

ARKANSAS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY

Minutes of the Third Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Held in the Conference Room of the Department of
Finance and Administration Building, Little Rock, AR.
Wednesday, September 21, 1983, 1 P.M.

The third meeting of the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority was held at 1:00 P.M. in the Conference Room of the Department of Finance and Administration Building.

Dr. Ron Hart presided over the meeting. The minutes of the second meeting were approved as read. Following the opening of the meeting, an executive session was called by Dr. Ron Hart and a report was given by Mr. Louis Ramsey, Dr. Joe Nix, and Dr. Hart concerning the hiring of Mr. Harper Boyd as the Director of the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority. It was reported that Mr. Boyd was interested in the activity of ASTA and he would be willing to work as a consultant with ASTA in a non pay basis but he was not a viable candidate at this time because of his heavy teaching load and other commitments. He stated that he may be a potential candidate at a later date but not at this time. Dr. Ron Hart, therefore, suggested that we needed to proceed with the search for a director.

Following the executive session, the meeting was reopened and the agenda was taken in order.

The first major item on the agenda was the need of the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority was to have an interim staff. It was felt that this was an absolute necessity and needed to be addressed at the present time as to a location for the Authority, stationery, secretarial staff, library of materials for possible distribution to contacts, furniture, the arrangement of meetings, surveying of research potentials within the state, to define the idea base within the state and for communicating with AIDC and other state organizations. To address the immediate need, Dr. Hart recommended the forming of a group composed of the officers of the board of directors to appoint an interim Deputy Director of the Authority to serve as the interim or acting director until a permanent director could be appointed. Dr. Garnett recommended that we follow the defined guidelines as laid down by the State for the appointment of this individual. It was assured that this would be done.

Dr. Louis Ramsay recommended the approval of this motion by Dr. Hart, was seconded by Dr. Elders, and was approved unanimously.

Item 2 on the agenda concerned the use of consultant funds to invite four to six individuals with large venture capital companies or in high technology industry to come and give a seminar on capitalization of such ventures, various legal aspects, and other possibilities for educating the board. Dr. Hart would like permission from the board to contact several individuals whom he met at a governor's conference who he felt would be excellent for giving the seminars and he recommended that a two day seminar be arranged to educate the board and other individuals who might be able to obtain benefits. It was suggested that the meeting be kept small and each member of the board suggest possible names of individuals to Phyllis who could be invited. Some of the suggestions for location included: Winrock International, Red Apple Inn, DeGray Lake, and the Conference Center at the Excelsior. It was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously that Dr. Hart proceed trying to organize such a conference for the earliest possible time.

Item 3 on the agenda was the hiring of a full time director. Dr. Hart suggested the establishment of a recruitment screen and selection committee for review of applicants for director. The committee members were to remain the same as on the previous committee who were charged with preparing a notice for possible hiring. This

committee was composed of Win Thompson as Chairman, Joycelyn Elders, Bill Butler, and Dr. Willingham. Dr. Hart suggested adding Mr. Louis Ramsay to this committee. This committee was to proceed with all due haste to try and hire a permanent director. Following screening, the potential candidates would be presented to the board for further consideration.

Item 4 concerns a half day meeting with our congressional delegation to educate the board as to the legislation that was taking place in Washington which may affect ASTA and to discuss how the congressional representatives may be able to help the board and to discuss some overall directions where they may be of assistance. This meeting was initiated by Congressman Beryl Anthony but it was to involve all members. The location is to be the NCTR Conference Room, October 17. The exact time is to be provided. The conference is to be primarily an informational one. This was approved unanimously.

Item 5 concerned the budget. A motion was made to amend the minutes of the last meeting to note that Dr. Joe Nix had recommended approval of the budget which had previously been submitted. It had been seconded and passed. It was agreed that the minutes would be amended to reflect this approved budget.

Win Thompson submitted a proposal that we endorse the Governor's education program. This was approved unanimously. A copy of this endorsement is enclosed with the minutes as appendix I.

James McJee Mr. Nesbitt recommended that we make sure that high technology industries know about ASTA and that we be aware that members of high tech industries may be interested in ASTA and to make sure they are informed of our activities.

Dr. Hart noted that 46 other states will have some type of science and technology initiative during the next legislative session and that we should be aware that we will have very stiff competition. Some are suggesting hiring venture capital firms to manage agency's funds, to search for the best possible use. It was also recommended that we coordinate any activities in this direction with AIDC.

Dr. Lothar Schafer gave a report on the update of video taping lectures for high schools and he reported that the UA Fayetteville is interested in producing some science and chemistry as well as physics tapes for use in high schools such as to improve the level of science and technology education by students within the state. It was noted that Dr. Lothar Schafer's recommendations were previously submitted but were not approved and the minutes should be amended to read that they were approved.

An offer was made by Mr. Haskill, of the AIDC, to provide space, desks, phones, and a conference room as well as a parking deck for the Authority. Dr. Hart recommended discussing this with the Authority before making a final decision but felt that the Authority would be very interested in this possibility.

M. Joycelyn Elders, M.D.

Appendix I

Submitted by Dr. Win Thompson

WHEREAS a substantial improvement in the educational system of Arkansas is an absolute prerequisite for the economic progress of our state, and

WHEREAS the Governor has called a special session of the Legislature to consider the educational needs of the State of Arkansas,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Board of the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority that the Board:

- (1) Applauds the Governor's initiative in improving the educational system of the state;
- (2) Urges the Legislature to implement the higher standards recommended for Arkansas public education; and
- (3) Urges the Legislature and the people of Arkansas to support the necessary increase in the taxes we pay to finance the reform and improvement of public and higher education in Arkansas.

10/3/83
HR

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1st Reg. Meeting
Hart
Miller
372-7442

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