



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
ARKANSAS SCHOOLS FOR ADVANCED STUDIES, INC.**

August 7, 2024

Location

School for Advanced Studies Northwest Arkansas Campus
121 West Poplar Street
Rogers, AR 72756

Board members present: Craig Barrett, Chad Colby, and Bill Harris

Board members absent: None

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:04.
2. The agenda was adopted as presented.
3. DeAnna Rowe welcomed everyone to the first quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors in their role as the school board for the School for Advanced Studies Northwest Arkansas campus and provided the following information: The quarterly board meetings will occur in August, December, March and May with actual dates being identified in the coming days; recruiting of additional board members representing the region and the local community is underway; prior actions including Unanimous Consent agreements for the school calendar and participation in the state retirement systems and application for and receipt of grants; Executive Director's Report.
4. In review of the Consent Agenda items, Craig Barrett noted that the policies presented align with those typically adopted for charter schools in the BASIS portfolio. Particular policies unique to the region were identified. The Board adopted the following resolutions as presented:
 - a. Resolution ASAS25-R01: Board Handbook
 - b. Resolution ASAS25-R02: Designating a Business Manager
 - c. Resolution ASAS25-R03: Approving the Arkansas Grant Assurances Document
 - d. Resolution ASAS25-R04: Fiscal Operations/Management Policy
 - e. Resolution ASAS25-R05: Employee Handbook

- f. Resolution ASAS25-R06: Parent/Student Handbook
 - g. Resolution ASAS25-R07: Enrollment Policy
 - h. Resolution ASAS25-R08: Website Accessibility Policy
 - i. Resolution ASAS25-R09: Internet Safety
 - j. Resolution ASAS25-R10: Sex Offender Policy
 - k. Resolution ASAS25-R11: Library and Media Policy
 - l. Resolution ASAS25-R12: Title IX Policy
 - m. Resolution ASAS25-R13: Racial Harassment/Non-Discrimination Policies & Procedures
 - n. Resolution ASAS25-14: 504 Policy
 - o. Resolution ASAS25-15: Special Education Policies
 - p. Resolution ASAS25-16: Restraint and Seclusion Policy and Procedure
5. Peter Bezanson and Jennifer Higgins presented the Management Report. Jen shared her efforts in engaging with the community to both establish a presence and create friendly relationships with the businesses surrounding the school, preparing resources and conducting training to prepare faculty. She also shared the variety of activities that have occurred to enroll students. Peter and Jen reviewed the current enrollment at the school. The Board requested that transportation options be explored to bring in families from the outlying surrounding areas. Jen shared that she was pleased with the candidate pool she had to select the teachers for the school. The school is currently completely staffed for the start of school on August 19. In addition to continuing to build enrollment, the top priorities of the school include developing an understanding of ADE requirements and expectations and identify the resources to assist the school in complying with the requirements.
 6. The Board took a brief recess to welcome Secretary Jacob Oliva and members of his team and the Governor's staff who visited the school.
 7. Damon Norris presented the budget for FY25 and the projected budget for FY26. The Board approved Resolution ASAS25-R17 adopting the FY25 budget for School for Advanced Studies Northwest Arkansas.
 8. The meeting adjourned at 3:40.

Minutes taken by DeAnna Rowe

Bill Harris
Secretary of the Board
Arkansas Schools for Advanced Studies, Inc.