

Minutes of the 134th Meeting
of the Board of Directors of the
Alabama School of Mathematics and Science
Mobile, Alabama
Friday, June 14, 2024
10:30 a.m.

PRESENT Ms. Erin Scott, Mr. Thomas Wheat, Ms. Pam Doyle, Dr. Rhinnie Scott, Mr. John Peebles, Mr. Matt Womble, Honorable Jo Bonner, Dr. Lena Walton, Representative Matthew Simpson, Representative Alan Baker, Ms. Sheila Roby, Ms. Kesshia Davis, and Dr. Natalie Ortell.

ABSENT Dr. Sandra Sims de Graffenreid, Mr. Dennis Engle, Dr. Edward Thomas, Mr. Raymond Bell, and Ms. Sharon Magee.

GUESTS Dr. John Hoyle, Mr. Nash Campbell, Ms. Cecilia Godwin, Ms. Kristy Gunther, Dr. Samantha Church, Mr. Kevin Abel, Ms. Allyson McMaken, and Mr. Abe Harper.

OPENING Mrs. Pam Doyle welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

ROLL CALL The roll was taken and the quorum was met.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Minutes of the February 2, 2024, Board of Directors meeting were presented for action. Upon a motion being made by Mr. Jo Bonner and seconded by Mr. Matthew Simpson, the Board duly

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2024, board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER
REPORT

Ms. Kristy Gunther, the Director of Finance, presented the Treasurer's report to the Board. The Treasurer's Report represents financial activity through the 2nd quarter of fiscal year 2024. Ms. Gunther stated that revenue is higher compared to the same year, due to an increase in the ETF appropriation. During the second quarter, the school received a \$1.3M grant from the Lt. Governor's office. The funds will used to renovate dorms over the summer. There are other expenses shown on the report and an explanation for those increases (See report page 7).

FINANCE

Ms. Gunther explained the Finance report (See report pages 8 & 9). Some of the highest increases resulted from an increase in building insurance, with a 33 percent increase. Upon a motion being made by Mr. Jo Bonner and seconded by Mr. Matt Simpson, the Board duly

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

**GENERAL
REPORTS**

LEGAL

Mr. Nash Campbell stated there were no claims, threats or lawsuits against the school at this time.

ASMS REPORT

Dr. John Hoyle, President, presented the ASMS report to the Board. The Class of 2024 ended their time at ASMS with a 29 ACT average, that's 11 points above the Alabama. Six seniors were named National Merit Finalists: with two seniors being named National Merit Scholars. The class received \$10.7 million in scholarship opportunities, and they earned an average of \$136,500 in scholarships per graduate. In April, the third annual ASMS Research Forum was held, and 51 students presented 28 projects to the community. Faculty from every academic department participated as mentors, as well as faculty

members from the University of South Alabama, the University of Alabama, and even an ASMS alum at LSU. There will be changes for students in the fall as a new student center space, which will include a kitchen, will be opening in the fall. This will also help to provide additional programming opportunities on campus. The Edward O. Wilson Research Center will welcome students in August for the 2024-2025 school year. The Mincy Science building is undergoing renovations and will be ready in the fall to house History, World Languages, English, and Fine Arts classes. For more details and information in the ASMS Report, please see pages 10 through 15.

Faculty Report

Dr. Natalie Ortell, Faculty Representative to the Board, gave a brief overview of the faculty report. It's been an exciting year on campus, according to Dr. Ortell. Faculty Research Mentors Natalie Ortell, Drew Gentry and Jessica Alexander had students compete at the Regional (USA) and State (Auburn) Science and Engineering Fairs. On the regional level, multiple students won their category, and two students won statistics awards. A full list of the students is shown on report page 16. Computer Science Instructor Deborah Gray was presented with the Dr. Albert Lilly Memorial Award. The award is issued annually to recognize an Alabama teacher for delivering exceptional Computer Science instruction to K-12 students. Later this month as part of faculty outreach, there will be a SELMA STEM summer camp for 7th to 9th graders focused on STEM (See report page 16).

Legislative Report

Representative Alan Baker updated the board on the legislative front and some of the bills that passed this year. The Legislature gave final approval to the 2025 Education Trust Fund budget and a large supplemental appropriation for the current fiscal year. The \$9.3 billion education budget is the largest in nominal terms in state history. The ETF budget includes a 2% raise for teachers in October 2024. Mr. Baker says a Teachers' Bill of Rights passed during the

legislative session this year. Alabama lawmakers gave final passage to SB157, named the “Teachers’ Bill of Rights” with unanimous approval in both chambers. The Teachers’ Bill of Rights requires schools to take action when a student disrupts class to the point that the teacher sends the child out of the classroom. Mr. Baker also spoke about the House Bill 358, the Alabama Child Care Tax Credit bill. It received unanimous approval in the Alabama Senate. It addresses the critical need for accessible, affordable, and quality childcare.

NEW BUSINESS

Action Item Added: ASMS Board of Directors Meeting Dates

The Board must vote on the meeting dates for upcoming Board of Directors meetings. The item was not listed under new business. Mr. Campbell asked the board to vote to suspend the rules and add it as an action item. Upon a motion being made by Mr. Alan Baker, and seconded by Mr. Jo Bonner, the board duly

RESOLVED to add the Board of Directors meeting dates as an action item to the agenda, under New Business. The motion passed unanimously.

Board of Directors Meeting Dates

The 2024-2025 Board of Directors meeting dates are provided today in the board documents. Upon a motion being made by Mr. Alan Baker and seconded by Mr. Matt Simpson, the board duly

RESOLVED to approve the 2024-2025 Board of Directors meeting dates. The motion passed unanimously.

Student Auxiliary Proposed budget for 2024-2025

Dr. Hoyle requested the Board approve the 2024-2025 Student Auxiliary proposed budget. Upon a motion being made by Mr. Jo Bonner and seconded by Mr. Matt Simpson, the Board duly

RESOLVED to approve the Student Auxiliary proposed budget for 2024-2025. The motion passed unanimously.

New Courses for 2024-2025

When ASMS faculty members develop new courses to be taught, these must have Board approval. The new courses are listed below, and a description of the courses can be found on pages 21 and 24.

AP World History 1/2 and 2/2

AP Psychology

Networking Fundamentals

AP Precalculus Review

Introduction to Engineering

Fundamentals of Engineering

Nuclear Chemistry

Magical Realism

College Admissions Seminar

Philosophy of Science

Upon a motion being made by Mr. Alan Baker and seconded by Mr. John Peebles, the board duly

RESOLVED to approve the courses listed above beginning the fall term of the 2024-2025 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

Employee Handbook Revisions

Each year, a committee of faculty and staff, along with Human Resources and attorney Nash Campbell, review the Employee Handbook to make progressive changes and alterations that accommodate new state and federal policies and laws. Drafts of these changes were emailed to Board members last month. Upon a motion being made by Dr. Lena Walton and seconded by Mr. Alan Baker, the Board duly

RESOLVED to approve the Employee Handbook revisions. The motion passed by unanimously.

Community Standards Handbook

Each year, a committee of faculty and staff, along with Human Resources and attorney Nash Campbell, review the Student Community Standards Handbook to make progressive changes and alterations that accommodate new state and federal policies and laws. Drafts of these changes were emailed to Board members last month. Upon a motion being made by Mr. Jo Bonner and seconded by Dr. Rhinnie Scott, the Board duly

RESOLVED to approve the Employee Handbook revisions. The motion passed by unanimously.

PERSONNEL APPROVALS

(See report pages 23-24)

Employment of Residential Life Assistant

A full-time Residential Life Assistant position has been filled by hiring Jordan Bryant.

Employment of Evening School Nurse

A full-time School Nurse position has been filled by hiring Hannah Hastings.

Employment of Physics Instructor

A full-time physics instructor position has been filled by hiring Dr. Mark Byrne.

Employment of Math Instructor

A full-time math instructor position has been filled with the hiring of Helene Swanepoel.

Employment of French/Spanish Instructor

A full-time French/Spanish instructor position has been filled by hiring Suzanne Lindley.

Employment of History Instructor

A full-time history instructor position has been filled by hiring Dr. Jennifer Tellman.

Upon a motion being made by Mr. Matt Simpson and seconded by Mr. Alan Baker, the board duly

RESOLVED to approve the personnel approvals listed above. The motion passed unanimously.

**Faculty Contract
Renewals**

The contracts of the faculty members listed below are expiring at this time. The Board must act to renew these contracts (See report pages 24-26).

Faculty Contract for Dr. Elisa Rambo

Dr. Elisa Rambo, a chemistry instructor, has completed 20 years of service at ASMS. She will be renewed with another five-year faculty contract of employment, 2024-2029.

Faculty Contract for Dr. Karen Palazzini

Dr. Karen Palazzini, a history instructor, has completed a three-year faculty contract of employment. She will be renewed with a five-year faculty contract of employment at ASMS, 2024-2029.

Faculty Contract for Mr. Brian Sayler

Mr. Brian Sayler, an English instructor, has completed a three-year faculty contract of employment. This will be his first five-year contract of employment at ASMS, 2024-2029.

Faculty Contract for Mr. Andrew Gentry

Mr. Andrew Gentry, a biology instructor, has completed two years of teaching at ASMS. He will be renewed with a three-year faculty contract of employment, 2024-2029.

Faculty Contract for Ms. Charla Pacheco

Ms. Kristal Webb, a math instructor, has completed 2 years of teaching at ASMS. She will be renewed with a three-year faculty contract of employment at ASMS, 2024-2029.

Faculty Contract for Mr. Bill Brouillet

Mr. Brouillet, a Physical Education instructor, has completed another 1-year contract at ASMS. Due to Mr. Brouillet not having a master's degree, he will only be renewed for a one-year contract, 2024-2025. This is his 14th year of teaching at ASMS.

Faculty Contract for Ms. Magdalena Sage

Ms. Magdalena Sage, a Fine Arts instructor, has completed a one-year faculty contract of employment. She will be renewed with a 2nd one-year faculty contract of employment, 2024-2025.

Upon a motion being made by Mr. Alan Baker, and seconded by Mr. John Peebles, the board duly

RESOLVED to approve the faculty contract renewals listed above. The motion passed unanimously.

Retirement of Faculty Member

Dr. Diane Gerard, a history instructor, has retired. Dr. Gerard completed 22 years of service. We are thankful for her dedication at ASMS and wish her the best. Upon a motion being made by Mr. Jo Bonner and seconded by Dr. Lena Walton, the Board duly

RESOLVED to approve the retirement of Dr. Diane Gerard. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Committee Nominations

The Executive Committee would like to open the floor for nominations for board officers to serve this year. The current committee members are interested in continuing to serve for 2024-2025. The Board stated that the current members were welcome to continue serving. The executive committee is made up of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Ms. Pam Doyle serves as Chair; Mr. Thad Wheat serves as Vice-Chair; Dr. Rhinnie Scott is the secretary and Mr. John Peebles is the Treasurer. Upon a motion being made by Mr. Jo Bonner and seconded by Mr. Matt Simpson, the Board duly

RESOLVED to approve the current members (listed above) to serve as the Executive Committee for 2024-2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

Ms. Pam Doyle, Board chair, requested to enter an Executive Session to discuss a confidential matter with the board. Mr. Campbell asked for a roll call to entertain a motion to go into Executive Session. Mr. Campbell also stated under the Alabama open meetings act as amended that the purpose for Executive Session to discuss the good name of a person is an acceptable reason to go into Executive Session. Mr. Campbell asked Ms. Doyle to give an estimated time that the board would be in executive session. The estimated time was ten minutes. Mr. Campbell asked for a roll call vote. The roll call vote was called. The motion to go into Executive Session was made, seconded, and approved. All guests and the faculty representative left the room. Upon a motion made by Mr. Matt Simson and seconded by Dr. Rhinnie Scott, the Board duly

RESOLVED to enter an Executive Session to discuss a confidential matter. The motion passed unanimously.

The board reconvened the regular meeting from Executive Session at 12:43 p.m. A motion was made to approve a contract of employment incentive bonus of 10% for ASMS President, Dr. John Hoyle. Upon a motion being made by Mr. Jo Bonner and seconded by Dr. Rhinnie Scott, the Board duly

RESOLVED to approve a contract of employment incentive bonus of 10% for ASMS President, Dr. John Hoyle. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, a motion to end the meeting was made by Dr. Rhinnie Scott, seconded by Ms. Kesshia Davis and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 p.m. The next meeting will be Friday, September 13, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted by

Dr. Rhinnie Scott, Secretary

Cecilia Godwin
Infrastructure & Board Admin. Coord.