

Minutes of the 139<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
of the Board of Directors of the  
Alabama School of Mathematics and Science  
Mobile, Alabama  
Friday, September 12, 2025  
10:45 a.m.

PRESENT	Ms. Elizabeth Norton, Ms. Erin Scott, Mr. Thad Wheat, Ms. Pam Doyle, Dr. Rhinnie Scott, Dr. Sandra Sims de Graffenreid, Mr. John Peebles, Ms. Cathy Jones, Mr. Matt Womble, Dr. Joel Billingsley, Dr. Lena Walton, Honorable Alan Baker, Ms. Sheila Roby, Ms. Sharon Magee, Ms. Kesshia Davis, and Dr. Elizabeth Jones.
ABSENT	Mr. Thad Wheat, Dr. Edward Thomas, Honorable Matthew Simpson, Ms. Sharon Magee, and Mr. Raymond Bell, Jr.
GUESTS	Dr. John Hoyle, Mr. Nash Campbell, Ms. Cecilia Godwin, Ms. Kristy Gunther, Dr. Samantha Church, and Dr. Mitch Frye.
OPENING	Ms. Pam Doyle, Board Chair, opened the meeting with a warm thank you to all in attendance. Roll was called and a quorum established.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	The minutes of the June 13, 2025, Board of Directors meeting were presented for approval. Upon a motion being made by Elizabeth Norton and seconded by Dr. Rhinnie Scott the board duly,  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2025, Board of Directors meeting. The motion passed unanimously with no objections.</p>
TREASURER'S REPORT	Ms. Kristy Gunther, Director of Finance, presented the Treasurer's report. The report represents financial activity through the 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of fiscal year 2025. Revenue is higher compared to the same period last year due to primarily to increases in our ETF allocation. The summer camp revenue was higher and as well as grant funding from the state. Expenses are about \$1.7M higher compared to the prior

year. Some of the increases include cost of living and merit increases, a maintenance position vacancy filled and an added full-time custodian position. The utility expense for the school was \$189K higher than last year due to the addition of the new Science Research Center (see report page 13).

## FINANCE

Ms. Gunther explained the Education Trust Fund for the remainder of the school year to the Board. The current fiscal year budget will end on September 30, 2025. The expenses in the utilities category went up significantly following a savings benefit from MAWSS (water) and the overall cost of utilities. Upon a motion to accept the finance report by Mr. Alan Baker and seconded by Dr. Rhinnie Scott, the board duly

**RESOLVED** to accept the finance report as given. There were objections and it passed unanimously.

## REPORTS

### LEGAL

Mr. Nash Campbell stated there are no reports of lawsuits, pending claims, or threats against the school.

### ASMS REPORT

Dr. John Hoyle, President, presented the ASMS report to the Board. One of the top priorities is the upcoming presentation to the board to increase the rent by 10-cent. In November, the ASMS Board will vote on this proposed increase, which is aimed at ensuring the sustainability of our operations. ASMS pays rent to the ASMS Foundation for the use of its facilities, and the increase would raise the rent from \$1.05 to \$1.15 per month, per square foot. The new amount, if approved, is still below the market value for the space, and affordable for ASMS. The funds already allocated to ASMS will be transferred to the Foundation for rent payments. ASMS seeks to grow by increasing enrollment by 80 to 100 over the next few years. Currently, we are conducting an internal feasibility study to assess the affordability of constructing a dorm, a

gymnasium, and hiring additional staff. There will be strategic planning meetings with stakeholders this year regarding the matter. In November, our lobbyists will be present at the board meeting to discuss the latest legislative news. The board will visit legislators in February following the board meeting to seek support for additional funding. ASMS started the year off with a record 302 students, and a waiting list of 64. The highest enrollment previously was 284 in 2007. Dr. Hoyle highlighted the success of 284 AP exams administered this year. Students earned 95% pass rate on these exams, with an average score of 3.8 out of 5. Students earned perfect scores of 5 on 25% of exams taken at ASMS. Dr. Lena Walton commended teachers on the great news and wanted them to know how appreciative the board is of the student's progress. Looking ahead, Giving Tuesday will take place on December 2, 2025, with a goal of raising \$75K. For a complete review of the ASMS Report, see report pages 16-21.

## FACULTY REPORT

Dr. Elizabeth Jones, elected as the new Faculty Representative to the Board in August, reported a great start for the school year. Dr. Jones shared a few highlights of the faculty report. Dr. Natalie Ortell completed her board service for STEM Scholars for Environmental Justice with USA Health. Mrs. Natalya Prokhorova is preparing students for the upcoming Math League Competition, the American Mathematics Competition, and the Mobile Math Olympiad. Over the summer, students Emma Kate South and Kayty Phan finished RNA tissue extractions from their experimental finished RNA tissue extractions from their experimental oysters for the NOAA funded projects "Oysters Taste Best with Tabasco, not Ocean Acidification." For full report details, please see report pages 19-20.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **ASMS BUDGET 2025-2026**

The ASMS Board for submission to the State must approve the Education Trust Fund Budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget and the supplemental appropriation (see report page 25). Upon a motion being made by Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried and seconded by Mr. Matt Womble, the Board duly

**RESOLVED** to approve the budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The motion passed unanimously.

### **VEHICLE RENTALS FROM FOUNDATION FOR 2025-2026**

Vehicles used by ASMS that are owned by the Foundation must be rented by the ASMS Board of Directors. Dr. Hoyle asked for Board approval for the Honda Odyssey rented from the Foundation beginning October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026 (See page 21). The vehicle and rental amount is listed below:

-2014 Honda Odyssey	\$1.00
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Upon a motion being made by Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried and seconded by Mr. Raymond Bell, the Board duly

**RESOLVED** to approve the vehicle rental listed above from the Foundation. The motion passed unanimously.

### **PHYSICAL FACILITIES RENTAL FOR 2025-2026**

All ASMS buildings are owned by the Foundation and are rented by the ASMS Board of Directors. The physical plant rental is \$1.05 per square foot. Upon a motion made by Dr. Lena Walton and seconded by Mr. John Peebles, the Board duly

**RESOLVED** to approve the physical plant rental from the Foundation for \$1.05 per square foot. The motion passed unanimously.

## **PERSONNEL APPROVALS**

(See report page 27)

### **Employment of Housekeeping Supervisor**

A full-time Housekeeping Supervisor position has been filled by hiring Linda Mitchell.

### **Employment of Residence Life Assistant**

A part-time Residence Life Assistant position has been filled by hiring Sarah Simmons.

### **Employment of Maintenance Technician**

A full-time Maintenance Technician position has been filled by hiring Edward Naron.

### **Employment of Assistant Director of Student Activities & Programming**

A full-time Assistant Director of Student Activities and Programs position has been filled by hiring Shaunte'l Harbin.

Upon a motion being made Dr. Sandra Sims de Graffenried and seconded by Ms. Elizabeth Norton, the Board duly

**RESOLVED** to approve the hiring of the four positions listed above. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m. The next meeting will be Friday, November 14, 2025, on campus.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Dr. Rhinnie Scott  
Board Secretary

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Ms. Cecilia Godwin  
Infrastructure and Board Admin. Coord.