

Minutes of the 136th Meeting
of the Board of Directors of the
Alabama School of Mathematics and Science
Mobile, Alabama
Friday, November 15, 2024
10:45 a.m.

PRESENT	Ms. Elizabeth Norton, Mrs. Erin Scott, Mr. Thad Wheat, Mrs. Pam Doyle, Dr. Sandra Sims de Graffenried, Dr. Rhinnie Scott, Mr. Matt Womble, Ms. Mary Lou Ewald, Dr. John Cleary, Dr. Lena Walton, Mr. Raymond Bell, Jr., Ms. Sheila Roby, Ms. Kesshia Davis, and Dr. Natalie Ortell.
ABSENT	Mr. John Peebles, Honorable Matthew Simpson, Honorable Alan Baker, and Ms. Sharon Magee.
GUESTS	Dr. John Hoyle, Mr. Nash Campbell, Dr. Samantha Church, Mrs. Cecilia Godwin, Dr. Mitch Frye, and Ms. Kristyn Robinson.
OPENING	Mrs. Pam Doyle, Board Chair, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The roll was called, and a quorum was present.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	The minutes from the June Board of Directors meeting were presented for approval. Upon a motion being made by Mr. Matt Womble and seconded by Dr. Natalie Ortell, the board duly,

RESOLVED to approve the minutes from the June Board of Directors meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes from the September Board of Directors meeting were presented for approval. Upon a motion being made by Mr. Thad Wheat and seconded by Dr. Lena Walton, the board duly

RESOLVED to approve the minutes from the September Board of Directors meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes from the Executive Committee meeting were presented for approval. Upon a motion being made by Mr. Matt Womble and seconded by Ms. Sheila Roby, the board duly

RESOLVED to approve the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting on September 23, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Kristy Gunther, the Director of Finance, presented the Treasurer's report. This report represents financial activity through the 4th quarter of fiscal year 2024. Revenue is higher compared to last year due to \$6,000,000 in special supplemental funding as well as a \$1.3 million grant from Lt. Governor's office to assist with dorm renovations over the summer. Expenses are \$6.9M higher compared to last year due to major renovation projects that took place over the summer. At the end of the fiscal year, we're left with a favorable variance of approximately \$1.5M (see report page 19).

FINANCE REPORT

Ms. Gunther explained the Finance report to the Board. The budget for the fiscal year 2024 shows a comparison from last year. The balance sheet (see page 20) shows a yearly comparison of funds for the quarter ending. The Student Auxiliary budget is provided as well (see report pages 20-23). The board accepted the finance report as stated and provided by Ms. Gunther.

GENERAL REPORTS

LEGAL

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

Purchasing and Bidding Policies

Mr. Nash Campbell explained a purchasing and bidding policy that would need to be implemented for ASMS. This comes about following suggestions from the Alabama State Examiners audit finding. The policy is a working document but will need to have full board approval today. The Executive Committee will have authority, following board approval, to make changes to the document as needed to comply with state rules.

Upon a motion being made by Mr. Raymond Bell and seconded by Mr. Thad Wheat, the board duly

RESOLVED to approve the purchasing and bidding policy, with the authority for the executive committee to make changes as needed. The motion passed unanimously and there were no objections.

ASMS REPORT

Dr. John Hoyle, ASMS President, gave an update on the school in the Report. Niche has ranked ASMS the **#1 Best Public High School in Alabama** this year. This is a significant achievement as Niche rankings are highly regarded in the education sector. We are equally proud of our other Alabama rankings. Furthermore, we have been ranked as the #34 Best Public High School in America out of 20,000 high schools. Currently, 85 ASMS students are registered in dual enrollment courses with Bishop State. This is a significant advancement compared to previous years.

The Admissions department held its first open house on November 9, and the turnout was great. Roughly 120 prospective students and 320 visitors were on campus. The next one will take place on December 7. We're also updating the school's strategic plan, which should be ready for distribution at the February Board meeting. The focus will be

on building successes and turning challenges into opportunities. Expanding enrollment and building a new gym and dormitory on West Campus are two priorities. To view the full ASMS Report, see report pages 24-30.

**Faculty
Report**

Dr. Natalie Ortell, the faculty representative to the board, presented her report. ASMS professor Magdalena Sage defended her dissertation at the University of Mobile and earned her Doctor of Musical Arts degree. Dr. Andrew Gentry was awarded the Golden Apple Award, bringing ASMS Golden Apple winners to 4! Six students, three from Biological Research and 3 from Honors Biology I, were invited to attend the Dauphin Island Sea Lab Foundation Awards Luncheon where they were able to hear a guest lecture from renowned marine scientist Dr. Larry Madin. On the alumni front, Alum Luke Durant discovered the largest prime number known, and it has more than 41 million digits. The story was published in the Smithsonian. Luke plans to donate the \$3000 award to the math department (see report page 31).

**Executive
Committee**

The Executive Report is explained in the minutes of the meeting (see report pages 16-18).

Old Business

Old Business items shown on **pages 32-34** were approved during the Executive Committee meeting and recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Mrs. Doyle stated the action was ratified in the approved minutes.

Personnel Recommendations to Approve

Dr. Angela Kennedy, a French instructor in the World Languages department, has completed a one-year contract. She's being renewed for another one-year faculty contract of employment. Upon a motion being made by Dr. Sandra Sims de Graffenried and seconded by Mr. Matt Simpson, the board duly

RESOLVED to approve a one-year faculty contract of employment for Dr. Angela Kennedy. There were no opposes and the motion passed unanimously.

Personnel Approvals

Employment of Director of Human Resources and Operations

A vacancy for Director of Human Resources and Operations has been filled by hiring Kristyn Robinson.

Employment of Maintenance Technician

A vacancy for Maintenance Technician has been filled by hiring Adam Gaylord.

Employment of School Nurse

A vacancy for a school nurse in the evenings has been filled by hiring Stacy Polk.

Employment of PRN Front Desk Receptionist

A PRN Front Desk Receptionist position has been filled by hiring Kenesia Washington.

Employment of PRN Front Desk Receptionist

A PRN Front Desk Receptionist position has been filled by hiring Samantha Howell-Poole.

Employment of PRN Custodian

A PRN Custodian position has been filled by hiring Linda Mitchell.

Upon a motion being made by Dr. Sandra Sims de Graffenried and seconded by Dr. Rhinnie Scott, the board duly

RESOLVED to approve the six new hirings listed above (see pages 36-37). The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Graduation

Graduation will be Saturday, May 17, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at the Alabama Cruise Terminal.

Academic Calendar

The Board of Directors must approve the beginning and ending dates for the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar.

February Board of Directors Meeting Date

The Alabama Legislative session begins in early February 2025. As requested by board members at the September meeting, the February Board of Directors meeting will be moved to Thursday, February 6, 2025. The meeting will be at the Alabama Association of School Boards in Montgomery.

Upon a motion being made by Dr. Rhinnie Scott and seconded by Mr. Raymond Bell, the board duly

RESOLVED to approve the new business listed above (see page 38). The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.
The Board of Directors will meet on Thursday, February 6, 2025, in Montgomery.

Prepared by:

Dr. Rhinnie Scott
Board Secretary

Mrs. Cecilia Godwin
Board Administration Coordinator