ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OCTOBER 20, 2026
5:30 P.M.

A P P E A R A N C E S

BOARD MEMBERS:

DR. JOHN McALLISTER, Chair
MR. JERRY BELEW, Vice Chair
MR. ROBERT FAGAN

NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS:

MS. NICOLE WALSH, Superintendent
MR. PHILLIP MILLER, Parent Representative

LOCATION:

ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND
- Woolly Auditorium
2600 West Markham Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

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P R O C E E D I N G S

I. APPROVE 2027-2028 CALENDAR DRAFT

CHAIR McALLISTER: Next we have the action items. We need to approve the 2027-2028 calendar draft.

SUPT. WALSH: Thank you board.

So I am presenting the calendar, and it is quite early this year. One of the pieces of feedback we received last year was that families like time to plan ahead. They like to have the calendar set in stone and ready to go before Christmas because that's usually when they start planning for cruises and trips and all kinds of good stuff, so we wanted to honor that this year.

Basically, this calendar is relatively similar to last year's calendar. This year's was different because of the move into the new building over spring break, but we are returning to -- it is proposed that we return to a fall break that honors the ability for our staff to meet with parents and students as part of the parent-teacher conference time and then also gives time for staff to have a fall break themselves because it is important to take breaks throughout the school year. We have 184 school days that builds us in the required five plus one weather days, so we

don't have to worry if we end up with snow or ice, things of that nature. We don't have to worry about having to make up days and our hours meet that requirement as well.

Do you have any questions about the proposed calendar?

Yes, sir?

MR. BELEW: For the week of spring break, what are we going to be doing? Does that mean like equipment and things are going to be moved into the building, or what is that going to be looking like?

SUPT. WALSH: So --

MR. BELEW: Yeah.

SUPT. WALSH -- for this school year? So --

MR. BELEW: Yeah. So -- but I'm talking about next year for the new -- once the building is done, like the week before the new building, what are we going to be doing that week?

SUPT. WALSH: So for this year -- for this school year, you know, this is going to be next calendar year, spring break. But this school year -- so for this school year, spring break, we're going to be moving in. So that's going to be -- the first week is going to be -- our people are going to be putting in all of their stuff in that building. And

then the second week is going to be for the maintenance people. We're not going to have teachers or anything there that week. No, there's not going to be any teachers there the first week and then the second week they're going to be back; and then the teachers will be able to put things up in their classrooms, get everything set up; we'll go through safety trainings and those kinds of things that are required; and then after that then the students come back.

MR. BELEW: Okay. Great. Thank you.

SUPT. WALSH: So for the 27-28 school year we will return to the one-week spring break and then we have a couple days off for fall break which is great.

Any questions about next year's calendar?

(NO RESPONSE)

SUPT. WALSH: Okay.

MR. FAGAN: Mr. Chair, I move to approve the 27-28 ARDB school calendar.

CHAIR McALLISTER: Do I have a second?

MR. BELEW: I second.

CHAIR McALLISTER: All in favor?

(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

CHAIR McALLISTER: Anyone against?

SUPT. WALSH: Okay.

CHAIR McALLISTER: Anyone abstains? So moved.

The 2027-2028 calendar has been approved by the board.

(The action agenda concluded at 5:37 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARKANSAS)
) ss
COUNTY OF PULASKI)

I, Miranda McEntire, Certified Court Reporter #852, do hereby certify that the facts stated by me in the caption on the foregoing proceedings are true; and that the foregoing proceedings were reported verbatim through the use of the voice-writing method and thereafter transcribed by me or under my direct supervision to the best of my ability, taken at the time and place set out on the caption hereto.

I FURTHER CERTIFY, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or employed by the parties hereto, nor financially interested or otherwise, in the outcome of this action, and that I have no contract with the parties, attorneys, or persons with an interest in the action that affects or has a substantial tendency to affect impartiality, that requires me to relinquish control of an original deposition transcript or copies of the transcript before it is certified and delivered to the custodial attorney, or that requires me to provide any service not made available to all parties in the action.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this 23rd day of October, 2026.

MIRANDA MCENTIRE, CCR
Certified Court Reporter #852

