

***ATHENS CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting
December 16, 2025
5:30 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 22 members of the public.

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

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Toby Harrison
Beth Patton, Superintendent
Karen Clem
Shannon Hutton, Board Vice-President

Absent: Anthony Townsend

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. Mr. Harrison seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, with all four members voting yes.
4. There was no public input.
5. Mrs. Patton recognized the 2025-2026 Teachers of the Year.
 - REBECCA GLADNEY, Athens Elementary School
 - KATIE WALKER, FAME Academy at Brookhill Elementary School
 - RACHAEL KNOX, SPARK Academy at Cowart Elementary School
 - KATIE DEEN, Julian Newman Elementary School
 - ASHLEY BOUTWELL, Athens Intermediate School
 - BEN TUCKER, Athens Middle School
 - KENNEDY LEOPARD, Renaissance Virtual School
 - JENNY LIND JOHNSTONE, Athens Renaissance School
 - MICHAEL MAY, Athens High School

And special congratulations to our **Athens City Schools District Level Teachers of the Year!**

Secondary Teacher of the Year

- MICHAEL MAY, Athens High School

Elementary Teacher of the Year

- REBECCA GLADNEY, Athens Elementary School

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

Julian Newman

Working on just a few issues : Intercom - new software will be applied; Freezer - new door seal; CR door latches - hopefully over Christmas break; Linesets - metal panels installed

AIS - Roof

Existing gym, cafeteria, kitchen, and half of 5th grade completed
Front entrance over Christmas break; weather permitting
Trying to be completed in February

AIS - Loop Road/parking

Issued PO for the TOPO, soil testing, and material testing
Working through the design contract

BES - Parking in front

Issued PO for the TOPO, soil testing, and material testing
Working through the design contract

Stadium Parking - re-sealing, patch & re-stripe

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. Clem 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 - November 20, 2025
2. Paid Payables - November 2025
3. Financial Statements - Final- September 30, 2025
4. Financial Statements - November 2025
5. Personnel
6. Field Trip Approvals for ACS
7. Field Trip Request - AHS Cheer - Overnight and Out-of-State
8. Field Trip Request - ARS Middle School Robotics - Overnight
9. Board Policy Revision - GALBH - Personal Leave and Absences Policy
10. Contract Approval - Nola Van Peurse Architects, PC
11. 2026-2027 Calendar Approval

B. Personnel Items Approved:

A. Resignation

1. Amanda Speegle - School Nurse at BES
2. Alison Cornelius - Elementary Teacher at AES
3. Riley McEwen - Long Term Substitute at BES

B. Retirement

1. Jenny Lind Johnstone - Special Education Teacher at ARS
2. Judy Palmer - Registrar (12 month) at ARS

C. Canceled Contracts

1. Lanise Kirk - K-2 Auxiliary Teacher at CES
2. Sydney Jones - K-2 Auxiliary Teacher at CES

D. Employment

1. Savanna McDonald - School Nurse at BES for the remainder of the 2025-2026 School Year, replacing Amanda Speegle, start date January 5, 2026
2. Lanise Kirk - K-2 Auxiliary Grant Funded Teacher at CES for the remainder of the 2025-2026 School Year, start date January 5, 2026, end date May 22, 2026
3. Sydney Jones - K-2 Auxiliary Grant Funded Teacher at CES for the remainder of the 2025-2026 School Year, start date January 5, 2026, end date May 22, 2026

4. Tara Jones - 3rd Grade Teacher at BES, start date January 5, 2026
5. Maegan McGee Putman - Kindergarten Teacher at BES, start date January 5, 2026
6. Alexandria Peterson - Registrar (12 month) at ARS, start date January 5, 2026
7. Olivia Rizzo - Science Teacher at AMS for the remainder of the 2025-2026 School Year, replacing Megan Latimer, start date January 5, 2026

E. Leave of Absence

1. Diane Trout - JNE

F. Temporary, Part-Time Employment

1. Ande Jackson - Graphic Board Operator at AHS
2. Kendall Gill - Sound and Video Board Operation - AHS Arena

G. Contracted Services and Stipends

1. Katie Dalrymple - Problem Solving Team Coordinator

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

9. An Executive Session was not needed.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Hutton.



Mrs. Beth Patton
Superintendent



Mrs. Beverly Malone, President



Superintendent's Report December 16, 2025 Board Meeting

ATTENDANCE REPORT

School	August 2025	September 2025	October 2025	November 2025	December 2025
Athens Elementary	380 + 72	377 + 72	376 + 74	378 + 74	377 + 75
FAME Academy @ BES	362 + 18	362 + 18	366 + 17	361 + 18	367 + 18
SPARK Academy @ CES	304 + 18	303 + 18	302 + 18	302 + 18	298 + 18
Julian Newman Elementary	417 + 51	417 + 51	418 + 49	424 + 49	427 + 50
Athens Intermediate	685	683	687	693	695
Athens Middle	926	925	928	939	943
Athens High	1296	1287	1291	1287	1287
Athens Renaissance	678	675	671	660	655
Renaissance Virtual	425	446	449	441	441
Total:	5,632	5,634	5,646	5,644	5,651

Celebrations

National Board Certification is one of the highest professional honors in education! Congratulations to Sue Noah, Athens Elementary, and Summer Neely, Renaissance Virtual. This accomplishment reflects their dedication, expertise, and unwavering commitment to our students and to lifelong learning.

Six Athens City Schools were recently awarded ***TVA STEM Classroom Grants*** totaling \$20,500. Congratulations to the following:

Athens High School, \$1,000
Athens Intermediate School, \$2,500
Athens Middle School, \$3,500
Julian Newman Elementary, \$5,000
Renaissance Virtual School, \$5,000
SPARK Academy, \$3,500

SCHOOL REPORTS

Athens High School

Congratulations to JROTC Member Brylee Hill. She received the 1st Place Award for her achievement at the 23rd Annual Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) Youth Leadership Conference. Brylee was chosen as Outstanding Student/Leader from a group of 75 Top students representing high schools throughout the Tennessee Valley. Brylee will represent North Alabama this summer as she competes at the National Youth Civics Summit in Washington, DC.

On December 5th and 6th, 9 AHS Thespians had the honor and privilege of competing at the Alabama Conference of Theatre's State Trumbauer Festival at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. While competing with well over 2,500 students from Alabama, AHS students earned numerous awards and one placed in the Top Three in the state!! Awards are as follows:

Ranked Awards:

Sophie Gordon- 2nd Place in Acting Comedic 1900-1974

Superior Awards:

Calvin Pettie- Acting Dramatic 1900-1974

Jessie Kloepfer- Acting Dramatic 1975-2004

Giulia Sala- Musical pre 1980

Logan Davis & Sadie Kloepfer- Duet Musical Dramatic

Laci Grace Donatelli- Pantomime

Excellent Awards:

Logan Stroup- Musical pre 1980

Jessie Kloepfer- Musical Comedic 1980-2015

Laci Grace Donatelli & Arely Nava- Duet Musical Dramatic

We are so incredibly proud of my students and their dedication to their craft being recognized at the State level.

SPORTS REPORT

The semester may be winding down, but Basketball, Wrestling, and Indoor Track are in full force. Basketball and Wrestling have participated in tournaments against some very good competition and fared very well. Indoor Track has its first meet on Saturday, December 13th, in Birmingham. During the Christmas Break, Basketball will host its annual Border Wars on December 29th and 30th (see schedule). Wrestling will travel to Cleveland, Tennessee, to participate in the Bradley Central Invitational December 19-20. Spring sports teams are working hard in the weight room, continually developing their skills and fundamentals. Official practices begin in mid-January, while games are late January to early February.

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

December 29th and 30th
4TH ANNUAL BORDER WARS 2025
MASTER SCHEDULE

AUX GYM MONDAY		
TIME	HOME	AWAY
12:00 (G)	Madison Academy	Hartselle
1:30 (G)	Huntsville	Oxford
3:00 (B)	Westminster	Hanceville

AUX GYM TUESDAY		
TIME	HOME	AWAY
10:30 (G)	Southside	Montgomery Academy
12:00 (G)	East Limestone	Madison Academy
1:30 (OPEN)		
3:00 (B)	Hewitt Trussville	Brooks
4:30 (B)	Athens JVB	Brooks JVB

MAIN GYM MONDAY		
TIME	HOME	AWAY
9:00 (B)	Shelbyville Central (TN)	Tanner
10:30 (G)	Mae Jemison	CULLMAN
12:00 (G)	Southside	Deshler
1:30 (B)	Albertville	Chelsea
3:00 (G)	Montgomery Academy	West Point
4:30 (B)	Cullman	Hewitt Trussville
6:00 (G)	Athens	Lee Huntsville
7:30 (B)	Athens	Brooks

MAIN GYM TUESDAY		
TIME	HOME	AWAY
9:00 (B)	Tanner	Hanceville
10:30 (G)	Hartselle	Lee
12:00 (G)	Oxford	West Point
1:30 (B)	Albertville	Shelbyville Central
3:00 (G)	Deshler	Huntsville
4:30 (B)	Chelsea	Cullman
6:00 (G)	Athens	Cullman
7:30 (B)	Athens	Westminster