



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

August 14, 2025

Location

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

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

Board members absent: N/A

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:32 pm.
2. The agenda was adopted as presented.
3. DeAnna Rowe presented the Executive Director's Report, beginning with an overview of updates to the board agenda, including the addition of a new attendance tracker and the implementation of a "Call to the Public" item now required under Arkansas law. She outlined recent website enhancements to ensure compliance with legislative mandates—specifically, the inclusion of board member biographies, photos, term dates, and a public board email address. DeAnna also highlighted promising philanthropic engagement efforts, noting productive conversations with Jeff Dean that are expected to result in financial support to help address budget challenges. She reported on successful communications with KLS regarding roof repair, with KLS agreeing to covering the costs which would later be included in the facility purchase price. DeAnna shared insights from her discussion with Michael Crouch about aligning Arkansas's charter performance framework and application process with best practices observed in other jurisdictions. She also provided a brief update on required board training, referencing her earlier email with registration instructions, and noted that outreach is ongoing to identify three additional community partners. She concluded her report by introducing the resolutions listed as action items on the agenda.
4. David Hubalik introduced the Management Report, which began with academic performance updates presented by Jennifer Higgins. Arkansas ATLAS summative

assessment results showed that the school significantly outperformed state averages—by an average of 39 points—with scores placing the school among the top in the state during its first year of operation. These results were shared publicly and with partners such as Walton and demonstrate strong student performance, including a 100% AP pass rate in Pre-Calculus and 80% in AP Computer Science. The team discussed leveraging this success for recruitment and marketing. On enrollment, the school has doubled its student body since last year, with 72 of 90 students returning. Liz Greenberg reported that marketing strategies have been refined and tested, resulting in increased web traffic and engagement. Jennifer Higgins also presented the State of the School update, noting anticipated growth areas such as communication, extracurricular programming, and student event offerings. Feedback was used throughout the year to improve student workload balance and academic rigor. Staff surveys reflected a strong sense of ownership and commitment among faculty. Curriculum enhancements included the integration of the EAST Program, the Crystal Bridges Integrated Art initiative, and Open Up Math, with pacing guides and assessments being further refined. Facilities updates noted that construction at the main entrance is now complete, and transportation continues to be optimized to meet student needs. On compliance, all monitoring is current, and the Arkansas grant applications, including literacy and math goals aligned with the school improvement plan, were submitted on June 30. Jennifer Higgins also reported that all teaching positions will be fully staffed by the following day, with recent professional development focused on instructional improvement and student outcomes.

5. Public comment: No public comment was received.
6. Damon Norris presented the FY25 Q4 Financial Report and FY26 Budget.
7. The Board adopted the following Action Item resolutions as presented:
 - a. Minutes of the May 20, 2025 meeting of the Arkansas Schools for Advanced Studies, Inc. Board of Directors.
 - b. Resolution ASAS26-R01: FY27 Enrollment Policies.
 - c. Resolution ASAS26-R02: Cell Phone Policy.
 - d. Resolution ASAS26-R03: Arkansas Grant Assurances Document.
 - e. Resolution ASAS26-R04: School Improvement Plan.
 - f. Resolution ASAS26-R05: SY25-26 Parent Student Handbook.
 - g. Resolution ASAS26-R06: FY26 Budget.
8. The meeting adjourned at 3:56 pm.

Minutes taken by Anastasia Hawkins.

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