

DIVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE BLIND  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE

BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2013

DSB BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Sandra Edwards  
Bill Johnson  
Basil Julian  
Irma Nelson  
Terry Sheeler  
Dickie Walker

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Kara Aaron  
Harold Brewer

DSB BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Teresa Doan

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT

Jim Carey  
Larry Dickerson  
Jim Hill

DHS Representative: None

Attorney General's Office Representative: KaTina Hodge

Governor's Office Representative: None

DSB Staff Present: Kandy Cayce, Lisa Fore, Rhonda Garmon, Katy Morris, Debra Newton, Coral Virden, Cassondra Williams

**CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Mrs. Terry Sheeler called the meeting to order.**

ROLL CALL AND RECOGNITION OF QUORUM

ELECTION OF BOARD SECRETARY – Mr. Dickie Walker made a motion to re-elect Ms. Sandra Edwards as Secretary. The Board voted unanimously. Motion passed.

AMENDED REPORT AND REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE 2013 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – Mrs. Katy Morris reported that the Chair of the Employee of the Year committee, Mrs. Teresa Doan, submitted a re-calculated Employee of the Year recommendation from the committee. Mrs. Morris had explained to the board in an email that DSB had inadvertently sent forward the name of Mrs. Lisa Fore, who was two days short of the tenure needed to qualify.

When Mrs. Doan sent in her report, the redetermination named Tanya VanHouten as the committee's recommended Employee of the Year. The committee put forward the

recommendation to the board for ratification. Mr. Dickie Walker made a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Bill Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Because Mrs. Fore was ineligible for the DSB 2013 Employee of the Year for Clerical Services, there had to be a decision between Ms. Tonya Zarlingo of Fayetteville and Ms. Mary Qualls of Batesville. According to Mrs. Doan, the recommendation for the winner of the Employee of the Year for Clerical Services became Mary Qualls. Mr. Basil Julian made a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Dickie Walker seconded the motion. Motion passed.

REVIEW AND GUIDANCE OF ANY 2014 DSB BUDGET REQUEST ABOVE CURRENT AUTHORIZATION – Director Katy Morris reported on the historical underfunding of the Older Individuals Who Are Blind (OIB) program. The Older Blind Advisory committee meets immediately before the DSB board quarterly, and one of the issues that has been brought forward by the committee is that the waiting list for OIB is growing alarmingly. It has been as high as 900 individuals. Currently, it is closer to 700 because we identified some persons who had been served earlier, but who returned for additional services in the same reporting period and their names were removed as duplicates.

DHS Director John Selig asked agencies to justify critical needs to be considered by Governor Beebe for recommendation in the 2014 legislative session. The current waiting list and the escalating population of “Baby Boomers” makes it crucial that DSB seek additional general revenue funding for OIB services, to preserve the health and safety of those consumers and the quality of life for them and their families. The Older Blind Advisory Committee has recommended that DSB seek an additional \$300,000 in general revenue for the Older Blind program to address the spike in the population and reduce the waiting list for services. This will provide a 50/50 match with total available federal revenue and the \$50,000 currently reserved for OIB matching. The combined federal and state OIB program level of \$700,000 yearly will significantly reduce the waiting list.

The intent is that such funding would be separately identified in the revenue base of DSB and be a line item in DSB’s appropriation bill, so it can clearly be reserved for OIB. Mr. Dickie Walker made a motion to approve the request for the additional \$300,000 in General Revenue. The board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Edwards  
Secretary