



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

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May 20, 2025

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

Board members present: Craig Barrett and Bill Harris

Board members absent: Chad Colby

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:33 pm.
2. The agenda was adopted as presented.
3. DeAnna Rowe presented the Executive Director's Report, beginning with an introduction and background on Marcia McCullough, who is being considered as a prospective new board member. She then reviewed the upcoming annual training opportunities. During this discussion, board members requested that Ms. Rowe explore the possibility of obtaining reciprocity for training previously completed in their roles as BTCSI board members. Ms. Rowe also provided a legislative update, outlining recently enacted legislation from the latest session that may impact the school. She concluded her report by introducing the revised FY26 calendar, which would be reviewed and presented for a vote later in the meeting. Craig Barrett reiterated his request for further information regarding how the school plans to address the teacher salary shortfall resulting from the LEARNS Act. Ms. Rowe responded with a summary of the issue and outlined ongoing efforts to implement adjustments in future years, though no formal resolution has been reached to date.
4. The Board approved Resolution ASAS25-R20 appointing Marcia McCullough as a Director to the Arkansas Schools for Advanced Studies, Inc. Board of Directors.
5. Damon Norris presented the FY25 Q3 Financial Report.

6. The following was shared as the Management Report: Jennifer Higgins provided updates on the school's academic efforts and highlighted the recent award for the East Program for STEM equipment and the Crystal Bridges Windgate Program for implementation in the fall. She shared that the school was provided the Trailblazer Award recognizing SAS for its implementation of innovative teaching methodology. Enrollment highlights including retention and anticipated growth over the summer. Liz Greenberg provided an update on the Spring Enrollment campaign and new web content. Members provided input on additional items for consideration to be included as school highlights and inquired about the marketing budget compared to enrollment conversion rate. The team reported on the current status of facilities including the possible sublease of the kitchen, bussing, and road construction impacting facility access. Jennifer shared an update on public engagement at the Community Seminars. She also shared updates on staffing needs, expected retention and summer training opportunities for staff.
7. The Board adopted the following Action Item resolutions as presented:
  - a. Approved the minutes of the March 18, 2025 meeting
  - b. Resolution ASAS25-R21: SY25-26 School Calendar - revised
8. The meeting adjourned at 5:12 pm.

Minutes taken by Anastasia Hawkins.

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