

**ATHENS CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**October 22, 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 Meeting Law”. Present were approximately 25 members of the public.

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

**ROLL CALL:** Members Present: Karen Clem  
Beth Patton, Superintendent  
Shannon Hutton, Board Vice-President

Absent: Anthony Townsend  
Toby Harrison

1. Mrs. Hutton opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Mrs. Clem led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Mrs. Clem moved that the board approve the agenda. Mrs. Hutton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, with all three members voting yes.
4. There was no public input.
5. Mrs. Patton presented 3 proclamations: Principal Month, School Bus Safety Week, and Dyslexia Awareness Month.
6. Mr. Lee Edminson, Facilities Manager for ACS gave an update on current projects within the system:

**Athletic Facility / Under Stadium Work**

Fence at the south end and concrete sidewalk  
The fire alarm has been tested  
Test showers, hot water, and units are running properly  
Install lockers (maintenance)  
Need perm locks on both

Athletic Facility -  
All HVAC units are running  
Fire alarm tested

Both areas require a fire watch until the State Inspector arrives  
Architect - McKee & Associates  
Contractor: Premier Structures

**Athens High - Auditorium**

Finished resurfacing the floor/painting over the weekend  
Rigging training was held last week  
Dimming (lighting) training was held today. Three students attended with administrators.  
Final mid-October  
Architect: GMC  
Contractor: Boyett Construction

**Julian Newman**

CMU work is almost completed  
Roof - dried in up-to-storm shelter  
The goal is to be 100% dried in by early to mid-Nov  
Windows will start arriving in 2 weeks (not FEMA windows)  
Brick is ongoing and being cleaned  
The tower at front entrance was laid up, and arches poured  
Giving tours; Mrs. Beth, Serena, Sharla, finance, maintenance  
Completion summer of 2025  
Architect - McKee & Associates  
Contractor - Lee Builders

**AIS - Addition**

Gym / Storm Shelter:  
The cold joint portion of the wall was removed to the footing and re-poured  
Vestibule concrete lids poured  
Should set the steel beams next week, deck, shoot Nelson studs, pour concrete lid...to finish up  
mid-October  
Brick is approximately 60% of the building  
Classroom wing:  
Above ceiling, work is wrapping up  
The four missing HVAC units arrived today, but one is incorrect tonnage  
Completion Dec 24 / Jan 25  
Architect - Brown Odell Architects  
Contractor - Limestone Building Group

**Band Tower**

Expect the tower/staircase to arrive Friday afternoon and be installed by Monday morning.  
Scheduling the final inspection for next week

**AHS - Eagle**

Eagle is ready to ship  
Summer work

**ARS - Clinton Street: Auditorium HVAC**

Pre-start held with State, contractor and Engineer on Oct 3rd  
Pre-start with the contractor and Principal to be held on Oct 30  
The boiler / Pump will be first to demo replacement which should complete by first of Dec  
Lead time on equipment is 22 weeks  
When we start the demo in Feb, it will take until May / June to complete as long as the units are not  
delayed.  
A code change was issued (dated Oct 1) to meet the National Clean Air Act in regards to the new A2L  
refrigerant. The units will now have to come with refrigerant leak detection from the factory.

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 three members voting yes.

**A. Consent Items Approved:**

1. Approval of Minutes – September 23, 2024
2. Personnel
3. Volunteers for 2024-2025 School Year
4. Non-Resident Student Admissions
5. 2024-2025 Science Textbook and Resources Committee

6. Field Dedication Proposal
7. Resolution Concerning Relief Efforts Relating to Hurricane Helene
8. Facility Use Request – AMS Parking Lot – Full Tummy Project
9. TEAMS Contract Approval
10. Field Trip Approvals for Athens City Schools
11. Field Trip Request – Overnight and Out-of-State – ARS Robotics
12. Field Trip Request - Out-of-State – AHS Turf Management Class
13. Field Trip Request – Overnight – AHS Trail

**B. Personnel Items Approved:**

**A. Resignation**

1. Barry Ferguson - Custodian (12-month) at AHS
2. Traci Cherry- EL Teacher at AES

**B. Employment**

1. Benjamin Sterling - Custodian (12-month) at AHS
2. Christy Boggs - System-Wide Instructional Aide at AES
3. Elizabeth Robinson - Bus Driver for ACS

**C. Long Term Sub Pay**

1. Fiorella Carr - AIS

**D. Leave of Absence**

1. Diane Trout - JNE

**E. Contracted Services and Stipends**

1. Teacher Mentoring Program - AES
  - a. Gladney, Keita
  - b. Kennedy, Cassandra Renee
  - c. Noah, Sue
  - d. Sullivan, Angela
  - e. Thomas, McKenzie
  - f. Wiseheart, Brittany
2. Teacher Mentoring Program - BES
  - a. Davis, Rebecca
  - b. McHalfey, Jada
  - c. Welcher, Sara
3. Teacher Mentoring Program - CES
  - a. Durden, Jada
4. Teacher Mentoring Program - JNES
  - a. Collins, Nicole
  - b. Deen, Katie
  - c. Pope, Margaret
5. Teacher Mentoring Program - AIS
  - a. Crumbley, KaraBeth
  - b. Ezell, Alexandra
  - c. Hobbs, Megan
  - d. Matthew, Carey
  - e. McCormick, Scott
6. Teacher Mentoring Program - AMS
  - a. Barnes, Allison
  - b. Moore, Melissa
  - c. Morgan, Marla
  - d. Whitt, Jennifer
7. Teacher Mentoring Program - AHS
  - a. Noah, Vicki

8. Teacher Mentoring Program - AHS
  - a. Hamlett, Dorothy
  - b. Heathington, Melody
  - c. Hicks, Paige
  - d. Jones, Terah
  - e. Murphree, Eddie
  - f. Murphree, Kristie
  - g. Parker, Tyler
  - h. Smith, Justin
  - i. Taylor, Nicole
  - j. Thompson, Erica
9. Teacher Mentoring Program - ARS
  - a. Burttram, Jessica
10. Teacher Mentoring Program - ARS
  - a. Umphrey, Pat
11. Zach Melton – Band Percussion Music

8. The Superintendent's Report is attached to the minutes.
9. An Executive Session was not needed.
10. Superintendent Beth Patton collected Affirmation Certificates from Beverly Malone, Shannon Hutton and Karen Clem. Toby Harrison turned his in on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October since he was not able to attend the meeting. Anthony Townsend was not able to attend and will sign at the next meeting that he is present. Mrs. Patton has the board members sign these to be in compliance with the School Board Governance Improvement Act of 2012. Pursuant to the law, she has presented these certificates to be recorded in the minutes, and a copy of each is attached to the minutes.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business; the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Hutton.



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Mrs. Beth Patton  
Superintendent



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Mrs. Beverly Malone, President



**Superintendent's Report  
October 22, 2024  
Board Meeting**

**ATTENDANCE REPORT**

School	April 2024	September 2024	October 2024
iAcademy @ AES	363 + 71	392 + 77	393 + 65
FAME Academy @ BES	342 + 18	359 + 18	361 + 18
SPARK Academy @ CES	315 + 18	309 + 18	310 + 18
HEART Academy @ JNES	354 + 35	373 + 36	373 + 36
Athens Intermediate	603	638	638
Athens Middle	921	925	929
Athens High	1213	1263	1261
Athens Renaissance	753	599	590
Renaissance Virtual	N/A	345	361
<b>Total:</b>	<b>5,006</b>	<b>5,352</b>	<b>5,353</b>

**SCHOOLS REPORT**

**Dr. Jessica Lynn – Director of Special Education:**

- Oct. 1 Child Count for this year= 712 (active IEPs in PK-12th grade)
- AIS & AMS are participating in a State Personnel Development Grant to improve literacy skills for students in grades 4-8.

**HEART Academy – Julian Newman Elementary:**

- JNES was recently awarded a \$1,959 grant from the Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) Pathfinder Chapter. Proceeds from this grant will be used to purchase six LEGO STEAM Park sets and two LEGO SPINKE Robots for the HEART Lab. Students visit the HEART Lab each week to participate in fun, enriching, and hands-on STEM activities related to health and wellness. Students utilize imagination, innovation, collaboration, and critical thinking skills as they explore, play, and learn.
- Friday, September 19th, we hosted our annual Color Run with friends and families. We celebrated with food trucks, inflatables and face painting.
- Students and staff had the best time showing golden eagle spirit by participating in AHS dress up days during Homecoming Week.
- Camiyah Jones won 2nd place in the Athens Arts League, “Hero-Up to End Childhood Cancer” art contest.

- Congratulations to the students who had donations of \$500.00 or more for the Color Run!! The prize level consisted of a Limo ride with Mrs. Birdsong and Mrs. Malone to Village Pizza, then to the Athens High School Football stadium for the football game. Those students were as follows: Landry Anderson, Ivey Ann Bradford, Foster Bradford, Pierce Causseaux, Lennon Crow, Connor Haney, Henry Higginbotham, Harleigh Jackson, Charlie Jones, Ronan Kelley, Marion McCormick, Joanna Mitchell  
Elliote Menefee, Chesley Morris, Elliott Ash, Gideon Johnson, Talmage Pepper, Cayla Smith, Harper Stewart, Mae Thomas.
- JNES held a PTF Meeting and Literacy Night on October 7th for family and friends. This meeting focused on information regarding the latest information on the Alabama Literacy Act and what parents can do at home to help their child be successful.
- Congratulations to Mrs. Meredith Baswell for receiving the BEE the Difference award presented by our Partners in Education, Athens-Limestone Hospital. The nominee proudly represents Julian Newman as a place where everyone is treasured, diversity is respected, character is encouraged, learning is loved, success is celebrated and leaders shine.
- The House of Global Citizens teamed up with Athens-Limestone Hospital to support those directly impacted by Hurricane Helene. Students collected essential items to be donated through October 12. The items will be sent to those in need.
- Join our staff and students as we wear PINK every Wednesday in the month of October to promote Breast Cancer Awareness.
- On October 8th we hosted our first Priority Kids meeting and had over 50 students represented.
- Our first grade students have been exploring the wonders of vibrations in the HEART Lab, and were visited by some special guests. Talented students from [Athens High School](#)'s band department stopped by with their instruments, showed the students how vibrations create sound, and played a few familiar tunes. Thank you, Mrs. Trout, the first-grade teachers, and the band department for this memorable experience.
- Congratulations to JT Horn and Landry Anderson for being chosen as students to spotlight from the Fine Arts Department.
- Diane Trout, HEART Lab teacher, was awarded a grant from TVA in the amount of \$3,500.
- Congratulations to the following students who were selected by their teacher to be a representative at the Heart of Gold Luncheon with Mrs. Malone and Mrs. Birdsong!  
Sloan Pippin, Kinslee Hambrick, Josie Robinson, Paisley Adams, Addie Chastain, Mary Gail Laxson, Olivia Maaninen, Tobias Dailey, Miles Ezell, Chesley Morris, Clementine Glaze, Isla Czerwonka, Jolee Herrera, Emely Godoy, Armani Marthel, KyLee Robinson, Taelee Richardson, Ava Maaninen, Angy Andrade
- Friday, October 11th, JNES participated in our annual House Reveal.
- On October 28th-November 1st we will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week and a Full Tummy Food Drive.
- Congratulations to the following teachers for being awarded grants from the Athens City Schools Foundation!
  - Cassidy Goff, Maddie Hobbs, Graycn Pugh, Ashley Stewart, Morgan Wilbanks, - **The Power of Words**
  - Katie Harbin and Ellie Lovvorn. - **Empowering Minds Through Literacy**
  - Lauren McCormick and Jackie Haggermaker - **Running to Better Fitness**
  - Marlee Pope, Chelsie Calder, Jackie Richardson and Charity Hall, HEART Academy at Julian Newman Elementary - **Number Crunchers**

### RenV:

- RenV inducted 19 new members into the National Honor Society
- 97.7% of RenV 10th grade students participated in the PreACT Secure. Some students drove many hours in order to attend

- Teachers offered in-person satellite services to students at over twenty meetings across four different North Alabama libraries
- RenV hosted its first parent council meeting on Wednesday, October 9

### **Athens High School:**

- Mrs. Amanda Gudmundsson was voted AHS Teacher of the Year.
- The AHS Golden Eagle Band participated in the Midsouth Marching Festival and placed in the top 10.
- Athens Choirs held a Musical Preview in the AHS Courtyard.
- The PreACT was administered to 10th grade students on October 1.
- The ACT will be administered to 11<sup>th</sup> grade students and the Senior Workkeys will be administered on October 30.
- During College Application Week, our counselors assisted seniors in the application process with 98% of our seniors completing and submitting at least one application for admission.
- Wrestling is holding their annual Father/Daughter Dance this month.

### **SPORTS REPORT**

And just like that, fall sports are almost over...

- Varsity Volleyball will play @ Finley Center in Hoover for AHSAA 6A Regional VB Tournament-
    - AHS vs. Huffman High School @ 9AM
    - With a win, the team will play the winner of Jasper/Clay-Chalkville @2PM
    - Tickets are \$12 on GoFan or at the gate
  - Football will end its regular season on Friday, November 1 @ Russellville High School.
  - Cross Country is going strong and nearing the close of another season. The team competed in the Northwest Alabama Championships in Oakville and did a fantastic job with several athletes placing in the rankings.
  - Swim is in the heat of their season as well. Many swimmers have already qualified for sectionals, with hopes of making the cut for STATE.
  - Winter sports are gearing up to begin play in November. We look forward to a successful season for all!
- Thank you in advance for your support of the 2024-2025 sports season.

LET'S GO GOLDEN EAGLES!!!

ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS  
CERTIFICATE OF AFFIRMATION OF SCHOOL BOARD  
MEMBER

As required by the **School Board Governance Improvement Act of 2012**, I do hereby affirm all of the following principles of educational governance:

1. That each decision, action and vote I take or make as a member of the school board shall be based solely on the needs and interests of students or the system.
2. That I will take or make no decision, action or vote to serve or promote my personal, political, or pecuniary interests.
3. That each decision, action and vote I take or make shall be based on the educational interests of the school system as a whole.
4. That I will consider the views of all members of the board and the superintendent before making a decision or taking an action on any measure or proposal before the board.
5. That, except to the extent otherwise provided by law, I shall take formal action only upon the written recommendation of an in consultation with the superintendent, and that I may not individually or jointly attempt to direct or corrupt the operations of the school system in a manner inconsistent with the discharge of the statutory functions and responsibilities of the superintendent.
6. That I shall actively promote public support for the school system and a sound statewide system of public education, and shall endorse ideas, initiatives and programs that are designed to improve the quality of public education for all students.
7. That I shall attend scheduled meetings and actively participate in school system functions, activities and training programs that promote quality boardsmanship unless good cause is shown.

Affirmed on this 17 day of October, 2024

By  (Signature)

Troy Harrison (Print Name)

Athens City Schools Board of Education



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Affirmed on this 22 day of October, 2024

By Karen Clem (Signature)

Karen Clem (Print Name)

Athens City Schools Board of Education

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Affirmed on this 22 day of October, 20 24

By Mary Shannon Hutton (Signature)

Shannon Hutton (Print Name)

Athens City Schools Board of Education

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By Beverly Malone (Signature)

Beverly Malone (Print Name)

Athens City Schools Board of Education