

**MINUTES**  
**ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES, AND THE ARTS**  
**BOARD OF VISITORS REGULAR MEETING**  
**December 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 convened the Board of Visitors regular meeting into open session at 5:03 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.

**Members Absent**

Mrs. Mary Zunick  
 Mr. Gary Dowdy

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

Mrs. Krystal Nail, Program Director,  
 Division of Elementary & Secondary  
 Education Learning Services, Office  
 of Gifted and Talented Placement  
 Dr. Tom Dempster, President,  
 Governing Council  
 Dr. Kyle Day, Ph.D., Chair,  
 Parents Advisory Council  
 Ms. Talana Small, ('22) President,  
 Student Government Association

**Ex-Officio Members Absent**

Ms. Jennifer Fowler ('04), Director, Arkansas  
 National Science Foundation EPSCoR  
 Maria Markham, Ph.D., Director,  
 Arkansas Division of Higher Education  
 Mrs. Amy Stvartak ('11), Chair of  
 Association of Alumni and Friends  
 Mr. Patrick Ralston, Director, Arkansas  
 Arts Council

**Administrative Members Present**

Mr. Corey Alderdice, Director  
 Stuart Flynn, J.D., Dean of Academic Affairs  
 Rheo Morris, Ph.D., Dean of Students  
 Mr. Jason Hudnell, Interim Director of Admissions  
 Mrs. Nia Rieves, Director of Human Resources  
 & Campus Culture  
 Ms. Cara Wilsey, Administrative Assistant

**Administrative Members Absent**

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

Mr. Barnes called the meeting to order and stated that a quorum had been established. Dr. Day asked for a motion to approve the September 19, 2022, minutes. This motion was seconded by Dr. Battle. The motion was passed unanimously.

### **IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Director Alderdice welcomed and introduced Dr. Nathan Groot, the School's newest faculty member in the expanding music program. The hire of Dr. Groot has allowed ASMSA to continue the planned expansion of the music program through growth of the string ensemble. Dr. Groot thanked everyone and shared that he was really sold on ASMSA after interacting with the students on the day of his interview, noting that they really blew him away. He started his first semester taking over the string ensemble as well as some of the music classes; however, his primary goal has been growth and to challenge the students with ambitious concerts that continuously raise the level. Regarding the primary goal of growing the string ensemble, Dr. Groot reports that while ASMSA did not originally have a bass player, within his first few weeks of teaching, a student approached him and asked if she could learn bass. After weekly private lessons, this student has already been able to join and perform with Dr. Dempster's jazz ensemble and will be able to perform with the string ensemble this spring. When asked about personal opportunities to play, Dr. Groot stated that he and Dr. Dempster plan to perform for the students in the spring semester, as well as arranging for small ensemble sort of performances in the string ensemble concerts where he is able to play with his students. He reports that the students were also taken to the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra when Dr. Dempster was on stage as he feels it "makes a big difference when [the students] see their teachers doing the thing we're making them do and also hear in terms of the concerts we've had."

Members of the Board welcomed Dr. Groot and complimented the recent performances and concerts.

### **V. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Director Alderdice reported that there were some new staff members and welcomed Cara Wilsey, administrative assistant, as well as Jason Hudnell, the Interim Director of Admissions.

Director Alderdice thanked everyone who attended the Director's Circle Luncheon, stating that the final details on Selig Hall were scheduled to be completed that week. He reported that construction for the new Campus Administration building would start soon with some fencing and site prep work and that hopefully by March, the hillside beside the Student Center would be scraped away. Director Alderdice stated that this would be the last significant piece of the puzzle to get ASMSA beyond the hospital complex and hopefully allow the School to return the hospital to the City of Hot Springs in 2024.

Director Alderdice called attention to the upcoming legislative session, noting that the first ASMSA graduate, Class of 2000 alum Matt Brown, would be serving in Arkansas General Assembly. Rep.-elect Brown toured the campus in December and met with a variety of students and staff. Director Alderdice shared that Rep.-elect Brown's senior thesis, which covered the history of the old hospital, is often referenced to learn more about the history of the building. Director Alderdice stated that we look forward to having Rep.-elect Brown as an advocate in the General Assembly.

Director Alderdice reported that discussions regarding school choice vouchers were being closely followed and noted that K-12 education was expected to be one of the more significant discussions in the upcoming session.

#### **Student Government Association—Talana Small**

Ms. Small thanked the Parent's Association for the recent donation for the Winter Formal as well as the general support. She reported that SGA is currently gearing up for the spring semester Representative elections.

#### **Parent Association Committee—Kyle Day**

Dr. Day reported that despite challenges, either he or Mrs. Lammers were able to attend all functions. He stated that there has been good participation with the Parent's Advisory Council as well and that they hope to do even more in the spring.

#### **Governing Council—Dr. Tom Dempster**

Dr. Dempster reported that the Governing Council met twice, on October 6<sup>th</sup> and December 6<sup>th</sup>. Governing Council met with facilities and finance to explore ways to bring in filtered water fountains to the Academic and Administration Building. Governing Council also discussed minor changes to the Orientation Week schedule. Dr. Dempster reported that the Teaching and Learning Committee met and approved many new courses for the Spring semester and that AP credits and courses continues to be an ongoing discussion. He stated that the Governing Council has begun the mandated review of the

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

Concerning the ASMSA Foundation fund, Director Alderdice expressed concerns about a lack of progress in private giving since 2019. He noted the decreases in grant-based funding which was the primary core of donations prior to 2020. Director Alderdice stated that in the future, it is important to continue prioritizing this grant-based funding as it is vital to the Foundation's primary goal of student support. Director Alderdice also noted that the grant-based funding allows the School to test new programs and ideas, stating that most of the out-of-school enrichment programs have been piloted through private gifts and grants.

## VII. ADJOURNMENT

Approved as written ☒ Approved as amended ☐

*Brian Reed*

Mr. Brian Reed, Secretary

3-6-23

(Date)