pathway Speaker Series presentations. The first one was via Facebook on March 10<sup>th</sup> with Dr. Chris Shilling (Class of 1998), who spoke about his work with Google as a software engineer and his path from ASMSA to his doctorate in physics and his current position.

Mrs. Stvartak stated that the second presentation took place in person on April 7<sup>th</sup> by Ms. Jenni Floyd (Class of 1997), who discussed her training and work as a forensic chemist and her work as a Senior Firearm and Toolmark Examiner with the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory. The students thoroughly enjoyed the presentation, and it was a great event.

Mrs. Stvartak stated that the events were coordinated by Robert Bryant, Coordinator for Alumni and Community Relations, who facilitated both presentations.

Mrs. Stvartak reported that the Association is still working on Homecoming, planning on the in-person event to be held Columbus Day weekend (October 7-9, 2022). Invitations will be sent out shortly. She also stated that finals week snack baskets will be distributed to the different student floors.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Reed addressed the issue and the status of Mr. West, who was absent from the previous meeting but was nominated to continue as Vice Chair of the Board of Visitors.

Director Alderdice stated that he has not received confirmation of Mr. West's willingness to serve in that role.

Mr. Barnes stated that he would try to get confirmation to serve in that role.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Barnes stated to the Board members that have not previously attended the graduation ceremony that it is something that needed to be experienced. He reported that it is a very exciting day for the students, families, and the faculty as well. Mr. Barnes stated that he encourages everyone to attend and hopes to see everyone at the ceremony.

Mrs. Zunick acknowledged the commitment that Director Alderdice and his family make to ASMSA not just in his leadership but his philanthropic commitment as well. She stated she wanted to acknowledge how much the community appreciates the Alderdice family and all that they do for ASMSA.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Mrs. Zunick and seconded by Dr. Battle to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:51 pm.

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

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Brian Reed, Secretary

9-19-22  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)