

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

**June 2, 2023**

**1:00 p.m.**

Following communication and a poll regarding availability of appointed members, the Board of Visitors met in person on Friday, June 2, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. to further discuss the designated duties of the Board of Visitors as articulated in ASMSA's enabling legislation.

Board members participating were: Mr. Timothy Barnes, Chair; Dr. Marlene Battle, Vice Chair; Mr. Brian Reed, Secretary; Mr. Todd West, Ms. Mary Alice Chambers, and Mrs. Mary Zunick. Ex-Officio members in attendance were Mrs. Krystal Nail, Mr. Patrick Ralston, and Mrs. Amy Stvartak.

Also in attendance and discussion were the following ASMSA administrators: Corey Alderdice, Director; Nia Rieves, Director of Human Resources and Campus Culture; Jason Hudnell, Director of Admissions; Whitney Moore, Director of Finance; Stuart Flynn, Dean of Academic Affairs; Rheo Morris, Dean of Students; and Cara Wilsey, Administrative Assistant.

Director Alderdice referred to the attached memo sent prior to the meeting listing the six areas of assistance and support; these areas were identified as:

- A. Assist in securing financial support for the school;
- B. Advise the administrator of the school and the president and the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas regarding the educational, service, and financial needs of the school;
- C. Accept and execute specific assignments made by the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas and the president;
- D. Keep informed on those matters that are necessary to promote the education aims of the school for the benefit of the students;
- E. Study in detail the reports and issues placed before it by the Board of Trustees of University of Arkansas; and;
- F. Promote in diverse ways the growth and development in excellence of the school and the University of Arkansas in general.

Regarding point A—specifically the first bullet point suggesting advocacy for ASMSA to receive per-pupil funding to mirror the RSA (Revenue Stabilization Act)—the Board asked for clarification on the current sources and amounts of funding; members also stated that the information on the website isn't up to date but were advised of the unified UA System reports and their location on the website. Director Alderdice and Mrs. Moore presented a brief overview, and discussion followed on how these sources would be impacted were the school to move to the per-pupil funding. Mrs. Moore stated that the current funding shouldn't be abandoned were ASMSA to receive per-pupil funding, but the RSA could mirror per-pupil while Educational Excellence Trust Funds (EETF) would support campus operations, facilities, the residential experience, and other components of ASMSA's specialized mission. Concerning the following bullet points

involving the Board of Visitors members utilizing their status as Governor-appointed officials to advocate for capital, private, and corporate funding, the Board stated that they would like more direction on where to go, what to promote, and how much to ask for. The Board also noted that more input and communication from the ASMSA Foundation Board and the Institutional Advancement office would be beneficial. Director Alderdice suggested exploring designated seats on the Foundation Fund Board of Ambassadors for one or two members of the Board.

In discussion of point B, the Board proposed to send their top five focus points to Dr. Bobbitt after communicating with senior leadership at ASMSA. Mr. Reed made the distinction between solicited and unsolicited advice and noted that the Board would need more communication and direction about the School's needs to avoid unsolicited advice. Further questions followed to specify what advice the Board could provide.

On the subject of accepting and executing specific assignments from the Board of Trustees and Dr. Bobbitt (point C), Board members asked about communication between the Board of Visitors and the UA System, specifically if there have been conversations between the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees and the ASMSA Board of Visitors historically. Director Alderdice clarified that, as defined in the enabling legislation, he acts as the conduit between the Board of Visitors and the Board of Trustees through communicating any issues to Dr. Bobbitt, who then passes that information to the Board of Trustees. Mr. West opined that there should be an annual discussion between the Board of Visitors and the Board of Trustees detailing what the Board of Visitors needs to be working on, and that he felt the Board of Trustees could have more direct communication and engagement with the Board of Visitors. Director Alderdice remarked that Dr. Bobbitt had mentioned possibly attending a regular Board of Visitors meeting once a year. Mr. Reed noted that while the meetings have been positive and productive, he would like to hear more on areas for improvement and where the Board can help.

In regards to a direct question bulleted under point D asking whether the Special Presentations currently showcased in each meeting should have a greater emphasis and if there were other topics that would better inspire and engage the group, the Board all agreed that they liked the academic presentations in the meetings, but noted that they could interact more with students. A monthly reminder email with upcoming events was suggested so that the Board would be able to attend more student events.

Concerning point E and the reports and issues placed before the Board, Board members are currently emailed a packet containing the Quarterly Report, previous meeting minutes, and agenda to look over well in advance to the meeting. The quarterly report contains updates from the Director, Admissions & Outreach, Institutional Advancement, Human Resources & Campus Culture, Academic Affairs, Student Life, and the SGA to provide the Board with a comprehensive overview of the campus activities, priorities, and successes. Mr. Barnes reminded the Board that it is important to review these packets beforehand so that any issues or concerns can be addressed in the meeting.

There were no specific actions or discussion of point F.

