

***ATHENS CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting - Final Budget Hearing
August 28, 2025
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 18 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
Shannon Hutton, Board Vice-President
Toby Harrison
Karen Clem

1. Mr. Harrison opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Mrs. Clem led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Mrs. Clem moved that the board approve the agenda. Mr. Townsend seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, with all five members voting yes.
4. There was no public input.

5. Mrs. Patton recognized Mr. Michael May:

Congratulations to Mr. Michael May, an engineering teacher at Athens High School, for being named Alabama Association for Career and Technical Education (ALACTE) Secondary Level Teacher of the Year. This prestigious honor recognizes outstanding Career and Technical Education teachers at the middle and high school levels who demonstrate innovation in teaching, a strong commitment to student achievement, and leadership within their schools and communities. His classes focus on hands-on, project-based learning in areas such as engineering design, 3D printing, Arduino electronics, and generative AI. Our AHS TSA has earned Most Outstanding Chapter for a record six consecutive years—a state record! Mr. May will now compete at the Region II level of the National Association for Career and Technical Education awards program. We are very proud of Mr. May and wish him the best of luck!

Mrs. Patton recognized Mr. Willie Moore:

Congratulations to Mr. Moore on being chosen as President of the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals. In this prestigious leadership position, Mr. Moore will represent secondary school principals throughout Alabama, working with a statewide network of leading educational professionals to foster excellence, innovation, and positive change in public education. As AASSP president, Mr. Moore will strengthen the voice of secondary school leaders, advocate for their needs, share insights, and help shape the future of educational leadership in Alabama. He recently served as President-Elect, and he also serves on the Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS) Board of Directors. Through its 13 affiliate organizations, CLAS offers quality professional learning opportunities and advocacy to support and empower school leaders. We are so proud of Mr. Moore for this well-deserved honor! Way to go, Mr. Moore!

6. Mr. Lee Edminson, Facilities Manager for ACS, gave an update on current projects within the system:

Julian Newman

Substantial Completion - 7/22/25

Architect - McKee & Associates

Contractor - Lee Buildings

ALS - Addition

Complete

Remaining key cores are 2 wks out only affecting plumbing chase, center mullions, etc.

Architect - Brown Odell Architects
Contractor - Limestone Building Group
ARS - Clinton Street; Auditorium HVAC
Complete
We are putting in a redundant pump this week
AIS - New Roof
Held pre-start today (8/28)
Submittals and material delivery - 3-4 weeks

SUMMER WORK

AHS - Pave area within fence for JROTC parade ground - complete
AHS - Eagle - complete
CES - Speakers here being installed 9/6....still tracking switches
AES - Landscape/pavers - complete
AMS - add a canopy on 6th grade wing - fall break
BES - reworking parking lot striping....complete
Maintenance completed a very long list of items over the summer, including helping me with Julian Newman-checking plugs, lighting controls, HVAC, doors and hardware, etc.

We will present the Capital project layout at the September Board meeting.

7. Mrs. Serena Owsley, CSFO for Athens City Schools, asked if anyone had any questions about the proposed Fiscal Year Budget for 2026. No questions were raised, and Mrs. Patton asked for approval of the FY 2026 Budget. Mrs. Hutton moved that the board approve the FY 2026 Budget. Mrs. Clem seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, with all five members voting yes.
8. 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 - August 25, 2025
2. Paid Payables - July 2025
3. Financial Statements - July 31, 2025
4. Personnel
5. Contract Approval - Lawnscares, LLC
6. Field Trip Approvals for ACS
7. Facility Use Request - AMVETS AL Post 21 - AHS Parking Lot
8. TEAMS Contract Approval
 - a. Janet Posey

B. Personnel Items Approved:

A. Employment

1. Shaina Hays - 3rd Grade Teacher at CES
2. Klaire White - K-2 Auxiliary Aide at JNE
3. Karen Denise Pettey - Instructional Partner at AHS

B. Retirement

1. Lou Ann O'Rear - School Counselor at AMS

C. Contracted Services and Stipends

1. Cale Abernathy - SAFE CARE FLEX at AHS
2. Elizabeth Robinson - ARS CNP Sub, Van Driver, Food Prep and Cashier at ARS
3. Madison Brown - Fame Fun Coordinator at BES
4. Erin Vassar - Latchkey Director at BES
5. Nathan Woolard - Fame Fun Theater Director at BES
6. Fame Fun Activity Facilitators at BES

- a. Cherilyn Pryor
 - b. Rebecca Mealer
 - c. Ronald Oakley
- 7. Preston Herring - After-School Basketball Instruction at BES
 - 8. Savannah Boyd - Sub for Latchkey at BES
 - 9. Becca Mealer - Sub for Latchkey at BES

9. The Superintendent's Report is attached to the minutes.

10. An Executive Session was not needed.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Hutton.



Mrs. Beth Patton
Superintendent



Mrs. Beverly Malone, President



Superintendent's Report

August 28, 2025

Board Meeting

ATTENDANCE REPORT

School	August 2025
Athens Elementary	380 + 72
FAME Academy @ BES	362 + 18
SPARK Academy @ CES	304 + 18
Julian Newman Elementary	417 + 51
Athens Intermediate	685
Athens Middle	926
Athens High	1296
Athens Renaissance	678
Renaissance Virtual	425
Total:	5,632

Superintendent Comments

We are excited to partner with Midland Institute and the Athens-Limestone Chamber of Commerce to begin a *Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities (CEO) Program* for the 2026-2027 school year to give high school students real-world experiences to help them think and act like entrepreneurs. (See brochure)

Our AHS Flag Football team is hosting its first-ever home game at Athens Stadium against JP II tonight. It is so exciting to see the team under the lights of Larry McCoy Field. Our student-athletes are working hard to represent ACS with pride, teamwork, and Golden Eagle spirit. They are learning the game and building leadership skills while participating in one of the fastest-growing sports in Alabama and the nation. We look forward to watching this program grow and wish them the best of luck this season! What an exciting chapter in AHS Athletics! They have several home games over the next couple of weeks so make plans to stop by and cheer on our girls!

SPARK Academy

SPARK Academy earned Cognia STEM recertification in June, recognizing the school's continued commitment to excellence in science, technology, engineering, and math education.

Athens Elementary School

Opening of School

The new school year is off to a strong start at Athens Elementary! Our hallways are buzzing with excitement, and students have jumped into new routines with enthusiasm. Teachers have been intentional about setting high expectations, and it's been wonderful to see how quickly our students have risen to the challenge. We also hosted our annual Open House for parents, and the turnout was incredible. Families from all of our diverse student population filled our classrooms and hallways, eager to connect with teachers and learn about the year ahead—a clear sign of the strong support our community continues to show for our school.

AES Staff Retreat

Before welcoming students back, our staff gathered for our annual back to school retreat centered on our vision of *Heart and High Expectations*. It was a meaningful time of connection, reflection, and inspiration. Teachers left feeling energized and united in their commitment to making a difference for every child who walks through our doors.

Shadow a Student

This month and throughout September, Mrs. Tedford and Mr. Looney began a new practice we're calling "shadow a student." By spending an entire school day alongside students in different grade levels, we're gaining fresh insights into what school looks and feels like from their perspective. Tedford and Looney are shadowing a diverse group of 25 students (1 from each homeroom and representative of all of the subgroups within our student population). These experiences are already helping us celebrate what's working well while identifying opportunities to strengthen our students' daily experience.

Upcoming Events

Our PTO is preparing to kick off the annual Chocolate Bar Sale—always a community favorite! This fundraiser provides essential support for classrooms and schoolwide projects, and it's a tradition that brings parents, students, and staff together in a fun and meaningful way. If you see one of our AES kiddos selling the famous chocolate bar with the Jack's coupon, please consider purchasing!

Athens Renaissance School

Athens Renaissance moved our K-3 students from the old public library on South Street to our Clinton Street campus. We now have all students in grades K-12 located on the same campus. The K-5 students are located in the north building of Clinton Street while the 6-12 students are located in the south building of Clinton Street. This has been a tremendous help for staff that were working at both locations and has eliminated the travel time between campuses that were occurring multiple times per day. Stop by and see our new layout anytime!

Athens High School

The Pride of Athens Marching Band is back and bigger than ever! We're proud to announce that this season, we're marching 150 strong—our largest band in years!

This summer, our leadership team kicked off the season with an inspiring leadership retreat, setting the tone for what's sure to be a successful season. Our students are fired up and working hard to bring our 2025 field show, "Back in Black," to life. We can't wait to hit the field in support of the Golden Eagle Football Team. Let's go Eagles!

Principal, Willie F. Moore was recently named President of the AASSP

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. Willie F. Moore, Athens High School Executive Principal, who was recently selected to serve as President of the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals (AASSP). Mr. Moore had recently served as President Elect of the AASSP and also serves on the Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS) Board of Directors. In these leadership roles, Mr. Moore will serve as a voice and a resource for public school secondary administrators. We are #athensproud of Mr. Moore and his commitment to advancing excellence in leadership and public education across Alabama.

Michael May, recently named Alabama Association for Career and Technical Education (ALACTE) Secondary Level Teacher of the Year.

This prestigious honor recognizes outstanding Career and Technical Education teachers at the middle and high school levels who demonstrate innovation in teaching, a deep commitment to student achievement, and leadership within their schools and communities.

A veteran educator with nearly two decades of experience, Mr. May blends high expectations with a student-centered approach, ensuring that every learner is challenged, supported, and prepared for future success. His classes emphasize hands-on, project-based learning in areas such as engineering design, 3D printing, Arduino electronics, and generative AI. His students have excelled in Technology Students Association (TSA) competitions, earning the Most Outstanding Chapter for a record six years in a row - a state record! May will now move on to compete at the Region II level of the

National Association for Career and Technical Education awards program. We are so proud of Mr. May and wish him the best of luck!

The Athens City Schools Foundation presented AHS with a check on 8/13/25 for \$2500! Below are the original grant requests and amounts awarded.

- Lindsey Ramsden & Mellody Heathington - Scholars and Tour Programs: Connecting Education with Experience (\$1,000)
- Angela Wagner & Ramona Malone - Lights, Camera, Learn: Preparing Students for the Digital Media Industry (\$1,000)
- Patricia Owens - Crime Lab in the Classroom: Engaging Minds Through Forensic Science (\$500)

In the **T-Mobile competition** we're thrilled to share that we have moved from level one of \$1,000 to the second level of the sweepstakes, competing for a prize of \$5,000. This money will be used to motivate and inspire our students to attend school during the 2025-2026 school year, ultimately helping to improve our attendance rate.

2025-2026 Mr. and Miss AHS have been selected! Congratulations to Kendall Gill and Nataia Crayton!

SPORTS REPORT

As we begin this new sports season, excitement is high and expectations are strong across all programs. Our athletes, coaches, and staff have been working hard in the off-season to prepare for the challenges ahead.

Summer training and preseason conditioning have shown great commitment from our student-athletes. Attendance has been strong, and many teams are already demonstrating growth in skill, teamwork, and leadership.

Our coaching staff enters the season with renewed energy and clear goals. Several programs have welcomed new assistant coaches, bringing fresh perspectives and experience to strengthen our teams. Returning coaches continue to build on last year's successes and are committed to developing athletes both on and off the field.

This season, our focus will be on:

- Competing with excellence and sportsmanship
- Encouraging multi-sport participation for overall athlete development
- Strengthening the bond between our athletic programs and the school community
- Supporting academic success alongside athletic achievement

We are confident that this season will showcase the hard work, talent, and dedication of our student-athletes. We encourage everyone to come out, support our teams, and be part of the excitement as we strive for another year of growth, success, and memorable moments.

CONGRATS to Caitlyn Tedford on being selected as the North All Star MVP! Caitlyn represented Athens High School in the 29th annual AHSAA North-South All-Star Sports Week in Montgomery.

Monday, September 1
HOME

JV Football @ Home vs. Bob Jones - 10:00am

Tuesday, September 2
HOME

AMS Football @ Home vs. Austin - 5:00/6:00
AMS Volleyball @ Home vs. Hartselle - 5:00/6:00

AWAY

JV/Varsity Volleyball vs. East Limestone & Ardmore @ Ardmore - 5:30/6:30

Wednesday, September 3

AWAY

Freshman Volleyball vs. Hartselle & Hazel Green @ Hartselle - 4:00/5:00

Thursday, September 4

HOME

Varsity Volleyball @ Home vs. Madison Co. & Huntsville High School - 4:30/6:30
AMS Volleyball @ Home vs. Decatur Heritage - 5:00/6:00
Flag Football @ Home vs. Mae Jemison - 6:00

Friday, September 5

HOME

Varsity Football @ Home vs. Cullman - 7:00 - Homecoming

Saturday, September 6

AWAY

Cross Country @ Chickasaw Trails Invitational in Moulton
Freshman Volleyball @ Buckhorn Bash Tournament