

Minutes of the 121<sup>st</sup> Meeting  
of the Board of Directors of the  
Alabama School of Mathematics and Science  
Virtual Meeting  
Friday, February 5, 2021  
10:30 a.m.

**PRESENT** Honorable Jo Bonner, Ms. Pam Doyle, Dr. Mark Suto, Mr. John Peebles, Dr. Rhinnie Scott, Mr. Bragg Van Antwerp, Dr. Sandy Ledwell, Dr. Tony Waldrop, Dr. Lena Walton, Dr. Nicholas Giordano, Dr. Daniel Boyd, Mr. Raymond Bell, Jr., Ms. Sheila Roby, Ms. Sarah Brewer, Honorable Steve McMillan, Ms. Sharon Magee, Mr. Tyrone Fenderson and Mr. Thad Wheat.

**ABSENT** Mr. Mike Jenkins, Mr. Mark Foley, Dr. Sandra Sims de Graffenreid, and Honorable Alan Baker.

**GUESTS** Dr. John Hoyle, Mr. Robert Campbell, Ms. Kristy Gunther, Dr. Samantha Church, Ms. Cecilia Godwin, Dr. Mitch Frye, Ms. Allyson McMaken, Dr. Scarlett Studdard, Mr. Kenneth Robinson and Ms. Kara Whitney.

**OPENING** Mr. Jo Bonner, Board Chair, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Minutes from the November 20, 2020 Board of Directors meeting were presented for action. Upon a motion being made by Dr. Tony Waldrop and seconded by Dr. Daniel Boyd, the Board duly

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2020 Board of Directors meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Ms. Kristy Gunther, the Director of Finance, gave an overview of the Treasurer's report. This report represents financial activity for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of fiscal year 2021. The first quarter also includes an additional \$113, 515 in special CARES appropriation for the first payment on the renovation of the Remote Learning Center (See report page 8).

**FINANCE  
REPORT**

Ms. Gunther presented the Finance report to the Board (see page 9-13). Ms. Gunther referenced the balance sheet (see page 10), which shows a yearly comparison of funds for quarter ending December 2020. Upon a motion made by Dr. Mark Suto and seconded by Dr. Lena Walton, the Board duly

**RESOLVED** to approve the Finance Report as given.  
The motion passed unanimously.

**GENERAL  
REPORTS**

**LEGAL**

Mr. Robert Campbell presented his report to the Board. There are no lawsuits, no pending claims, or threats of claims against the school.

**ASMS REPORT**

Dr. John Hoyle, ASMS President, provided several updates to the Board. We continue to meet the challenges of COVID-19. Our students will return to in person instruction on February 22. Our instructors have become adept at offering excellent on-line instruction but look forward to returning to in-person instruction. The pandemic has forced ASMS to be creative and explore new recruiting strategies, including online advertising, virtual meetings, and open houses, and showcasing the school through a series of videos. In January, we celebrated the completion of renovations to the Remote Learning Center with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. The facility will help us during the pandemic and will also offer our students space to create and innovate. The Science Research Center, the other approved project funded through PSCA, is expected to cost \$8-9 million. The Foundation is developing a capital campaign for \$1,500, 000 (See report page 14). Alabama Power has helped us to conduct a campus-wide energy usage audit. We are anticipating the results, which will hopefully help us cut some energy costs. Giving Tuesday took place on December 1, 2020. We surpassed our goal of \$15K, raising more then \$31K from 184 donors. Dr. Hoyle discussed student mental-health issues with the Board. Students with undiagnosed mental-health issues present the most considerable challenges the school will face in the next five years. Dr. Hoyle provided some examples and listed them in his report (see report page 17). He asked the Board for their support as the school maneuvers through these types of issues.

## OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Robert Campbell, Board Legal Counsel, explained on the old business item, the ASMS Board of Directors Officers for 2020-2021. Mr. Campbell stated to the Board that the Executive Committee met and discussed electing a new Chair and Vice Chair. He stated in normal times the June meeting was the time to elect officers, but due to COVID-19 and other circumstances the process was delayed. Mr. Bonner says it has been his highest honor to serve and will remain on the board as a member. The Executive Committee met recently and nominated Mr. Steve McMillan to serve as Chair. The committee also nominated Dr. Mark Suto to continue serving as Vice Chair. Upon a motion being made by Mr. Tyrone Fenderson and seconded by Dr. Lena Walton, the Board duly

**RESOLVED** to approve the Mr. Steve McMillan as Board Chair and Dr. Mark Suto as Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Academic Calendar 2022-2023

The Board of Directors must approve the beginning and ending dates for the 2022-2023 Academic calendar. Upon a motion being made by Mr. Raymond Bell and seconded by Dr. Mark Suto, the Board duly

**RESOLVED** to approve the beginning and ending dates of the 2022-2023 academic calendar. The motion passed unanimously.

### 2021 ASMS Graduation Date

Graduation will be Thursday, May 27, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at The Hangout in Gulf Shores, Alabama. Upon a motion being made by Dr. Mark Suto and seconded by Dr. Tony Waldrop, the Board duly

**RESOLVED** to approve the graduation date as Thursday, May 27, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

### Naming the New Science Building

ASMS is excited to get the process started for the new Research Science Center. The first step is to select a name for the center. Ms. Ann Bedsole has suggested a name for consideration by the Board. The name suggestion being presented for approval is the E.O. Wilson Science Research Center. Upon a motion being made by Dr. Tony Waldrop and seconded by Mr. Alan Baker, the Board duly

**RESOLVED** to approve the naming of the new Research Science Center as the E.O. Wilson Science Research Center. The motion passed unanimously.

### Science Building Discussion

The Science building and the name was discussed by members of the Board. Ms. Sarah Brewer suggested to recommend a well-named scientist for the name of the building. Foundation Board Chair, Mr. Tyrone Fenderson, stated there may be other naming opportunities to keep in mind for the building classrooms. Mr. Bonner stated there are a lot of opportunities for different names for the rooms inside of the building.

### Outdoor Classroom Discussion

Dr. Hoyle explained the outdoor classroom to the board. About 7 years ago, Ms. Bedsole mentioned building a amphitheater/pavilion for the ASMS campus, as an outdoor classroom. Dr. Hoyle stated that when Ms. Bedsole speaks, we all listen. So here we are with plans for an outdoor classroom. Mr. John Peebles asked if we needed any assistance with the Architectural Review Board. Dr. Hoyle thanked Mr. Peebles for his willingness to help and offering advice. They plan to meet and discuss the building plans before meeting with the ARB. Discussion wrapped up and a request to approve the building of the outdoor classroom was presented. Upon a motion being made by Mr. Steve McMillan and seconded by Dr. Mark Suto, the Board duly

**RESOLVED** to approve the building of the outdoor classroom on campus. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.  
The Board of Directors will meet virtually on Friday, June 11, 2021.

Prepared by:

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(Vacant) Board Secretary

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Mrs. Cecilia Godwin  
Executive Assistant to the President