

***ATHENS CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
School Board Meeting  
March 20, 2025  
6:00 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 23 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

Absent: Toby Harrison

1. Mrs. Malone opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Mrs. Hutton led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Mrs. Hutton moved that the board approve the agenda. Mrs. Clem seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, with all four members voting yes.
4. There was no public input.
5. Jeremy Blackburn and Mark Abernathy gave the Audit Presentation from Mauldin & Jenkins.
6. Mr. Lee Edminson, Facilities Manager for ACS gave an update on current projects within the system:

### Athletic Facility / Under Stadium Work

Athletic Facility complete  
Down to a few punch list items - finalize Tuesday  
Architect - McKee & Associates  
Contractor: Premier Structures

## Julian Newman

We are looking at our first “official” State inspection on April 9th. This will be an OH inspection in areas A, B & E  
Areas C & D and possibly the kitchens OH inspection scheduled for April 30th  
Starting up HVAC units 3/21 - 4/11  
Start VCT & Epoxy flooring 4/7 - 4/30  
Holding off VCT in cafe until 5/19  
Start setting Casework 3/21 - 4/21.cubbies and counter tops 2-3 weeks later  
The final paint will follow casework. Scheduled completion May 30th timeframe  
Toilet patrons following the epoxy flooring... mid-May timeframe  
Doors, Hardware end of May  
Signage and blinds end of June  
Goal is to have the final Clean / Punch-list completed first week of July  
Move furniture in following completion of punch list

Completion summer of 2025  
Architect - McKee & Associates  
Contractor - Lee Buildings

**AIS - Addition**

Working on punch list items  
Hanging the final toilet partitions  
Installing the remaining hardware  
Delay - Emergency responder radio coverage requirements...equipment delivery is 4-6wks  
Completion date: March  
Architect - Brown Odell Architects  
Contractor - Limestone Building Group

**ARS - Clinton Street; Auditorium HVAC**

Extending the concrete pad to install the band room unit  
Finishing up the boiler room configuration; added walls, frame, door  
We'll start demo on non-heating unit and start piping, installing condensers next week  
Meeting Tuesday with the contractor and Engineer to review any delayed deliveries and schedule  
Late April / Early May new units on mezzanine installed, ductwork, piping, controls, electrical  
Goal is to have a final late May early June

**AIS - New Roof**

On the Board agenda is the contract for the design of a new roof at AIS  
We continue to have shingles blow off during the slightest wind storms  
Current roof is a hybrid "Loadmaster" roof system...we will be going back with a metal roof to match the new additions

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. Mr. Townsend seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion, with all four members voting yes.

**A. Consent Items Approved:**

1. Approval of Minutes – February 13, 2025, Work Session
2. Approval of Minutes – February 13, 2025, Board Meeting
3. Paid payables – February 2025
4. Financial Statements – January 31, 2025
5. Financial Statements – February 28, 2025
6. Personnel
7. 2025-2026 Student-Parent Handbook
8. Addendums to the AHS, AMS, ARS, and RenV Curriculum Catalogs for the 25-26 SY
9. Contract Approval – Reroofing Project at Athens Intermediate School
10. Technology – Approval of 25-26 E-Rate Mini-Bid for Network Equipment
11. CNP – Approval of Serving Line for Cowart Elementary School
12. TEAMS Contract Approval
13. Volunteers
14. Driver's Education Vehicle for ARS and RenV
15. Request to Purchase P25 Radios and Tango Tango Communication App
16. Field Trip Approval for Athens City Schools
17. Field Trip Request – Out-of-State – AHS Rho Kappa SS Honor Society (Chattanooga)

18. Field Trip Request – Overnight – AHS Varsity Girls Soccer Team
19. Field Trip Request – Overnight – AHS Choir (Birmingham)
20. Field Trip Request – Overnight – AHS Boys and Girls Golf Team (Fort Payne)
21. Field Trip Request – Overnight – AHS Boys and Girls Golf Team (Fort Payne #2)
22. Field Trip Request – Overnight – AHS Boys and Girls Golf Team

**B. Personnel Items Approved:**

**A. Resignation**

1. Melissa Sedillo - 3rd Grade Teacher at BES
2. Sharlene Fitzgerald - 2nd Grade Teacher at BES
3. Christy Boggs - Instructional Aide at AES
4. Jonathan Jones - Instructional Aide at AMS
5. Kerry Washburn - Instructional Aide at AES

**B. Employment**

1. Lanise Kirk – K-2 Auxiliary Teacher at CES

**C. Retirement**

1. Veronica Breakfield - 3rd Grade Teacher at AES
2. Ana Rosales - Instructional Partner at AMS
3. Kay Marsh - Instructional Partner at BES
4. Jada McHalfey - 2nd Grade Teacher at BES
5. JoEllen Caldwell - CNP Worker at AIS
6. Amy Williams - Principal at BES

**D. Leave of Absence**

1. Hazel Lindholm
2. Shane Leopard

**E. CANCELED Contracted Services and Stipends**

1. Tara Jones - Contracted Instructional Aide at BES
2. Sierra Holden - Permanent Substitute at BES
3. Tori Tucker - Permanent Substitute at AHS

**F. Contracted Services and Stipends**

1. Erin Vassar - Latchkey at BES
2. Nakita Coffman Marshall - Summer Feeding Manager
3. Ashley Davis - Summer Feeding Cashier
4. Kimberly Johnson - Summer Feeding Substitute
5. Jessica Burttram - IP Planning Summer 2025 ARS
6. Anna Wysock - IP Planning Summer 2025 JNE
7. Kip Cain - IP Planning Summer 2025 AHS
8. Tiffany Wilbourn - IP Planning Summer 2025 AES
9. Daphne Scott - IP Summer Planning 2025 CES
10. Jeffrey McKinney - Central Office Cleaning
11. Michelle Weathers - Interventionist AES
12. Andrew Carter - PA Announcer for Soccer
13. Julianna Woolard - After-School Program Coordinator – BES
14. Daphne Scott - Summer Learning Camp Admin
15. Christina Shepherd - Permanent Substitute - AHS
16. Casie Motter- Permanent Substitute – BES
17. Erin Vassar - Latchkey Coordinator – BES
18. Sierra Holden - Special Ed Aide – BES
19. Caprice Tucker - Work Shift at Storm Shelter
20. Catrina Langford - Work Shift at Storm Shelter
21. Bethany McElyea - RenV Bookkeeper / Internal Auditor Duties
22. Marjorie Onder - Additional Duties for Payroll Growth

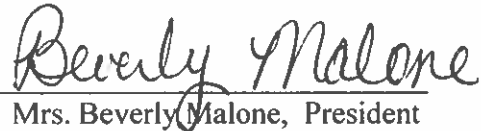
8. Mrs. Hutton moved that the board approve Item number 10 on the Agenda – Budget Amendments #1. Mrs. Clem seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, with all four members voting yes.
9. The Superintendent's Report is attached
10. An Executive Session was not needed.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:24 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 March 20, 2025 Board Meeting

### ATTENDANCE REPORT

| School               | September 2024 | October 2024 | November 2024 | December 2024 | January 2025 | February 2025 | March 2025   |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| iAcademy @ AES       | 392 + 77       | 393 + 65     | 394 + 65      | 396 + 65      | 396 + 78     | 394 + 76      | 395 + 77     |
| FAME Academy @ BES   | 359 + 18       | 361 + 18     | 365 + 18      | 364 + 18      | 367 + 18     | 367 + 18      | 367 + 17     |
| SPARK Academy @ CES  | 309 + 18       | 310 + 18     | 313 + 18      | 313 + 18      | 315 + 18     | 316 + 18      | 316 + 18     |
| HEART Academy @ JNES | 373 + 36       | 373 + 36     | 381 + 36      | 381 + 36      | 387 + 36     | 388 + 36      | 385 + 36     |
| Athens Intermediate  | 638            | 638          | 644           | 646           | 649          | 647           | 647          |
| Athens Middle        | 925            | 929          | 931           | 934           | 940          | 939           | 936          |
| Athens High          | 1263           | 1261         | 1262          | 1260          | 1268         | 1268          | 1267         |
| Athens Renaissance   | 599            | 590          | 585           | 584           | 572          | 574           | 571          |
| Renaissance Virtual  | 345            | 361          | 360           | 362           | 394          | 398           | 398          |
| <b>Total:</b>        | <b>5,352</b>   | <b>5,353</b> | <b>5,372</b>  | <b>5,377</b>  | <b>5,438</b> | <b>5,439</b>  | <b>5,430</b> |

### Julian Newman Elementary

- We are excited to share that this year marked our school's first participation in GEMS (Girls Engaged in Math and Science)! Led by our dedicated lab teacher, Mrs. Diane Trout, a group of enthusiastic third-grade girls explored STEM in an engaging and creative way. Through hands-on learning, they designed and built landforms, engineered amusement park rides, and crafted persuasive advertisements to promote their unique theme parks. This experience not only strengthened their math and science skills but also encouraged collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. They recently participated in a GEMS Expo at Botanical Gardens.
- On March 3rd-7th, our school celebrated Read Across America Week by participating in literacy activities and dress up days. We also had a friendly challenge of reading which led to a school wide popcorn party!
- On March 10th, First Grade students visited Cooks Museum for a field trip.
- March 17-21 we will have the Scholastic Book Fair at our school.
- On March 21st we encourage all students and staff to support World Down Syndrome Day and wear crazy socks or blue & yellow to spread awareness.
- March 17-21st, our First grade students will be performing songs for parents during their Music class.
- During the month of February, we proudly celebrated Black History Month at JNES. We took this opportunity for our students to learn about the incredible contributions of Black Americans throughout history. Each day during our morning announcements, we will highlight a notable figure who has made a lasting impact in fields such as science, literature, civil rights, and the arts.
- During February, we encouraged students and families to participate in the Kids Heart Challenge with the American Heart Association. By participating in Kids Heart Challenge, students collected donations to help other kids with special hearts while having fun and learning how to keep their own hearts, bodies and brains healthy. We have our very own HEART HERO, Miley Mosely at JNES.
- On February 7th, Third grade took a field trip to Burritt on the Mountain.
- During the first week of February, we celebrated National Counseling Week spotlighting our FANTASTIC Guidance Counselor, Robin Holland.
- Congratulations to Glendy Antonio! Her artwork was selected to be on display in the State Superintendent's Visual Arts Exhibit.

- Congratulations to our ACS Artists of the Month, Hattie Smith Paulette Perez and Amber Baker!
- In the HEART Lab, our students are using collaboration and communication to build roofs that can withstand a category 3 hurricane and create resilient habitats! Third graders tested materials for durability and waterproofing by constructing roofs that could survive 100 mL of water and 30 seconds of high-speed hairdryer winds. If the roof leaked or blew off, they redesigned it!
- Our students had a blast rolling through the bowling unit in PE! They worked on their form and technique, then wrapped it all up with an epic Cosmo Bowling event! Now that they have had fun on the lanes, we're excited to kick off our next unit: Line Dancing. Coach McCormick and Coach Jackie will have everyone grooving to the beat and learning some awesome moves!
- We were thrilled to have Carmen Agra Deedy, the beloved children's author and storyteller, visit Newman! She shared her incredible gift of storytelling with us, and the library was filled with imagination, laughter, and unforgettable moments. A special thank you to Mrs. Harbin, Mrs. Alexander, and Mrs. Lovvorn for all their hard work in making this event possible.
- In honor of Random Acts of Kindness Day, we celebrate two amazing individuals who were recognized by SRO Officer Fred for their kindness: Cara D. – Cara was awarded a Good Deed Certificate and a challenge coin for her honesty and good character. After finding money in a library book, she turned it in, demonstrating her integrity. Maddie Hobbs – Our wonderful second-grade teacher, Miss Hobbs, also received a Good Deed Certificate and a challenge coin for her selflessness. She gave away her own lunch to a student, showing exceptional care for her students.
- Congratulations to Heart Lab teacher Diane Trout! She is the recipient of the Alabama Robotics Grant Program. Our school was awarded \$3,498.00!

### **Athens High School**

- AHS 2025 Graduation will be here before we know it. It is set for May 15<sup>th</sup> and is planned to take place at the Larry McCoy Field-Home of the Golden Eagles.
- 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!
- AHS Senior Prom was held this year at the Space and Rocket Center. The theme was Beyond the Stars and it was a huge success!
- AHS SCA attended the Alabama State Student Council Conference this month. They won Gold Council and 1<sup>st</sup> place for Service and leadership projects with their Full Tummy Project and Leadership with the AHS Homecoming Events.
- Katherine Kiel and Holden Whitaker attended SASC planning meeting at Wade Hampton High school in Greenville, SC where they are serving as the Vice President School Representatives for the 2025 Southeastern Conference.
- HOSA attended the State Leadership Conference on Feb 27-28th in Montgomery. 5 students represented AHS as competitors at the state level and 3 attended as HOSA representatives.

Wyatt LaBarr and Brooklyn Farmer competed in CPR/First Aid  
 Ethan Lawniczak competed in Sports Med  
 Gavin Curry competed in Medical Terminology  
 Jessie Kloefer competed in Medical Spelling and placed top 6 in the  
 State qualifying her for the International Leadership Conference.

- Blythe Menefee, Caroline Cullison and Emery Lang attended as voting delegates/chapter award recipients.
- The AHS HOSA chapter was awarded the GIVE ME TEN award for increasing our membership this year from 55 members to over 80!!

### **Athens Middle School**

Parents are invited to a special Love Like Lexi Project assembly tonight at 6PM. The student assembly will be tomorrow at 8:30 AM. Lexi's mother will speak about the importance of mental health, suicide awareness, and fostering empathy within our community.

## **AHS SPORTS REPORT**

**IT'S GREAT TO BE A GOLDEN EAGLE!!!**

Spring sports are in full swing...

Coaches and players are having a great season on the diamond, court, field, course, and track.

All of the off-season skill training and drills are paying off. To prepare for future reclassifications, the teams are implementing a wider range of teams on their schedule.

Below is the home schedule over the next few weeks.

- Thursday March 20 Lawrence Co Home AMS Baseball 4:30/6:00
- Thursday March 20 Athens JV Golf Tournament Athens JV Golf All Day
- Thursday March 20 Lee/Elkmont Home Varsity/JV Boys Soccer 5:00/7:00
- Friday March 21 Madison Academy (DH) Home JV Baseball 4:30/6:30
- Monday March 31 Discovery Middle Home AMS Baseball 4:30/6:00
- Monday March 31 Hampton Cove Home AMS Soccer 4:30
- Monday March 31 Sparkman (DH) Home Freshman Baseball 4:30/6:30
- Tuesday April 1 Hartselle Home JV/V Girls Soccer 5:00/7:00
- Thursday April 3 Liberty Middle Home AMS B/G Soccer 4:30/6:00
- Thursday April 3 Madison Academy Home V/JV Softball 4:30/6:30
- Thursday April 3 Muscle Shoals (DH) Home Varsity Baseball 4:30/6:30
- Friday April 4 East Limestone Home AMS Baseball 4:30/6:00
- Friday April 4 Journey Middle Home AMS G/B Soccer 4:30/6:00
- Saturday April 5 Journey Middle Home AMS Baseball 11:00/1:00
- Saturday April 5 Mars Hill Bible Home V/JV Baseball 12:00/2:00
- Saturday April 5 Austin Home JV/V Girls Soccer 12:00/2:00

### **STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATES**

The Governor's budget package addresses an increase in special education funding (\$40M increase), school safety, reading interventionists, and transportation.

The Governor is recommending supplemental funding:

- Summer & after school programs
- Textbooks
- CCR Grants
- Struggling readers beyond 3rd grade
- CHOOSE Act (\$50M) (\$7000 private school; \$2000 homeschool. Must earn less than \$93,600)
- Principal and AP Supplement \$14M (current obligations)
- Math coaches
- ELL \$10M
- JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates)

**Bills to watch:**

**HB166- Cell Phone Ban**

- Restricts student use of wireless devices on public school grounds during instruction (not to exceed 10 minutes), mandates local boards to adopt internet safety policies for district devices, and requires social media safety instruction before 8th grade.

**SB92- Cell Phone Ban**

**HB342- Mandates that school boards adopt a release time policy and requires students receive elective credit for up to six hours per week of off-site religious instruction during the school day**

**SB199- Parental Leave Bill**

- Establishes paid parental leave
  - Female employees: 8 weeks (birth, stillbirth, miscarriage)
  - Male employees: 2 weeks (birth, stillbirth, miscarriage)

PEEHIP Cost Increases- Employer rate is going from \$804 to \$904. The Legislature is expected to fulfill this budget request (~\$130M). A teacher raise is unlikely this year due to the increase. Local units will require local funds!

Alabama High School Diploma (A & B Options)\*There is still only ONE AL HS Diploma!

Option A= Traditional

Option B= Workforce Pathway

2 Science Credits (Biology, Physical Science)

2 Math Credits (Geometry, Alg I or equivalent)

CTE in Approved Program of Study 3 Credits

Additional Math, Science, World Language, Arts, and /or Other Electives

#### **Federal Updates:**

**Special Education (IDEA)** When the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act was passed in 1975, the federal government committed to pay 40% of the average per pupil expenditure for special education to ensure that every child with a disability has access to a high-quality education. IDEA is currently funded at ~10%.

We can expect an effort to reduce **Title I** by 25% and eliminate **Title II** and **Title III**

There's a proposal to cut \$3B in **school meals** funding

#### **Educational Choice for Children Act (HR817,HR833,S292) National Voucher Program**

([novouchers.org](http://novouchers.org))- This would create a national, federal voucher program and funnel \$10 BILLION per year of public funds to private schools and families who homeschool.

Zero accountability! No receipts. No academic requirements. **MAXIMUM FREEDOMS.**

Tax credit education savings account. Dollar for dollar tax credit in exchange for giving money to an intermediary organization.

There are multiple proposals to block **Medicaid** funding.

- 25+ states have expanded Medicaid programs to include students without IEPs and help cover/pay for a variety of healthcare services including MH services
- This is the biggest target to pay for tax cuts and border/security

**E-Rate** funding is on the chopping block.