Minutes of the 137th Meeting
of the Board of Directors of the
Alabama School of Mathematics and Science
Montgomery, Alabama
Wednesday, February 5, 2025
9:30 a.m.

PRESENT Ms. Elizabeth Norton, Ms. Erin Scott, Mr. Thad Wheat, Ms. Pam Doyle, Dr. Sandra Sims de Graffenried, Mr. John Peebles, Dr. Edward Thomas, Ms. Anna Fincher, Dr. Lena Walton, Mr. Raymond Bell, Jr., Ms. Sheila Roby, Ms. Kesshia Davis, and Dr. Natalie Ortell.

ABSENT Dr. Rhinnie Scott, Ms. Angela Martin, Mr. Matt Womble, Representative Matthew Simpson, Representative Alan Baker, and Ms. Sharon Magee.

GUESTS Dr. John Hoyle, Mr. Nash Campbell, Dr. Samantha Church, Mrs. Cecilia Godwin, Ms. Allyson McMaken, Mr. Reynolds Surral, and Ms. Eliska Morgan.

OPENING Ms. Pam Doyle, Board Chair, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the November 2024 Board of Directors meetings were presented for action. Upon a motion being made by Dr. Natalie Ortell and seconded by Dr. Lena Walton, the Board duly

> **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes from the November 2024 Board of Directors meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dr. John Hoyle presented to the Treasurer's report, in absence of Ms. Kristy Gunther. This report represents financial activity for the 1st quarter of fiscal year 2025. Overall expenses are about $677K higher compared to the prior year. This is due to an increase in our ETF appropriation as well as an increase in the salary reimbursement from the Foundation. The utility expense is now $36K higher than last year due to the addition of the new Science Research Center. Repairs and maintenance costs are higher following roof replacement projects. Dr. Hoyle talked about the need for more funding to build a new residence hall on West Campus. The facility would house about 80 to 100 beds. We are asking for financial support from the state to help build the dormitory. The cost is estimated between $3 to $6 million (see full report page 9).

FINANCE REPORT

Dr. Hoyle explained the Finance report to the Board. The Education Trust Fund and the Student Auxiliary reports discussed. There were no questions regarding the finance reports. The board accepted the reports as stated. Upon a motion being made by Dr. Sandra Sims de-Graffenried and seconded by Dr. Edward Thomas, the board duly

> **RESOLVED** to accept the finance report as given.
> There were no objections.

GENERAL REPORTS

LEGAL

Mr. Nash Campbell presented the legal counsel report. As stated by Mr. Campbell, there are currently no lawsuits, no pending claims, or threats of claims against the school. The school is in good shape currently.

ASMS REPORT

Dr. John Hoyle, ASMS President, provided several updates to the Board. Reports were considered as read due to Advocacy Day at the Alabama State House immediately following the board meeting. Dr. Hoyle highlighted a few items in the report. Niche has ranked ASMS as the #1 Best Public High School in Alabama. This is a significant achievement as Niche rankings are highly regarded in the education sector (see report page 14).

FACULTY REPORT

Dr. Natalie Ortell gave a brief faculty departmental report to the board. History Professor Dr. Palazzini held an election competition for all Seniors which involved students making predictive electoral college maps, predictive Senate race maps and providing a guess on House numbers. Cash prizes were awarded to the top 3 students to encourage participation. It was a solid learning experience in polls, politics and government institutions for students to try to make the most educated guesses. Biology Professors Drs. Domangue and Ortell were awarded a NOAA grant for "Alabama Oysters Taste Best with Tabasco, Not Ocean acidification". The project will connect students to the direct importance of oysters in their region. Students are currently conducting empirical laboratory research experiments, have visited local oyster farms and used NOAA weather and ocean monitoring data to understand the susceptibility of oysters to ocean acidification (see report page 15).

NEW BUSINESS

PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS TO APPROVAL

Employment of Overnight Community Liaison

A vacancy for an Overnight Community Liaison has been filled by hiring Erin Haire. Upon a motion being made by Mr. Raymond Bell and seconded by Dr. Natalie Ortell, the Board duly

> **RESOLVED** to approve the hiring of Erin Haire.
> The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10 a.m.
The Board of Directors will meet next on Friday, June 13, 2025.

Prepared by:

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Dr. Rhinnie Scott Board Secretary

Mrs. Cecilia Godwin
Board Administration Coordinator