

Minutes of the 131st Meeting
of the Board of Directors of the
Alabama School of Mathematics and Science
Mobile, Alabama
Friday, September 15, 2023
10:30 a.m.

- PRESENT Dr. Larry Turner, Ms. Erin Scott, Mr. Thad Wheat, Ms. Pam Doyle, Dr. Sandra Sims de Graffenreid, Dr. Rhinnie Scott, Mr. John Peebles, Dr. Edward Thomas, Honorable Jo Bonner, Dr. Lena Walton, Mr. Raymond Bell, Honorable Alan Baker, Ms. Sheila Roby, Ms. Sharon Magee, Mr. Mike Windom, and Dr. Natalie Ortell.
- ABSENT Ms. Angela Martin, Mr. Finis St. John, and Mr. Matthew Simpson.
- GUESTS Dr. John Hoyle, Mr. Bob Campbell, Ms. Cecilia Godwin, Ms. Kristy Gunther, Dr. Samantha Church, Dr. Mitch Frye, Mr. Kevin Abel, Mr. Philip Bryan, and Ms. Allyson McMaken.
- OPENING Ms. Pam Doyle, Board Chair, opened the meeting with a warm thank you to all in attendance. A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES. The minutes of the June 16, 2023, Board of Directors meeting were presented for action. Upon a motion being made by Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried and seconded by Mr. John Peebles, the Board duly
- RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2023, Board of Directors meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
- TREASURER'S REPORT Ms. Kristy Gunther, Director of Finance, presented the Treasurer's report. The report represents financial activity through June 30, 2023. Ms. Gunther explained several of the line items in the report including the largest increases in salary expenses and transportation equipment. The increase in salary cost is related to the 4% State mandated cost of living adjustment. The increase in transportation equipment is related to the purchase of 2 new vehicles which was necessary due to the aging of the fleet (See report page 10).

FINANCE

Ms. Gunther explained the Education Trust Fund for the remainder of the school year to the Board. The current fiscal year budget (listed on page 11) will end on September 30, 2023. Upon a motion being made by Mr. Raymond Bell and seconded by Mr. Mike Windom, the Board duly

RESOLVED to accept and approve the Finance report. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

LEGAL

Mr. Robert Campbell, School Attorney, reported that there were no lawsuits, no pending claims, or threats of claims against the school.

ASMS REPORT

Dr. John Hoyle, President, presented the ASMS report to the Board. Some of the highlights that Dr. Hoyle mentioned include the Fossil Discovery by Monroe County junior Lindsey Stallworth and Biology instructor Dr. Andrew Gentry. The 34-million-year-old fossil whale skeleton was discovered on Lindsey's family farm. The Development department sent out a press release about the discovery. The story reached roughly 20 media outlets. This year, there are 64 students participating in research fellows, along with 16 ASMS faculty members and six from other organizations. A few of the projects are listed in the report on page 13. The Admissions Team will hold 23 informational meetings across the state in October and two open houses in November and December. Dr. Hoyle attended his first meeting as a member of the Alabama STEM council earlier this month in Montgomery. The council advises on ways to improve STEM-related education, career awareness, and workforce development across the state. Representative Alan Baker gave a legislative report to the board. Mr. Baker stated that education priorities are moving forward for K-12, and the college systems. For a complete review of the ASMS Report, see report pages 15-20.

**LOBBYIST
REPORT**

Mr. Phillip Bryan updated the board on the latest efforts to secure more funding for ASMS. Mr. Bryan stated it's important to have the right partnerships across the state and to utilize those relationships. ASMS is planning to apply for a grant being offered through the Lieutenant Governor's office this year, which was spearheaded by the Alabama legislators.

FACULTY

Dr. Natalie Ortell, the Faculty Representative to the Board, reported a great start for the new school year. Dr. Ortell also talked more about the whale fossil discovery. She stated it's exciting for the entire biology department. This year Research Fellows has 64 students and 16 faculty members participating. The areas of study are Humanities, Chemistry, Physics and Math. Over the summer, Dr. Rambo accompanied recent graduates Marlan Zha and Gabriel Gurt to Washington, DC to receive recognition for placing as a finalist in the Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision competition. The students were awarded each a \$5,000 savings bond, a Chromebook, and met with scientific professionals, including Bill Nye the Science Guy. This is the second time a team from ASMS has placed in the finals of this international competition.

NEW BUSINESS

ASMS BUDGET 2023-2024

The ASMS Board for submission to the State must approve the Education Trust Fund Budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year budget and the supplemental appropriation (see report pages 22 and 23). Upon a motion being made by Mr. Raymond Bell and seconded by Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried, the Board duly

RESOLVED to approve the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The motion passed unanimously.

VEHICLE RENTALS FROM FOUNDATION FOR 2023-2024

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 vehicles rented from the Foundation beginning October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024 (See page 21). The vehicles and rental amounts are listed below:

-2005 Sturdi Bus (for handicapped)	\$1.00
-2010 Chevy Express Van	\$1.00
-2014 Honda Odyssey	\$1.00

Upon a motion being made by Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried and seconded by Mr. Raymond Bell, the Board duly

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

PHYSICAL FACILITIES RENTAL FOR 2023-2024

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 Mr. Raymond Bell and seconded by Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried, the Board duly

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

PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Retirement of Katrina Thompson

Katrina Thompson, Assistant Director of Judicial and Community Affairs, retired on June 30 after working at ASMS for nine years. We are thankful for her time and dedication.

B. Employment of Dean of Students

Due to a vacancy left after the resignation of the former student affairs director, Kevin Abel has been hired as the Dean of Students in the Student Affairs department.

C. Employment of Library Assistant

A part-time position for a Library Assistant has been filled by hiring Mackenzie McKinney.

D. Employment of Residential Life Coordinator

A full-time Residential Life Coordinator position has been filled by hiring Veronica Hall.

E. Employment of Residential Life Coordinator

A full-time Residential Life Coordinator position has been filled by hiring Jerika Edwards.

F. Employment of Residential Life Coordinator

A full-time Residential Life Coordinator position has been filled by hiring Jacey Rawls.

G. Employment of Assistant Director of Residence Life

Due to a vacancy in the Student Affairs department, Amanda Freyaldenhoven has been hired as the Assistant Director of Residence Life.

H. Employment of Recruitment and Communications Coordinator

The Recruitment and Communications Coordinator position in the Admissions Office has been filled by hiring Steven Floyd.

Upon a motion being made by Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried and seconded by Ms. Sheila Roby, and abstained by Dr. Larry Turner, the Board duly

RESOLVED to approve the above personnel recommendations (A-H). The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.
The next meeting will be Friday, November 17, 2023, on campus.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Dr. Rhinnie Scott
Board Secretary

Ms. Cecilia Godwin
Infrastructure and Board Admin. Coordinator