

ATHENS CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Called School Board Meeting
February 25, 2021
7:30 A.M. Central Office Board Room

This meeting was conducted in full compliance with Alabama Code 13A-14-2 commonly referred to as the "Alabama Open Meeting Law". Present were approximately 118 members of the public. Mr. JR Tidwell was present from the Athens News Courier and the Decatur Daily has a reporter present. Channel 19, 31 and 48 had a news camera during the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER: Russell Johnson – Board President called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. In the Central Office Board Room.

ROLL CALL: Members Present: Shannon Hutton
Tim Green
James Lucas
Russell Johnson, Board President
Beverly Malone, Vice President
Beth Patton, Superintendent
Scott Henry

Absent: Jennifer Manville

1. Mr. Johnson opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Mrs. Malone led the pledge of allegiance.
3. Mrs. Malone moved that the board approve the agenda. Mr. Henry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
4. There was no public input.
5. Mrs. Beth Patton, Superintendent for Athens City Schools made the following statement:

The Athens City Schools Community is shocked and very concerned to read Tuesday's release from the U.S. Attorney's office.

Over the past months, Athens City Schools has fully cooperated with the Department of Justice as its investigation proceeded. The school system will continue to work with federal officials and the Alabama State Department of Education as the matter proceeds in court. School officials have not discussed this matter at the request of federal officials, and will continue to refrain from discussing it.

Upon reviewing the allegations against Dr. Rick Carter, Athens City Schools has placed him on administrative leave until further notice. None of the other individuals charged in the indictment remain affiliated with Athens City Schools in any manner.

February 25, 2021

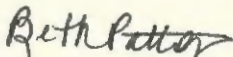
Page 2

Board Minutes

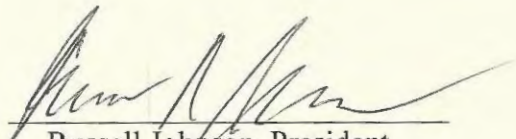
6. Mrs. Patton made the recommendation to enter an executive session. The reason for executive session was to discuss the general reputation and character, physical condition, professional competence or mental health of individuals or subject to the limitations set out in the Open Meetings Law, to discuss the job performance of certain public employees.
7. Mr. Lucas moved that the board enter into Executive Session. Mrs. Malone seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
8. Upon conclusion of the executive session Mr. Green moved that the board return to regular session. Mrs. Hutton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
9. Mrs. Patton recommended that the Board adopt the following motion:

In light of the allegations from the grand jury indictment, and the related circumstances, I move that the Superintendent continue to make system employees and resources available to fully cooperate with federal and state officials, and that it is in the proper interest of the school system to affirm the Superintendent's placement of Rick Carter on administrative leave with suspension of all school system duties, expenses, and tasks, except as required by law, pending further recommendations from the Superintendent.
10. Mr. Green moved that the board approve the recommendation from Mrs. Patton. Mr. Hutton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business; the meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m. on a motion by Mr. Lucas.



Mrs. Beth Patton
Superintendent



Russell Johnson, President