

ATHENS CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 21, 2024

6:30 P.M. Central Office Board Room

This meeting was conducted in full compliance with § 36-25A-1, et seq. of the *Code of Alabama*, commonly referred to as the “Alabama Open Meetings Law”. Present were approximately 44 members of the public.

CALL TO ORDER: Beverly Malone – Board President, called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: Members Present: Anthony Townsend
Beth Patton, Superintendent
Karen Clem
Shannon Hutton, Board Vice-President
Scott Henry

1. Mr. Townsend opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Mr. Henry led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Mr. Henry moved that the board approve the agenda. Mrs. Clem seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, with all five members voting yes.
4. There was no public input.
5. Mrs. Patton recognized the AHS and AMS Cheerleaders.
6. Mr. Lee Edminson, Facilities Manager for ACS, gave an update on current projects within the system:

Stadium - Visitor Bleachers

Bleacher installation is complete

Pouring the two remaining ADA ramps and the apron around the track to minimize the drop-off behind the track curb

Completion Date: March / April 2024

Architect - McKee & Associates

Contractor - EMW Construction

Athletic Facility / Under Stadium Work

A minimal demo is left to do

All UG plumbing is in and being tested

Once the UG plumbing passes, we will start pouring back floors

Metal studs and drywall delivered and being installed

The door frames arrived yesterday

There have been a few surprises during the demo...most are related to structural/load-bearing walls

Architect - McKee & Associates

Contractor: Premier Structures

Athens High - Auditorium

All demo is completed

All the floors, chairs, and wood have a protective covering, including fire blankets over the seats

Steel arrives Monday for installation...this will take approximately 3wks to complete

The next step will be roughing in the electrical.

Followed by AV & Theatrical equipment (due to deliveries, there will be a lull in between)

Completion Date: May 2024
Architect: GMC
Contractor: Boyett Construction

AMS - Exterior Panels

The contractor has released all the submittals
Start Date: April order material/work to begin on May 27
Architect - Chapman Sisson

Julian Newman

Area A (front storm shelter) building pad will be completed by tomorrow morning
Rebar for A arrived today and is being pre-tied for footing installation
Depending on the weather, we could dig tomorrow, but looking like next week
Foundation flow: A, B(office/lib), retaining wall in back, E (east wing), D (kitchen/cafe), C (pre-k storm shelter)
Site Sanitary is about 80% complete
Site Storm pipe is in...drop back and pour the boxes
Completion summer of 2025
Architect - McKee & Associates
Contractor - Lee Buildings

AIS - Addition

All the site demo is complete
Classroom wing:
◦ Building pad complete
◦ Footings started yesterday
◦ Plumbing / Electrical UG rough-in started today
◦ Storm water is tied in or been diverted away from building pad
Gym / Storm Shelter:
◦ Building pad will be completed (weather permitting) tomorrow
◦ Sanitary sewer is tied in
◦ Storm water piping installed
◦ Footing crew will move from the CR wing to Gym hopefully next week to start footings
Completion Dec 24 / Jan 25
Architect - Brown Odell Architects
Contractor - Limestone Building Group

AIS - Cooling Tower

The passivation process is ongoing
Meeting next Thursday to review samples / progress
Engineer - Mims Engineering
Contractor - JK Johnson

Band Tower

Contractor has released submittals in preparation for work starting end of May
EMW Construction is the low responsible bidder
Currently working on Visitor Bleachers

AHS - Eagle

We have the Arch and Engineer trading drawings / information
Goal is to pour the foundation, pedestal this summer

Brookhill, James Cowart, ARS Main - Security

Drawings are at the State
We anticipate bidding prior to the April Board Meeting

James Cowart - Monument Sign

Brick monument sign is complete, awaiting arrival of lettering

ARS - Clinton Street; Auditorium HVAC

Submit plans to DCM for approval May 2024

Hopefully get approval from DCM June 2024

Contractor Notice to Proceed and order equipment July 2024

With equipment lead times this puts us at Nov 2024 to start work

Complete April 2025

7. Upon Superintendent Patton's recommendation of the following items, Mrs. Malone moved that the Board approve the items set forth below in the consent agenda. Mrs. Hutton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion, with all five members voting yes.

A. Consent Items Approved:

1. Approval of Minutes - February 22, 2024
2. Approval of Minutes - March 13, 2024 Special Called Meeting
3. Paid Payables - February 2024
4. Financial Statements - February 2024
5. Financial Statements- FINAL September 30, 2023
6. Personnel
7. Volunteers
8. Non-Resident Student Admissions Applications
9. Field Trip Approvals for ACS
10. Field Trip Request - AHS Softball Team (Overnight)
11. Field Trip Request - AHS Cheer - (Overnight)
12. Field Trip Request - AHS TSA (Overnight)
13. Field Trip Request - AHS Band Winter Guard and Indoor Winds (Out-of-State TN)
14. Field Trip Request - AHS Band Winter Guard (Out-of-State KY)
15. Field Trip Request - AHS Band Indoor Winds (Out-of-State KY)
16. Field Trip Request - AHS Dance Team (Out-of-State and Overnight)
17. Contract Approval - Sophos XGS 6500 with Xstream Protection
18. Addendum to the AHS 24-25 Curriculum Catalog
19. Textbook Committee Additions
20. Facility Use Request - AMVETS AL Post 21 - November 11th Parade
21. Facility Use Request - AMVETS AL Post 21 - July 4th Parade
22. Facility Use Request - Grace House Church
23. Facility Use Request - Athens Recreation Center
24. Resolution Requesting to Amend Salary Schedule X - Custodian

B. Personnel Items Approved:

A. Resignation

1. Danny Anderson - Head Basketball Coach and PE Teacher at AHS
2. Amy Vinson - Teacher at AIS
3. Mallory Winston - Bookkeeper at AMS
4. Charlotte Shoulders - Custodian at AHS

B. Retirement

1. Gail Knowles - Instructional Aide at AMS
2. Kathy Brooks - Instructional Aide at AIS
3. Leah Oakley - Bookkeeper at BES
4. Barry Phillips - Bus Driver for ACS
5. Carla Daws - Library Media Specialist at JNE

C. Employment

1. Jeff Brooks - Temporary Lawn Maintenance
2. Glenna Long - Custodian (12 months) at AHS
3. Jana Brand - Bookkeeper at BES

4. Kori Walker - Head Basketball Coach and PE Teacher at AHS
5. Tasia Farmer - Head Cheer Coach at AHS
6. Selina Fielitz - Custodian (12-month) at AHS

D. Long Term Sub Pay

1. Carey Graves - AIS for Haley Bush

E. Contracted Services Cancellation

1. Molly Lauderback - Permanent Substitute at JNE
2. Danny Anderson - Supplemental Contract for Basketball

F. Contracted Services

1. Preston Herring - After-School Basketball Instruction (non-Dekko portion)
2. Danny Holt - Contracted Bus Driver Training
3. Molly Lauderback - Contracted Substitute - AIS
4. David Escobedo - After School Krav Maga Instruction (non-Dekko Portion)
5. Megan Evett - After-School Ballet Instruction
6. Ashley McBay - Contracted Instructional Aide - AIS and ARS

8. The Superintendent's Report was presented and a copy is attached to the minutes.
9. Mr. Shane Black made the recommendation to enter an executive session. The reason for the executive session was to discuss with the Board's attorney the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation. Prior to the vote on this recommendation, Shane Black, attorney for the board of education, provided the oral and written certification required by law with respect to the litigation exception.

The Declaration and Opinion signed by the School Board attorney is attached.

10. Mrs. Hutton moved that the board enter into executive session. Mrs. Clem seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, with all five members voting yes.
11. Upon conclusion of the executive session Mr. Townsend moved that the board return to regular session. Mr. Henry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, with all five members voting yes.
12. Mrs. Hutton moved that the Athens City Board of Education amend the Superintendent's Contract to provide for a 5% increase in her current base salary.

Mr. Townsend moved that the School Board approve the motion. Mr. Henry seconded the motion. Mrs. Malone, Mrs. Hutton, Mr. Townsend, and Mr. Henry voted in favor of the motion. Mrs. Clem voted against the recommendation. The motion passed by a vote of 4 in favor, 1 in opposition.

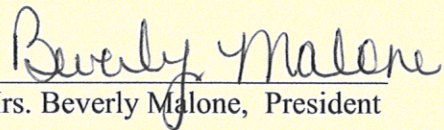
13. Mrs. Hutton moved that the Athens City Board of Education amend the CSFO/Assistant Superintendent's contract to provide for a 5% increase in her current base salary and for the possibility of an annual performance bonus by the board of up to \$5,000 depending on the board's review of the school system's audit, overall financial health, budget, and maintenance of system reserves.

Mrs. Malone moved that the School Board approve the motion. Mr. Townsend seconded the motion. Mrs. Malone, Mrs. Hutton, Mr. Townsend, and Mr. Henry voted in favor of the motion. Mrs. Clem voted against the recommendation. The motion passed by a vote of 4 in favor, 1 in opposition.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Henry.



Mrs. Beth Patton
Superintendent



Mrs. Beverly Malone, President



Superintendent's Report

March 21, 2024

Board Meeting

ATTENDANCE REPORT

School	September 2023	October 2023	November 2023	December 2023	February 2024	March 2024
iAcademy @ AES	367 + 70	363 + 69	365 + 70	364 + 72	363 + 75	363 + 72
FAME Academy @ BES	328 + 18	330 + 18	330 + 18	330 + 18	331 + 18	333 + 18
SPARK Academy @ CES	309 + 18	310 + 17	309 + 17	311 + 17	314 + 18	315 + 18
HEART Academy @ JNES	337 + 33	344 + 35	348 + 36	353 + 36	355 + 35	354 + 35
Athens Intermediate	603	601	604	608	610	607
Athens Middle	904	908	909	907	910	912
Athens High	1221	1218	1224	1219	1219	1215
Athens Renaissance	777	764	755	750	756	753
Total:	4,985	4,977	4,985	4,985	5,004	4,995

SCHOOLS REPORT

Dr. Jessica Lynn – Exceptional Services Coordinator

- On March 18th, ACS Exceptional Services partnered with the Alabama Dept. of Rehabilitation Services to provide a "Senior Transition Night" with various community vendors to offer exiting students resources for their post-secondary plans.
- Special Olympics Track & Field will be held on April 19th at the Athens stadium. We invite everyone to come out to support our special athletes!
- A "Managing Crisis Safely" training was recently held with select staff to teach de-escalation strategies when working with students with challenging behavior. Thank you to Mrs. Lorian Charles and Mr. Phillip Jarmon, our district trainers!
- Special Education Teachers participated in "IEP Spring Training" on March 15th to provide refreshers and updates on Special Education processes.

iAcademy – Athens Elementary

AES recently wrapped up our latest family engagement initiative, *One School One Book*. During the end of February and the first week of March, all K-3 students and families were engaged together in reading the literary classic Charlotte's Web. Each family received a free copy of the book, and students participated in school read-alouds each day as well as daily trivia questions and fun activities related to their reading. Our culminating activity was a family movie night during Read Across America Week where school personnel, students and families were able to watch the

movie Charlotte's Web. We had a huge turnout for family movie night! We had so much fun during *One School One Book!* It was such a fun and unique way to focus on literacy and encourage family engagement, and we are looking forward to picking out a book for next year!

We treated our English language learner students to an ice cream party on March 6th at the conclusion of their month long ACCESS testing. ACCESS is a state mandated test that all of our 112 K-3 ELL students take. Students are tested in 7 domains and given a composite score that shows their proficiency in the English Language. Our students worked so hard during this test and we are so proud of them!

Our 3rd graders will attend a field trip on Friday, March 22, to Cook Museum in Decatur. This field trip is courtesy of a 3 year grant from Steelcase and covers both the ticket price for students as well as their participation in an engaging education class. We are so excited for this hands-on learning experience!

Heart Academy – Julian Newman Elementary

- HEART Lab Specialist, Diane Trout was awarded several grants for resources to enhance instruction, especially in the area of Digital Literacy and Computer Science. They are as follows:
 - TVA Stem Grant in the amount of \$3,500.00 to fund 10 Spike Robotics Kits
 - AMSTI Robotics Grant in the amount of \$3,500.00 to fund an additional 10 Spike Robotics Kits
 - STEDTRAIN Grant in the amount of \$2,461.00 for 2 tower gardens and supplies for Hydroponics
- Mrs. Diane Trout was also awarded a foundational grant this fall to purchase glasses for the upcoming eclipse on April 8. The first grade students are bringing in sun chips, sundrop, and moon pies to enjoy during the eclipse. This activity correlates with the 1st grade science standard 1.8-Observe, describe, and predict patterns of the sun, moon, and stars as they appear in the sky (e.g., sun and moon appearing to rise in one part of the sky, move across the sky, and set; stars other than our sun being visible at night, but not during the day).
- During the month of February, in Honor of Black History Month, third grade students shared informational facts about famous African Americans each morning on the intercom.
- Our House System recently held a community outreach project with our local Boys and Girls Club. The House of Global Citizens hosted a gently used book drive where students were asked to bring in gently used books. These books were then sorted and distributed back out to students so that each student was able to take home a “new” book of their choice. The remaining books will be donated to the Boys and Girls Club.
- February was National School Counseling Week and we honored Mrs. Holland for all of the things she does, not only to help students, but also our teachers and community.
- HEART Academy recently participated in an online fundraiser to help benefit the American Heart Association. The Kids Heart Challenge (formerly known as Jump Rope For Heart) began February 1st and ended on the 29th. During this time, students were encouraged to collect donations for AHA and participate in online challenges with their families. Every year we take this opportunity to learn about heart health and emotional well being while having fun and saving lives. We have 3 of our very own Heart Heroes here at JNES. Walker Smith, Layla Madden and Derrick Ward have all undergone heart surgery and now are teaching how to help others. We raised over \$7,000.00 this year! So exciting for our school and students!

- Read Across America was celebrated last week, March 4th through March 8, 2024. We celebrated Dr. Suess' birthday with cupcakes and planned themed dress up days and reading challenges for the week.
- The HEART of Gold Luncheon was held on March 12th. This is a "Royal" celebration for special students selected by their teacher to join the Principal and Assistant Principal for a special lunch.
- Our third House Lunch was held on Wednesday, March 13th. This is a scheduled opportunity for students to gather together for lunch in their common houses. The four Houses correlate to our Portrait of a Graduate Character Traits.
- Our Book Fair will be held March 18th-22nd.

Fame Academy - Brookhill Elementary

- A grant from Dekko has provided us with the opportunity to provide enrichment opportunities for the students of FAME Academy and without charge to students who receive free or reduced lunch.
- We had 19 students who took ballet class after school on Thursday afternoons from January 18 -March 21, 2024.
- We had 17 students who took part in Krav Maga instruction on Wednesday afternoons from January 31 - March 20, 2024
- We have 41 students who have participated in basketball clinics from February 20 - April 26, 2024.
- A total of 77 students participated!
- We offered tutoring for students before and after school from February 6 - March 21, 2024. 19 students before school and 39 students after school received additional instructional support for a total of 58 students.
- Cinderella rehearsals have begun. We will have two performances Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4, 2024.
- 3rd Grade Violin Recital is scheduled for Thursday, May 23, 2024.
- Third grade will be hosting a showcase of their current PBL Unit on Friday, March 22, 2024 @ 1:30.

SPARK Academy - Cowart Elementary School

- The school raised approximately \$4500 during our Nothing Bundt Cake Fundraiser.
- Mrs. Jennifer Kennedy, our STEM specialist, was awarded a AUVSI Pathfinder Grant for \$2500.00. These funds will be used to purchase Lego kits and replace Dash robots.
- 2nd grade classes partnered with AHS Engineering class to test parachute designs and implement the engineering design process.
- Sprocket, the Trash Pandas mascot, visited first grade classes to kick off their reading program. Mar 20, 2024
- 1st grade students performed their sound and light music program under black lights to showcase their learning. March 18 and 22, 2024
- Second semester Athens State University science methods students had their first school visit. They observed management in a science classroom with Mrs. Kennedy. Mar 12, 2024.

- Teachers participated in Learning Walks in which they observed their grade level peers working with students to complete tasks.

Athens Intermediate School:

- Our 5th graders experienced the Aquarist for the Day Field Trip at Cook Museum. Each student was able to dissect their own shark and squid as they learned more about animal structures. They also explored behind the scenes to understand more about how an aquarium is maintained.
- Our February Book Fair was a success. Students were able to eat lunch and shop with special visitors all during the week.
- During our Lunch Cafe Series, students experienced the sounds of a Bluegrass Band and a Saxophone Soloist.
- Athens Intermediate School served as host for the Limestone County Spelling Bee.
- Students were given an opportunity to shine during our annual AIS Talent Show.
- Our 4th graders traveled to Birmingham to visit the McWane Science Center.
- Read Across America Week was celebrated with dress-up days, read-aloud by special visitors, and the AIS Fox in Socks After-School Bash.
- Our 4th graders celebrated Black History Month by conducting research projects on historically black universities and famous African Americans. They used their research to design and create floats. Afterward, they utilized their presentation skills to share their projects with classmates.
- Our school held its first Kaleidoscope Festival. Students and families were able to rotate through art and music stations, try out different instruments, and participate in a family drum circle.

Athens High School:

- AHS 2024 Graduation will be here before we know it. It is set for May 16th and is planned to take place at the Larry McCoy Field-Home of the Golden Eagles.
- Our Art Department has a lot to be happy about this semester. First, congratulations to Lou Chesnut for her outstanding achievement in the Alabama State Superintendent's Visual Art Exhibit. Lou has been awarded Honorable Mention for her exceptional art piece and artistic talents. We look forward to honoring her in Montgomery at the State Superintendent Visual Arts Awards Program. Second, congratulations to Zoey Powers and McKinley Lang who will represent Athens High School at the Huntsville Museum of Art for Youth Art Month. Third, congratulations to Marjorie Diaz who was named as a Visual Arts Achievement Blue Ribbon finalist for Alabama, District 5. She will be recognized by the Alabama State Council on the Arts on February 25, at the Huntsville Museum of Art. Her artwork will be on display at the Museum the day of the event and will then subsequently travel to Montgomery to be displayed at the Alabama State Council on the Arts, along with other regional winners from across the state.
- The Athens Indoor Winds and Winter Guard group made their performance debut at the SCGC MadTown Indoor Throwdown at Bob Jones High School, placing first in their class. Thank you to our parents and community for their support of this new and awesome program!

SPORTS REPORT

WINTER SPORTS:

- ACS Cheer competed at UCA (Universal Cheerleaders Association) Nationals in Orlando, Florida.

AHS placed 1st (National Champions) in Super Varsity Division II Traditional- beat other teams in this division by 4 points- identified as one of the highest scoring teams in UCA competition

AHS placed 2nd (World Runner Up) in World Cheerleading Competition- lost by .2 to Brentwood Academy

AHS place 2nd (National Runner Up) in Super Varsity Division II Game Day- lost by .7 to Liberty Creek High School, Tennessee

AHS Game Day received their highest score and placement in this competition to date.

- Our Boys Basketball program experienced great success this past season. For the first time since 2015, our varsity boys advanced to the AHSAA State Playoffs. That itself is an incredible achievement. Our program has had back to back winning seasons. This team without a doubt reached their full potential thanks to the dedication and commitment of our coaches and players. I would like to say a special thanks to our 7 seniors: Sam Boyles, Conner Berthiaume, Armond Irving, Andrew Boggs, Owen Ricketts, John McIntrye, and Nelson Brown.
- The wrestling team had a great season finishing 4th overall at the state wrestling tournament. We had 6 placers:
Drake Craig 6th
Lakin Poff 3rd
Jaxon Unger 3rd
Carter Campbell 5th
Will Anderson 1st
Austin Campbell 3rd

SPRING SPORTS: Spring Sports has officially begun!

Our spring AHS head coaches are:

- Soccer – Chelsea Hurst and Gil Dobbs
- Baseball – Chuck Smith
- Track & Field – Chris Massaro
- Softball – Travis Barnes
- Golf – Andrew Campbell and Nicholas Ridgeway
- Tennis – James Crowder
- **LET'S GO GOLDEN EAGLES!!!**