



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

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December 8, 2025

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Location

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

**Board members present**<sup>1</sup>: 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. Public comment: No public comment was received.
4. David Hubalik presented the Management Report, with updates provided by Jennifer Higgins and school leadership. The school earned an A rating, with Arkansas ATLAS interim assessment data demonstrating strong student performance across ELA, science, and math, including 74% of students meeting or exceeding ELA targets and science results showing no students in the lowest performance category. Leadership reviewed optional interim testing practices, teacher value-added metrics reflecting strong instructional impact, and plans for a second testing round in February to guide spring assessment preparation. Enrollment remains above budget at 134 students following the close of open enrollment, with 23 applications and offers for grades 5–12. Marketing and community engagement efforts—including digital advertising, tours, shadow days, community events, and expanded Crystal Bridges partnerships—continue to support recruitment and visibility. Jennifer Higgins reported exceptional staff collaboration and commitment, expanded AP offerings, increased student participation in extracurricular and leadership activities, and implementation of new state-required academic interventions for dyslexia and Tier 2 math supported by grant funding. Facilities construction surrounding the

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the Board's approved waiver pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-13-619(a)(1)(A) and (c)(1)(A), and applicable law, Board members were permitted to participate in the meeting virtually, which is standard practice for the Board.

school is complete with improved safety, compliance and accreditation remain in good standing, and a recent special education audit was completed with no findings.

5. Damon Norris presented the FY26 Q1 Financial Report. Enrollment remains above budget, supporting stronger-than-anticipated financial performance. Federal revenue projections were adjusted based on Title I and grants management updates, while local revenue remains on track. Capital expenditures are projected to remain within the approved \$175,000 budget. Leadership reviewed cash position, accounts payable, and overall expense trends. DeAnna Rowe reported receipt of a signed \$208,000 LEARNS Act grant award to offset teacher salary requirements and shared that discussions are ongoing regarding additional financial relief through a combination of grant and loan support.
6. DeAnna Rowe presented the Executive Director's Report. She provided updates on continued engagement with the Arkansas Department of Education regarding financial oversight and waiver discussions, as well as ongoing conversations with the Walton Foundation and external evaluators regarding charter-specific support structures. Required board training reminders were shared, and efforts continue to identify additional Arkansas-based community and philanthropic partners. Leadership anticipates further updates from Walton partners after the first of the year and discussed the possibility of a special interim board meeting.
7. The Board adopted the following Action Item resolution:
  - a) Minutes of the August 14, 2025 meeting of the Arkansas Schools for Advanced Studies, Inc. Board of Directors.
8. Summary of current events and future items: Jennifer Higgins shared highlights from a recent visit with SAS students and former President Barack Obama, noting the significant impact on students and the depth of reflection demonstrated during a subsequent seminar.
9. The meeting adjourned at 4:47 pm.

Minutes taken by Anastasia Hawkins.

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