ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS
REGULAR MEETING – 6:30 P.M.
EAST ELEMENTARY
FEBRUARY 19, 2026

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Board President Paul Grippa calls the February regular board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present.

Paul Grippa
Rusty Rittenhouse
Charity Wilhelm
Jason Heinrich
Dave Hayden

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**2026-056 ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The Athens City School District Board of Education adopts the agenda for its regular meeting of February 19, 2026, as presented and amended.

Motion by:
Second by:

Discussion:

Paul Grippa
Rusty Rittenhouse
Charity Wilhelm
Jason Heinrich
Dave Hayden

**2026-057 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Athens City School District Board of Education approves the minutes of the Organizational and Regular Monthly Board meetings held on January 8, 2026.

Motion by:
Second by:

Discussion:

Paul Grippa
Rusty Rittenhouse
Charity Wilhelm
Jason Heinrich
Dave Hayden

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

"Upon request to the Superintendent, the District shall make reasonable accommodation for a disabled person to be able to participate in this activity."

"No more than a total of thirty (30) minutes for public participation is permitted at each regular board meeting. Individuals are welcome to speak provided they identify themselves by name and address, give the topic to be discussed and limit their presentations to three (3) minutes each".

AFSCME Local
Athens Education Association

**PRESENTATION/BOARD DISCUSSION**

Dr. Braun presentation of East Elementary achievement.
District and Construction Update from Superintendent

**BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS**

Legislative Liaison:

McClure Foundation:

Tri-County Career Center:

**2026-058 TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Athens City School District Board of Education approves the Treasurer's Report for February 2026 as submitted. The report contains the Bank Reconciliation, Fund Report, Monthly Financial Report, Monthly Check Summary Report, and Investment Report.

Motion by:
Second by:

Discussion:

Paul Grippa
Rusty Rittenhouse
Charity Wilhelm
Jason Heinrich
Dave Hayden

**2026-059** **AMENDED APPROPRIATIONS AND AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF ESTIMATED RESOURCES**

The Athens City School District Board of Education approves the Amended Appropriations and Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources as submitted by the Treasurer/CF.

Motion by:
Second by:

Discussion:

Paul Grippa
Rusty Rittenhouse
Charity Wilhelm
Jason Heinrich
Dave Hayden

**2026-060** **APPROVAL OF THE DISTRICT UPDATED FIVE-YEAR FORECAST**

The Athens City School District Board of Education approves the updated Five-Year Forecast for the district as submitted.

Motion by:
Second by:

Paul Grippa
Rusty Rittenhouse
Charity Wilhelm
Jason Heinrich
Dave Hayden

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**2026-061 PERSONNEL**

**RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENT**—The Athens City School District Board of Education accepts the resignation of the following individuals:

Resignations:

- Ralph West from his position as bus driver effective March 1, 2026.
- Abigail Stratton from her position as middle school counselor at the end of her contract.
- Shiloh Montgomery from her food service position, effective January 30, 2026.

Retirements:

- Kim Roback from her position as preschool teacher at Morrison Gordon Elementary effective May 26th, 2026.
- Julia Chamberlain from her position as kindergarten teacher at Morrison Gordon Elementary effective May 29th, 2026.
- Deborah Monin from her position as assistant principal at The Plains Intermediate School effective July 31, 2026.

**EMPLOYMENT/CONTRACT RECOMMENDATIONS** (pending successful verification of certification, college transcripts and experience, completion of criminal records check and other state and local requirements for the positions)

1. Administrative Contract – The Athens City School District Board of Education issues a 1-year administrative contract to the following individuals listed:

None at this time.

2. Long-Term Substitute Teacher for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year: The Athens City School District Board of Education issues a Long-Term Substitute Contract to the following individual:

None at this time.

3. Extended Service Day for the following individual(s) to be paid up to two (10) hours of work at their hourly rate of pay to complete IEP's for any students for the substitute teacher at the Plains Intermediate School that is not part of their current caseload:

Korrie Block - $50.46 per hour.
Katie Calhoun - $50.46 per hour

4. Supplemental Contracts: Issue supplemental contracts based on the salary schedule in effect July 1, 2025 for the position listed for the 2025-2026 school year to the following individuals:

Certified
Stephen Ragg – JV Boys Tennis Coach

**2026-061 PERSONNEL (continued)**

Non Certified
Robert Wayner – Middle School Head Track Coach
Haddie DiBenedetto – Middle School Track Assistant Coach
Stanley DiBenedetto – Middle School Track Assistant Coach
James Bolin – High School Softball Volunteer
Bindi Staley – High School Track Assistant Coach

5. Supplemental Contracts: Issue supplemental contracts based on the salary schedule in effect July 1, 2026 for the position listed for the 2026-2027 school year to the following individuals:

Certified
Nathan White - Head Football Coach
Dana Morehead - Head Girls Tennis Coach
Breanna Issa - Head Cross Country Coach

Non Certified
Hailee Hart - Head Volleyball Coach
John Bohuslawsky - Head Girls Soccer Coach
Tim Galway - Head Boys Golf Coach
John Owusu Kwakaye – Athens High School Boys Soccer Head Coach

6. Substitute Teacher/Home Instructor for 2025-2026 School Year: The Athens City School District Board of Education issues a substitute teacher contract at the Board approved rate of pay on an as needed basis to the following:

Substitute Teacher
- Hollie Brown (Professional Intern assigned to Maria Douglas, The Plains Intermediate)
- Mara Meadows (pending licensure)
- Maia McCown (Professional Intern assigned to Phillip Armstrong)
- Mirabai Ingles
- Marcus Jay Sprague
- Aubrey Dearwester
- Adam Beery (Professional Intern assigned to Eric Ryan)
- Madison Burick (Professional Intern assigned to Natalie Pankratz)
- Brandon Witmer (Professional Intern assigned to Colleen Horst
- Ashley Digby
- Charles Slates (Professional Intern assigned to Christina Allwine)
- Nathan Fabian (Professional Intern assigned to Jacob White)
- Sofia Gugliemotto (Professional Intern assigned to Kimberly Shuster)
- Kendall Creviston
- Danialle Tackett
- Jayne Six
- Catherine Perez-Strohmeyer (Professional Intern assigned to Amy Wolf)

**2026-061 PERSONNEL (continued)**

7. Classified Personnel – The Athens City School District Board of Education in accordance with Article VII, Job Postings/Transfer/Assignment and Bidding Procedure approves the following position as listed and detailed below (pending successful verification of certification, highly qualified status for paraprofessional positions, completion of criminal records check and other state and local requirements for these positions):

Transportation
Liz Maxwell full time bus driver (pending completion of training)

Food Services
Justice Jenkins – Acceptance of Server position at Morrison-Gordon Elementary.

8. Substitute Classified Personnel—The Athens City School District Board of Education approves the employment of the following personnel for the 2023-2024 school year on an as need basis at the Board approved rate of pay for the position they are subbing in.

Paraprofessional

Cafeteria
- Cheyann Shaffer
- Debra Kovach (Pending results of Background Check)
- Rochelle Murphy

9. Volunteers – The Athens City School District Board of Education approves the following individuals as volunteers for the 2025-2026 school year.

Volunteers
- Maria Crowley
- Allen Kisner

10. The Athens City School District approves payment to the following teachers for conducting Kindergarten registration outside of their regular work hours for up to three hours at their individual hourly rate as approved by the building principal:
- Abigail Miller
- Stephanie Nisley
- Cheryl Schroer
- Lindsey West
- Sarah White
- Heidi Shaw
- Julia Chamberlain
- Cassie Goodwin
- Mary Ann Kirby
- Lesley Michigan

**2026-061 PERSONNEL (continued)**

The Athens City School Board of Education accepts the resignations/retirement of employment and approves the Superintendent's personnel recommendations for employment as listed and detailed above.

Motion by:
Second by:

Discussion:

Paul Grippa
Rusty Rittenhouse
Charity Wilhelm
Jason Heinrich
Dave Hayden

**2026-062 BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVALS**

**A. ACCEPTANCE OF THE DONATION OF A TELESCOPE**

The Athens City School District Board of Education accepts the donation of a Celestron computerized telescope.

**B. APPROVAL OF DISTRICT CALENDAR FOR SCHOOL YEARS 2027-2028**

The Athens City School District approves the district calendar for the 2027-2028 school year as submitted.

**C. APPROVAL OF AMENDED DISTRICT CALENDAR FOR SCHOOL YEARS 2026-2027**

The Athens City School District approves the amended district calendar for the 2026-2027 school year.

**D. APPROVAL OF THREE-YEAR CONTRACT WITH WALSWORTH FOR ATHENS MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARBOOKS**

The Athens City School District Board of Education approves a three-year agreement to contract with Walsworth for the purpose of yearbook services for Athens Middle School.

**E. APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT TRIP FOR ATHENS HIGH SCHOOL ESPORTS TEAM TO CINCINNATI TO COMPETE IN THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS ON MARCH 6-8, 2026**

The Athens City School District approves the overnight trip of the Athens High School Esports team to compete in the State Championships pending their qualification.

**2026-062** **BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVALS**

**F. APPROVAL OF A THREE-YEAR MASTER LEASE AGREEMENT WITH INSIGHT INVESTMENTS LLC. TO PROVIDE FILTERING AND MONITORING SERVICES FOR ATHENS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The Athens City School District Board of Education approves the three-year lease agreement with Insight Investments LLC. to provide filtering, monitoring, and alert services for Athens City School District Devices and Internet at a total cost of $48,152.

Motion by:
Second by:

Discussion:

Paul Grippa
Rusty Rittenhouse
Charity Wilhelm
Jason Heinrich
Dave Hayden

**2026-063 RESOLUTION ADOPTING CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN OHSAA**

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN THE OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

**WHEREAS**, Athens City School District, District IRN number 043521 of 21 BIRGE DRIVE, Chauncey, Athens County, Ohio
Has satisfied all the requirements for membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association, a voluntary unincorporated association not for profit; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education/Governing Board ("Board") and its Administration desire for the schools with one or more grades at the 7-12 grade level under their jurisdiction to be voluntary members of the OHSAA;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION/GOVERNING BOARD** that all schools listed on the reverse side of this card do hereby voluntarily renew membership in the OHSAA and that in doing so, the Constitution, Bylaws, General/Sport-specific Regulations and Business Rules of the OHSAA are hereby adopted by this Board as and for its own minimum requirements as it pertains to, but not limited to, student-eligibility, coaching requirements, and administrative responsibility. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board reserves the right to raise the minimum standards as it deems appropriate for the schools and students under its jurisdiction; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the schools under this Board's jurisdiction agree to conduct their athletics programs in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, General/Sport-specific Regulations, Business Rules, interpretations and decisions of the OHSAA and cooperate fully and timely with the Executive Director's office of the OHSAA in all matters related to the interscholastic athletic programs of the schools. Furthermore, the schools under this Board's jurisdiction shall be the primary enforcers of the OHSAA Constitution, Bylaws, General/Sport-specific Regulations, Business Rules and the interpretations and rulings rendered by the Executive Director's office. The administrative heads of these schools understand that failure to discharge the duty of primary enforcement may result in fines, removal from tournaments, suspension from membership and/or other such penalties as prescribed in Bylaw 11.
HIGH SCHOOL GRADES 9-12, MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES 7-8
Athens High School and Athens Middle School

The Athens City School District Board of Education approves the resolution authorizing participation in the Ohio High School Athletic Association as submitted.

Motion by:
Second by:

Discussion:
Paul Grippa
Rusty Rittenhouse
Charity Wilhelm
Jason Heinrich
Dave Hayden

ADJOURNMENT

The Board President declared the Athens City School District Board of Education Regular Meeting of February 19, 2026 adjourned at p.m.

_____ _____

Board President Jared M. Bunting, Treasurer/CFO

(No addendum after the Board Authorized Signatures is a valid account of the meeting.)