

**MINUTES**  
**ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES, AND THE ARTS**  
**BOARD OF VISITORS REGULAR MEETING**  
**December 2, 2013**  
**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. Luther Lowe, Chair, convened the Board of Visitors regular meeting into open session at 5:10 p.m. and welcomed all Board members.

**II. ESTABLISH QUORUM**

**Members Present**

Mr. Luther, Lowe, Chair  
 Mrs. Karen Garcia, Vice Chair  
 Mrs. Leigh Merry, Secretary  
 Mr. Hayward Battle  
 Mrs. Donna Casparian  
 Mrs. Donna Hutchison  
 Cynthia Miller, Ph.D.

**Members Absent**

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

Mrs. Mary Kathryn Stein, designee for Tom Kimbrell, Ph.D., Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education  
 Mr. Bryan Hernandez, President, Student Government Association  
 Mrs. Pamela Knapp Carver, President, Parents Association

**Ex-Officio Members Absent**

Ms. Marta Gwyn Collier, designee for Tim Atkinson, Ph.D., President, Arkansas Science and Technology Authority  
 Mr. Shane Broadway, Director Arkansas Department of Higher Education  
 Ms. Joy Pennington, designee for Cathie Matthews, Director, Department of Arkansas Heritage

**Administrative Members Present**

Mr. Corey Alderdice, Director  
 Mr. Bob Gregory, Interim Dean of Academic Affairs  
 Mrs. JaNan Abernathy, Director of Finance  
 Mr. William Currier, Dean of Students  
 Mr. Greg Reed, Director of Institutional Advancement  
 Mrs. Lorraine Munroe, Administrative Assistant

**Administrative Members Absent**

Mr. Chris Robbins, Dean of Distance Education and Information Technology

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mrs. Garcia and seconded by Mrs. Hutchison to approve the minutes of September 23, 2013. Motion passed unanimously.

#### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

##### 1. Director's Comments – Corey Alderdice

Director Alderdice spotlighted students' accomplishments by pointing out some of their artwork from the fall semester. In addition, some students were present from their robotics class along with instructor Nick Seward, who demonstrated a robot that was created out of cardboard. Mr. Seward also displayed and explained the 3-D printer he designed. He stated that the printer still has some bugs that need to be worked out, but he believes that at the beginning of next year students should be able to upload designs for a class or project and be able to print from the device. The name of the printer class is called Artificial Intelligence.

Mr. Alderdice congratulated Mr. Gregory on his election to the NCSSSMST Board of Directors and his appointment as Secretary of the Executive Council. Director Alderdice expressed his delight in ASMSA having continued representation in one of the key national organizations that guides the work of schools like ASMSA.

Director Alderdice also congratulated the National Achievement, National Hispanic Recognition Program and National Merit Scholarship finalists. Mr. Alderdice reported that he will find out more information on students who will move to the next phase in December or early January. He congratulated Student Government Association President, Bryan Hernandez, on his selection as a National Hispanic Scholar Finalist.

Regarding the Kakehashi Project, Mr. Alderdice reported that ASMSA hosted 25 representatives from Hanamaki Agricultural High School from Hanamaki, Japan at the end of October. This was the reciprocal exchange component of ASMSA's group that traveled to Japan this past summer. Director Alderdice stated that he has received word from Tennoji High School in Osaka, Japan that they would like to visit again this year but the group will be smaller in size than in the past. The program for the "super-science" schools had been funded from the Japanese government for the last three years; however, this year will be a gap year where the funds will not be expended until May or June 2014. They will hopefully get back on the regular, larger group cycle in 2015.

Director Alderdice provided details on the updated proposal that he plans on presenting to Commissioner Kimbrell regarding distance education. His hope is to create something that is a more germane to the core ASMSA experience that would focus on STEM education. The AP level was selected since the State has a substantial interest in Advanced Placement coursework. Because of ASMSA's concurrent core, where the focus is more on concurrent credit opportunities in the residential program, Director Alderdice believes it differentiates the two programs so as not to create confusion or overlap. The second piece of the Pathways program are the pre-AP level courses, which could be a springboard to introduce ninth and tenth graders to ASMSA. Students could elect to either continue with the Pathways program or, hopefully, choose to matriculate to ASMSA outright as residential students. Director Alderdice stated that he wants to continue to pursue the thread on the critical language component. Initially, the Arkansas GLASS (Global Language and Shared Societies Initiative) proposal was discussed during the May 2013 board meeting. The proposal focuses on Spanish, French, German and includes Mandarin, Arabic, Japanese and Russian. Director Alderdice stated that paring it down to the critical languages will put a focus on Mandarin, Arabic and Japanese. He reported that the program has the potential to

serve approximately 900 students throughout Arkansas beyond the school's core of 240 students for the pricetag of a little over \$600,000.

Mrs. Merry asked Director Alderdice what pre-AP classes he was considering. Mr. Alderdice stated biology, chemistry, physics, computer science and math.

## 2. Institutional Advancement – Greg Reed

In reviewing his report to the Board, Mr. Reed noted the launch of Givezooks!, ASMSA's use of a commercial online fundraising website for non-profit organizations. Mr. Reed suggested the Board members go online and peruse the website. Mr. Reed stated that in less than a week using the site, significant contributions have been made. He reported that the goal is not just contributions but also participation. Mr. Reed stated that when visiting the Foundation website, the Board can follow the campaign with the thermometer as the campaign progresses.

Mr. Reed reported that there were 72 participants in the ASMSA Golf Classic, raising \$11,745 in profit. Mr. Reed stated that the amount was in the ballpark of what other local golf tournament fundraisers raise. He reported that if more money is expected to be raised in the golf tournament, efforts need to be "stepped up" to do so. Mr. Reed stated that he is working with the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce to expand the Classic to a two-day event to be held at the Hot Springs Country Club for next year.

Referring to the Grant Report, Mr. Reed stated that the Blue & You Foundation Grant for wellness was not accepted and will follow-up to find out why it was not. He did state that the Elizabeth Wagner Foundation Grant has been approved.

Mr. Reed reported that *Tangents* was at the press and should be ready for distribution in the next couple of weeks. He stated that the Board should be pleased with the new format and the content of the publication.

Mr. Lowe asked Mr. Reed what the net revenue was over the 15-month period as of September 23, 2013. Mr. Lowe stated that the Foundation is sitting at \$17,680 net and was trying to understand where the *20 for 20* numbers came from. Mr. Reed stated that there was a delay in recording the contribution coming into the Foundation through the Bank of America merchant or through the Arvest accounts. Mr. Reed reported that, at times, there is a six-week delay in the U of A Foundation reporting the numbers onto the spreadsheet. Mr. Lowe referred to the "Goals" section of the *20/20 Campaign* of the Development Report and asked Mr. Reed what the numbers represented. Mr. Reed stated that the goals are based on figures that the Development office thought could be attained. Mr. Reed stated that there are corporations that do provide matching gifts as their pledge.

Mrs. Merry interjected by asking Mr. Reed how are donors being reached. Mr. Reed replied stating outreach is being done by email first, then Facebook, a follow-up by a second email, a letter campaign and then phone calls. Mr. Reed reported that the Ambassadors are working to locate and identify the emails and addresses of missing alumni. Mr. Reed reviewed the information on the alumni form that requests updated information and also what their experience was at ASMSA.

Mr. Lowe asked how many people filled out the updated form. Mr. Reed said to date twelve people filled out the form. Mr. Lowe then asked how many email recipients were there and Mr.

Reed responded 800 alums. Mr. Reed stated that the alumni from the class of 1996 has been very good to respond. He stated that the Ambassadors will do a nice job gathering missing data.

Mr. Lowe asked Mr. Reed what is being done different this time that has not been done before to raise money for the Foundation. Mr. Reed stated that the Foundation is trying to make it easier for people to give. He reported that when a connection is made with an individual, direction is given to them so they can see where their donation is given according to their wishes.

Director Alderdice stated that the numbers and the goals are out there and people can see the progress as it develops and believes it inspires a competitive ethos among the individual alumni classes. He also stated there is an additional level of public accountability. On any day you can see where it stands from now until June 30, 2014, and the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Lowe stated, respectfully, to Mr. Alderdice that big numbers have been floated before and have fallen well short of those numbers. Mr. Lowe said that he has heard before that the numbers speak for themselves and should be the ultimate metric of accountability of the Institutional Advancement division. Mr. Lowe stated that it “feels like Ground Hog Day” every time he reads the reports. Mr. Lowe reported that he rejects the premise that he doesn’t know what the issues are in the Institutional Advancement department. He said at the first meeting with Mr. Reed they had a great chat and was very enthused about what was being done to activate alums and how the school is dedicating volunteers to go through the records to build a database to begin engaging in a meaningful way and have never subsequently seen the rate of contact or what percentage of the database is accurate. Mr. Reed stated that the database that Mr. Lowe was referring to is one that he did not have his hands on. However, since then, Mr. Reed stated that since he has dealt with the database much progress has been made. Mr. Reed informed Mr. Lowe that fundraising is not the only job he performs on a daily basis. Mr. Reed stated that there are several things that he has to “triage everyday in his role”. He asked Mr. Lowe to please bear with the department as it makes progress. Mr. Reed stated that he and his team are committed to making progress and that the school in the past has not had a philanthropic spirit as a whole. Mr. Reed stated that it takes time to build the momentum to find things that connect with people and to please be patient. Mr. Lowe stated “his patience level was pretty obvious.”

### 3. Financial Report – JaNan Abernathy

Mrs. Abernathy reported that quarterly reports have been submitted and year-end deadlines are coming up – W2s and updates. Mrs. Abernathy stated that the budget hearings were coming up January 14.

Mr. Lowe asked if there was anything that the Board can be doing to help the school financially. Director Alderdice responded stating that there will not be too much wiggle room in the budget. He stated that the Higher Ed Subcommittee will be meeting on December 19 and one of the main items on the docket is the ADHE scholarships of which the Governor’s Distinguished Scholarship is included in the budget. Director Alderdice reported that there are twenty five students that are eligible for the awards and probably will add a few more via the remaining October ACT scores that need to be reported as well as the December scores that will be coming in. Director Alderdice stated that last year the plan was to cut from 300 to 75 awards which would have been very detrimental to many of ASMSA’s students especially those that do wish to stay in Arkansas to continue their studies.

#### 4. Residential Affairs Report – William Currier

Mr. Currier reported that two of the residential mentors had applied for the mini-grants.

Mr. Currier reported that he has taken a look at the community service plan stating that he met with Terry Mahin and Stacey Perry regarding a Work Service Proposal deciding to go with an internal focus for juniors doing community service on campus and outward community focused program for the seniors. Mr. Currier stated that the National Park Service has been contacted to establish a program with them.

Director Alderdice reported that what Dean Currier has provided represents a starting point for an internal conversation of service learning that was sparked by the interest of Board at the September meeting. Mr. Alderdice said that he wanted to put it in the hands of the Board to think about and review it at the February meeting. Terry Mahin and Stacey Perry can join the meeting to talk about it in depth and hear the feedback from the Board on what might be some appropriate options to pursue and crystallize a more substantial plan in place for the coming academic year. Mr. Alderdice stated that the primary emphasis this year is “inward and outward.” In the first year, the students are transitioning into the program as juniors to participate in activities that ground them in the community on campus and establish connections with folks in various units outside the classroom. In the senior year, the work turns primarily outward. Mr. Alderdice stated that the programs like the Student Ambassadors and the Community Leaders are very outward facing with ASMSA’s external stakeholder groups. Mr. Alderdice reiterated that he would like to have an extended conversation with the Board not only about the work service proposal but on service learning at the February meeting.

Mr. Currier stated that the school nurse, Maliah Wernette, along with Vicki Hinz, has spearheaded a program called “The Closet” for females, and a “Tux Closet” for the males. This is for students to receive free clothing that has been donated to the school. Mr. Currier reported that the program has been extremely successful. Prom attire, winter coats and casual wear are all available to the students.

Mrs. Hutchison asked what percentage of students are free lunch students this year. Mr. Alderdice stated it was 36% based on combined waivers submitted from the individual districts and self-reported family financial data cross-referenced against the national benchmarks.

Mr. Currier reported that some residential mentors have been sent to workshops in Hot Springs. He also stated that there has never been a year where the students have had more activities than this year.

Mr. Currier stated that if a student wants to participate in Arkansas Activities Association sports, they have to play at Hot Springs High School.

#### 5. Academic Affairs Board Report – Bob Gregory

Dean Gregory reported that Abijah Kratochvil, ASMSA’s Admissions Coordinator, submitted his resignation to become Admissions Coordinator at Galveston College.

He reported that much is happening in the academic program building up the global travel program. Dean Gregory stated that Mr. McElderry’s program to Costa Rica is already full

and are working through some of the issues as the programs are developed. He stated that a group from Hanamaki, Japan visited and traveled to several sites around the state.

Dean Gregory reported that outreach continues to be very productive. He stated that SEI is always oversubscribed and SEI@Jonesboro was a great event, and he and Shane Thompson did presentations to the students.

Mr. Gregory stated that he went to the Arkansas Curriculum Conference and presented a mini-SEI to teachers and believes it will be a growth opportunity for ASMSA as professional development. He reported that science and engineering are great foundational pieces for ASMSA for getting out and involving students and teachers.

Dean Gregory stated that the first junior high Quiz Bowl took place before Thanksgiving and was very well attended. He said that eight schools competed and had more schools on the waiting list. Dean Gregory stated that once there is a comfort zone in moderating the bowls, he will be able to expand it.

Mr. Gregory reported that the first ever ASMSA Humanities Day was held on November 9th. Chinese and Spanish cultural activities were presented.

Dean Gregory stated that the SEI@Fayetteville was postponed and will be rescheduled. An SEI@Conway will be held on December 14. Dean Gregory reported that the list was full with 65 students on the waiting list.

Mrs. Hutchison asked Dean Gregory if the concurrent credit courses that the students are taking now are concurrent credit with UALR. Dean Gregory stated that the advanced general chemistry offerings are still going through National Park Community College and the remaining concurrent credit courses are through UALR. Mrs. Hutchison asked Dean Gregory if UALR is still insisting that a teacher of a concurrent credit course have a Master's degree in content area and how will it affect some of the teachers. Dean Gregory responded that a Master's degree or a minimum of eighteen hours in the subject area are required and stated that, hopefully, it will not affect any of ASMSA's teachers. Dean Gregory stated that teachers have been team-teaching courses and working together and have not had any issues at all. Mrs. Hutchison stated that she has had a few of the teachers who have spoken to her privately about their concerns for continuing employment if a Master's in a particular discipline was required.

Director Alderdice interjected stating it is where the team-teaching and shared responsibilities come into play. He stated that he is aware of their concerns but there is no intent to remove faculty who fall into the middle-ground of the content area. Mrs. Hutchison asked if the faculty was aware of that. Dean Gregory stated that he has told the faculty directly that Mrs. Hutchison referred to, and it may be that they are not hearing him, which is their choice, and has swayed their fears as best as he could. Mrs. Hutchison stated frankly that she believes it is a trust issue.

Mrs. Hutchison also asked how will the students be affected if they are applying out of state and the school that they are applying to does not accept the accrediting of ASMSA teachers. Dean Gregory stated that the transcript comes from UALR so it is not an issue with them. Dean Gregory reported that he has received several very good reports from Johns Hopkin and Agnes Scott who have accepted the courses without problem. He said that when looking at institutions like MIT and Princeton, they are not accepting credit from anywhere. They will give you placement but will still have to take 40 courses with them. The very top schools are not an issue because they are not taking anyone's credits. Dean Gregory stated that as the

students progress through the year, he is making those connections and will push the credit, but he also tells the students on the front end that individual institutions have transfer rules, and the student who is transferring in has to follow their rules. Some institutions do not want the student to get more than twelve hours walking in the door and will put a limit on it, and the students have to be aware of that.

6. Office of Distance Education and Information Technology – Chris Robbins

Since Mr. Robbins was absent, Director Alderdice presented the Office of Distance Education report. Director Alderdice stated that ODE did not receive the federal i3 Innovation Grant but is anticipating word on the USDA RUS Telemedicine Grant toward the end of the month but most likely in January 2014. Director Alderdice reported that there is discussion about reframing the i3 grant for another federal program. Director Alderdice stated it is similar to the “Race to The Top Districts” but focuses on career readiness and advanced STEM education. It is a smaller scale program than i3. i3 was between \$20M to \$30M grants. This new program, which the monies are actually coming from the Department of Labor instead of the Department of Education, offers smaller grants between \$2M and \$7M. Director Alderdice stated that Mr. Robbins believes that there may be a possibility to retool the i3 proposal, which did receive a second round entry. Director Alderdice reported that he is looking at the funding models for 2014-2015 and beginning to receive some feedback with some districts that are not overly thrilled with the move to asynchronous education and have expressed some early interest in utilizing ASMSA for next year’s distance education offerings in the districts.

7. Parents Association – Mrs. Pamela Knapp-Carver

Mrs. Carver reviewed her report to the Board. She stated that parent Amanda Nall has done an outstanding job taking over the logo ASMSA items. Also Violet Hooks is ahead of schedule on the birthday flyers, and Bill Royals is doing a fantastic job ensuring that Preview Days are staffed and parents are there to volunteer. Mrs. Carver stated that Judi Standridge will lead the committee for “Welcome Back” after the Christmas break.

Mrs. Carver stated that if there is anything she or the Parents Association can do to push the online giving or anything else to let her know.

Addressing Mrs. Carver, Mr. Lowe stated that if she had a couple of hours to review the books over the last few years and provide some input where the institution might have taken different turns would be very valuable. Mr. Lowe also stated that he thinks it is a good idea to tie-in a “parent ask” with graduation to capitalize on the opportunity when all of the parents are present.

Mrs. Merry suggested that parents be asked during the Christmas holiday to make a donation of \$20.00 to the school since it is a time of giving. Mr. Alderdice also stated that one of the members of the Parents Association proposed to the group that instead of buying a school ring that may only be worn a short period of time to instead use those funds to make a gift to the institution. Mr. Alderdice said that there is interest from the parents to make an end-of-year gift.

8. Student Government Association – Bryan Hernandez

Mr. Hernandez stated that October was a busy month for the SGA. The association sponsored Breast Cancer Awareness Week, raffled off mugs, sold ribbons and had face paintings. The proceeds amounted of \$160 and were donated to Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation.

Mrs. Casparian asked Mr. Hernandez how would the students feel about having Planned Parenthood visit the campus to discuss directly with the students about breast cancer exams and give the students more of an awareness of Planned Parenthood.

Mr. Alderdice stated that he would certainly like to see what kind of conversation they would propose.

Mrs. Casparian stated that they would gladly come and would like to do so. She stated that there is so much misinformation about Planned Parenthood services and feels that there is an audience of students who need a lot of attention. She stated that when she was a poor college student, she went to Planned Parenthood for a variety of reasons and people should understand that this service is available to them and not what some people in the legislature think of them.

Mrs. Hutchison asked if the Parents Association would be upset if it was done at night as optional attendance so a student can decline to attend if they choose. Mrs. Casparian stated that she thinks it comes under humanities and is a discussion whether you agree or disagree with anything in life, that this is a topic of discussion that any grown citizen should be aware of and deal with and should hear it directly from the people who know what they are talking about.

Mr. Currier stated that it would have to be voluntary since some students might have beliefs that would not agree with Planned Parenthood and he has to respect minors and the wishes of the parents. Mrs. Casparian said that she understands but just those people who are interested would be welcome to come to a discussion and have their questions answered. Mrs. Casparian stated that she would like to educate people better.

Mr. Lowe stated that Planned Parenthood has campus chapters and wanted to know if there was a club that works on activism to facilitate things like this. Mr. Currier stated that there was a club, HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America), that is a medical-type club that might be willing to sponsor it and the officers would have to be talked to about it.

Mrs. Casparian stated that she brought it up to the school nurse earlier on and she was very interested in it as well.

Mr. Hernandez stated that he will follow up.

Mr. Hernandez stated all the presidents of all of the clubs got together to get more members involved. He also stated that four SGA representatives participated in the Veteran's Day Parade in Hot Springs who assisted in directing traffic. Mr. Hernandez also reported that SGA passed a few policy bills.

Mr. Lowe asked Mr. Hernandez if the students were happy and his response was yes. Mr. Lowe also asked if the new facility reshaped the culture of the school. Dean Currier responded stated that it has its advantages. He stated that the lighting is a lot brighter than the old RLO, and the air quality is a huge improvement. The group of new residential mentors has been very



enthusiastic, and they have a wide spread of experience and enthusiasm. Mr. Currier stated that he thinks the students are doing things that they were not able to do before the new building was built and has been very positive for the students.

Mrs. Hutchison inquired how the library was working out now that it has been moved to the new Student Center. Dean Gregory stated that although it is a small space, the students are enjoying having it in an area where they live and working together on their projects. Mr. Alderdice reported that an investment of about \$20,000 in additional furniture to flesh out the study spaces on the second and third floor lobbies was made at the start of the fiscal year. He said that the second floor common area is really like a library annex. Mr. Currier also stated that there is the Study Center in the Pine Street Building that the students are very much enjoying.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to report.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to report.

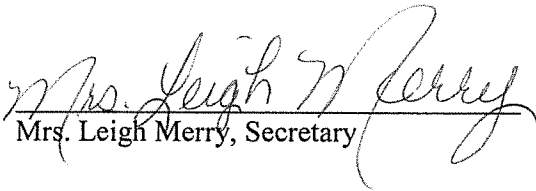
**VII. AUDIENCE WITH INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS**

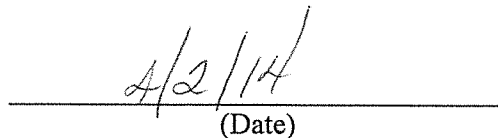
No request or comment from an individual or group.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Mr. Lowe and seconded by Mr. Battle to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 6:55p.m.

Approved as written \_\_\_\_\_ ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ Approved as amended \_\_\_\_\_

  
Mrs. Leigh Merry, Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)