

MINUTES
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES, AND THE ARTS
BOARD OF VISITORS REGULAR MEETING
September 19, 2022
5:00 p.m.

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Reed convened the Board of Visitors regular meeting into open session at 5:20 p.m. and welcomed all Board members.

II. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Members Present

Mr. Timothy Barnes, Chair
 Mr. Brian Reed, Secretary
 Mr. Gary Dowdy
 Ms. Mary Alice Chambers
 Marlene Battle ('97), Pharm.D.
 Mrs. Mary Zunick

Members Absent

Mr. Todd West, Vice-Chair

Ex-Officio Members Present

Mrs. Amy Stvartak ('11), Chair of
 Association of Alumni and Friends
 Mrs. Krystal Nail, Program Director,
 Division of Elementary & Secondary
 Education Learning Services, Office
 of Gifted and Talented Placement
 Dr. Tom Dempster, President, Governing Council
 Kyle Day, Ph.D., Chair, Parents Advisory Council
 Ms. Talana Small, ('22) President, Student Government
 Association

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Mr. Patrick Ralston, Director, Arkansas
 Arts Council
 Ms. Jennifer Fowler ('04), Director, Arkansas
 National Science Foundation EPSCoR
 Maria Markham, Ph.D., Director,
 Arkansas Division of Higher Education

Administrative Members Present

Mr. Corey Alderdice, Director
 Stuart Flynn, J.D., Dean of Academic Affairs
 Rheo Morris, Ph.D., Dean of Students
 Mrs. Whitney Moore, Interim Director of Finance

Administrative Members Absent

Sara Brown, Ph.D., Director of Institutional Advancement

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Reed called the meeting to order, stated that a quorum had been established, and asked for a motion to approve the May 9, 2022, minutes. Mrs. Chambers requested an amendment to the minutes to reflect the twenty-five total years that she had worked for ASMSA. A motion was made by Mrs. Chambers to approve the amended minutes and was seconded by Mr. Dowdy. The motion was passed unanimously.

IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Director Alderdice provided a brief overview of the H.E.L.I.X Prep Academy, a new initiative for ASMSA. H.E.L.I.X began as a pilot summer program in 2015 and has continued to evolve with the first cohort of students entering this school year. Director Alderdice noted that there was originally no intention to designate a specific lead for H.E.L.I.X in the Student Success Office, but that Mr. Golston has jumped in both feet first since starting with ASMSA in July. Mr. Golston works in a counselor-type role directly with the H.E.L.I.X students on things like time management, scheduling, and stress management.

At this point, students Kelvin Orduna ('25) and Abigail Dunning ('25) shared their H.E.L.I.X experiences. The students stayed on campus for one week and were able to attend courses from the humanities and STEM programs. The students also participated in activities and workshops to gain an understanding of the academic experience and expectations of ASMSA. Kelvin shared that, for students like himself who come from a small town, ASMSA will be a bridge towards college—which is something that a small-town education would not be able to accomplish. Abigail stated that she liked experiencing the campus introduction with other H.E.L.I.X students as it made the new campus less scary and helped the students to bond. Both students expressed that the H.E.L.I.X program has been a great opportunity and has allowed them to grow as a person while improving their education in a way they would not have been able to at their sending school.

Mr. Golston shared that he had a similar high school background as many of the H.E.L.I.X Twist students and so he is excited to see H.E.L.I.X continue to grow—not just as an asset to the school but to the state of Arkansas as a whole. Kelvin and Abigail opined that, while a longer amount of time would be nice, they felt that the experience did give them a true example of the ASMSA experience and an idea of what to expect as a student. Director Alderdice stated that there will be future assessments and discussions on extending the experience beyond one week, and Dean Flynn shared some of the previous discussion and rationale as to why one week and the specific classes the students attended were chosen.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Director Alderdice reported that the renovation of Selig Hall was finally nearing completion and that twenty-six students were able to move in August 13th. He stated, that despite the construction delays and other issues, the “final punch” will be Friday, September 23rd, and the final inspection

on Monday, September 26th. He stated that the renovations to the auditorium remain on track to be completed for the October 7th dedication at the annual Director's Circle Luncheon.

Regarding the ongoing campus facilities planning, Director Alderdice reported that the mandatory pre-bids for the Administration Building will be opened on Wednesday, September 21st. ASMSA will continue working with the architects to update the 2008 Campus Master Plan. Director Alderdice stated that this plan will not only set a template on what steps to take to get the school out of the old hospital building but also directs where ASMSA will grow over the course of the next decade.

Referring back to the solar energy presentation in May, Director Alderdice reported that while the University of Arkansas System has taken a broader interest in implementing solar energy across all campuses, ASMSA's savings are minimal and lower than the preferred rate currently received from Entergy. However, due to the interest and concern expressed by students, the school is continuing to work with the System and engineers assigned to the new construction projects while weighing interest with the economics. Director Alderdice stated that there will be more information regarding the adoption of solar energy as the campus improvement projects continue over the next three years.

Director Alderdice reported that fifteen faculty members have elected to pursue advancement under the new Faculty Advancement Plan. He shared some of the statewide data as well as data from the Department of Education that was used to establish the salary baseline while developing the advancement plan over the past four years. Setting this baseline proved to be a complex process as there isn't another school like ASMSA; therefore, other residential schools were considered initially before looking at two-year colleges as well as comprehensive regional universities. The length of service was another complex factor as there is a wide range of tenures at ASMSA. The current 12-year average for ASMSA is lower than expected in part due to new programs and initiatives. Director Alderdice stated that it was determined that a 15-year length of service with a Master's degree was the closest equivalent for the average ASMSA faculty member when comparing to traditional school district salaries. He reported that it will cost an estimated \$150,000 to award the fifteen faculty members pursuing advancement, raising the average faculty salary to a little over \$65,000 per year. He continued, noting that the intent behind the advancement plan has been to ensure that the salary would be equally enticing for potential faculty along with the many other benefits to teaching at the school. Director Alderdice commended the members of the advancement committee for processing the high number of applications in the accelerated cycle for the Board of Trustees. He remarked that this was a tremendous commitment by the institution and thanked everyone for making ASMSA a leader in the state and among our peer institutions.

Referring to the next report item, Director Alderdice highlighted the current issues the state faces regarding teacher recruitment and retention. He reported that while ASMSA does not have that issue, he did recently have a discussion with some in the System office regarding how ASMSA could bridge the gap. After a brief overview of the school's history, Director Alderdice stated that he also shared how ASMSA is using the STEM Pathways initiative as an example; there will be

further discussion in the next meeting, but Director Alderdice reported that ASMSA set an enrollment record, with 2,100 students served in FY22. He further noted that preliminary numbers are showing that ASMSA may serve more than 3,000 students this year. He reported that the schools have been very pleased with the terms of the STEM Pathways Program and the impact it has had on students. Director Alderdice reiterated the need to continue brainstorming for other areas where we could be of support, stating that it is always important to remember the dual mission at ASMSA—not just the residential experience for the 250 students living on campus but also how we strive to improve education statewide.

Director Alderdice then welcomed Nia Rieves to the Campus Leadership team. Mrs. Rieves is now serving as the Director of Human Resources and Campus Culture after being promoted from Human Resource Manager. Mrs. Rieves stated that she looks forward to getting to know everyone on the Board and working with them in the future.

Dean Flynn next introduced the two new Associate Deans. Dr. Brian Monson, who has been teaching at the school over 20 years, will be serving as Associate Dean for STEM, and Dr. Thomas Dempster will serve as Associate Dean for Arts and Humanities. Dean Flynn noted the importance of having teachers with Dr. Monson's level of knowledge and experience as the curriculum evolves and stated that they could not have chosen two better people for the job than Drs. Dempster and Monson. Dean Flynn notes that this first year as Associate Deans has been about faculty support and improvement while also looking critically at the school's academic programs. Dr. Monson and Dr. Dempster will also be working closely with the recently revamped Scholar Development Office, a partnership that he hopes will build a process that results in very clear strategies for the students to maximize internship and/or research opportunities, work service openings, and creative scheduling, among other things, all so that students will get the very best out of the school and vice versa so that they are in the best position when starting the college application process.

Concerning the residential staff, Dr. Morris reported that that she has recently hired an Assistant Dean, Dr. Colin Jno-Finn. Alexander Anderson was also hired as Residential Experience Coordinator, and Kat Allen and Kenzie Glass for the Residential Mentors positions. Allen and Glass are both ASMSA alumnae, graduating in 2017 and 2018, respectively. Dr. Morris also stated that they have begun to simplify some of the systems and reduce paperwork and paper usage with the recent adoption of the Reach Student Life Management software. The check in/out process was the first to be integrated into Reach, but Dr. Morris stated that they are hoping to work on the anticipated absence forms next.

In Dr. Brown's absence, Director Alderdice stated that the Institutional Advancement Office is currently working on the Fall Golf Classic that will be September 30th and the Selig Hall dedication on October 7th. He reported that Dr. Brown has also been working with Rob Bryant, the Coordinator for Alumni and Community Relations, to prepare for Homecoming, which will be in-person.

Student Government Association—Talana Small

Newly elected president Talana Small reported that she, her board, and her executive officers are getting comfortable while figuring out their roles and how to approach governing the student body. She also stated that they hope to make this year a lot more functional than what she's observed the last two years with a general goal to increase involvement, activity, and productivity within the SGA. She reported that they recently had a representative retreat and that the new representatives are learning the mechanics of bill writing as well as what is expected of them as representatives. Ms. Small stated that previous years demonstrated issues with the representatives not listening to those they're representing, but she is hopeful that the new representatives will act as better lines of communication between the Student Government Association and student body.

Parent Association Committee—Kyle Day

Mr. Day stated that he is honored to be serving this year as co-chair of the Parent's Advisory Council with Mrs. Kelly Lammers. He reported that they are trying to help faculty and are encouraging parents to get involved with current activities, such as playing in the upcoming golf tournament. Mr. Day also reported that they are looking at creating some fundraising activities to support the faculty.

Association for Alumni and Friends of ASMSA—Amy Stvartak

Mrs. Stvartak reported that Homecoming is a big thing for the Association currently, with lots of work being done with Mr. Bryant, the Foundation, and Dr. Brown. She enthused that Dr. Brown, Mr. Bryant, and the Foundation have put together a fantastic set of events and states that everyone should come check it out.

Governing Council—Dr. Tom Dempster

Dr. Dempster stated that the Governing Council was unable to have a General Assembly last spring which delayed the election of the president until August 31st. Dr. Patrycja Krakowiak was elected as President in the August General Assembly. Dr. Dempster reports that the first Governing Council meeting is set for October 6th and that the Council is beginning to set the agenda for that meeting. Dr. Dempster also stated that they are attempting to establish a regular schedule to meet three times a semester and hold a General Assembly the week of fall break.

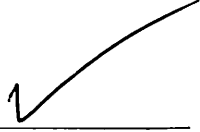
VI. OLD BUSINESS

Director Alderdice reported that Mr. West had not confirmed his willingness to continue as Vice-Chair of the Board of Visitors. Director Alderdice made a request that the Board select a new Vice-Chair. Upon a vote of the Board, Dr. Marlene Battle ('97) was named Vice-Chair.

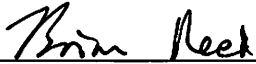
VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Mr. Dowdy and seconded by Mr. Reed to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 pm.

Approved as written



Approved as amended



Mr. Brian Reed, Secretary



(Date)