

ATHENS CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting
January 15, 2026
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 25 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
 Toby Harrison

1. Mr. Harrison opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Will Lansford and Tanner Cannon from the Mayor’s Youth Commission led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Mr. Harrison moved that the board approve the agenda. Mrs. Clem seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, with all five members voting yes.
4. There was no public input.
5. Mrs. Patton recognized the School Board Members for School Board Member Recognition Month. They will be invited into the schools this month, and we will have more to come at the February Board Meeting.
6. Mrs. Patton provided a summary of Mr. Lee Edminson’s facility updates, as he was unable to attend the meeting.

JNES

Punch List;
Replace the thumb turns on classroom doors....we’ll replace them during spring break
As the building adjusts to heat loads and outside air temperatures, we are still adjusting the test and balance of the HVAC system

AIS - Roof

Working on the last remaining wing and courtyard
Still projecting to be complete by late February if the weather holds

AIS - Loop Road/parking

On the Board agenda this evening is the design contract
The scope of work will be to add an additional lane coming in off Washington St
This will allow double-stacking from Washington to the drop-off
We will also add additional parking/sidewalks to the left and right of the front entrance

BES - Parking in front

On the Board agenda this evening is the design contract
The scope of work will be to add additional parking at the front of the school

Stadium Parking - resealing, patch & re-stripe

Completed

CES - Intercom

They are working through a configuration to allow the intercom system (VALCOM) to talk to Centegix

CES - HVAC / Windows

On the Board agenda this evening is the design contract
Scope of work:
Still working towards getting all the original 1964 classrooms' new windows / HVAC
Submit design drawings to DCM end of the month
Bid mid-February, prior to the Board meeting
Construction contracts approved by DCM / ACS in early March
Start on equipment submittals after bid - Construction phase
We will start the demo at the end of March, but ONLY if we have written confirmation that the equipment is heading our way
Demo also includes removing the old 2x4 ceiling tiles and grid and replacing them with new 2x2 ceiling tile and grid
NOTE: equipment deliveries started out 4-6wks, then 6-8wks, then 8-10wks and now 12wk delivery...the above schedule reflects the 12 week delivery
This ONLY gives us 64 days to complete....if anything changes with deliveries or we discover any issues after demo, we will reevaluate and possibly only do a wing or a wing and a half
We have to leave time in the schedule for inspections, contractor clean-up, custodial clean-up, allow teachers to prepare for the school year, etc.
We will continue upgrades to the HVAC next summer....currently, the kitchen is cooled by window units....there is a possibility that the kitchen hood will need modifications to meet current make-up air codes, place a unit outside the cafeteria, and address the office area, which has a rooftop unit, but window units have been added due to the rooftop being undersized

ARS

Currently going through all the drawings from the 40's to the most recent 2025 project....preparing to transmit drawings to the Architect

BES - intercom

Summer work

7. Mr. Garner Ezell, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented the recent Report Card scores for Athens City Schools. Mrs. Amanda Tedford, principal of Athens Elementary School, gave a presentation highlighting her school.
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 - December 16, 2025
2. Paid Payables - December 2025
3. Financial Statements - December 31, 2025
4. Personnel
5. Field Trip Approvals for ACS
6. Field Trip Request - AHS Thespians - Overnight
7. Field Trip Request - AHS HOSA Team - Overnight
8. Field Trip Request - AHS Winter Guard (Band) - Out-of-State
9. Contract Approval - McKee and Associates, Inc - AMS
10. Contract Approval - Mims Engineering, Inc - CES
11. Contract Approval - Morell Engineering, Inc - AIS
12. Contract Approval - Morell Engineering, Inc - BES
13. Cooperative Agreement with North Central Alabama CNP Program

B. Personnel Items Approved:

A. Resignation

1. Angela Sullivan - Reading Coach at AES

B. Canceled Contracts

1. Laura Minor - Gifted Services for the 2025-2026 School Year
2. Michael May - AL Teacher Mentor for AHS
3. Melissa Penia - AL Teacher Mentor for BES
4. Evie Parker - Color Guard Choreographer for AHS Winter Guard

C. Employment

1. Krystal Pippin — 3rd Grade Teacher at AES, replacing Alison Cornelius, with a start date of January 26, 2026
2. Elisa McCall - SPED Instructional Aide at AES. This is a new position with a start date of January 16, 2026.

D. Temporary, Part-Time Employment

1. Christy Smith - Latchkey Teacher at CES
2. Amber Evans - Latchkey Teacher at CES
3. Lorraine Duncan - 2nd Grade Teacher at BES
4. Cynthia Owens - Gifted Specialist for ACS
5. Amanda Johnson - Substitute Receptionist at Central Office
6. Denita McElyea - Substitute Receptionist at Central Office
7. Laura Minor - Gifted Specialist for ACS Elementary Schools
8. Richard Elijah Bell - Front Ensemble Instructor for the AHS Band
9. Sierra Taylor - K-2 Auxiliary Teacher at CES
10. Ronald Oakley - Fame Fun Enrichment Leader at BES

E. Contracted Services and Stipends

1. Melissa Penia - AL Teacher Mentor for 2025 at BES
2. Michael May - AL Teacher Mentor for 2025 at AHS
3. Jeff McKinney - Cleaning Services at Central Office
4. K-3 After School Tutoring at AES
 - a. Leslee Gaston
 - b. Lisa Gill
5. K-3 After School Tutoring at CES
 - a. Daphne Scott
 - b. Allynda Davis
 - c. Savannah Resendiz
6. Fame Fun Enrichment Leaders at BES
 - a. Cherilyn Pryor
 - b. Rebecca Mealer

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 5:42 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Hutton



Mrs. Beth Patton
Superintendent



Mrs. Beverly Malone, President



Superintendent's Report January 15, 2026 Board Meeting

ATTENDANCE REPORT

School	August 2025	September 2025	October 2025	November 2025	December 2025	January 2026
Athens Elementary	380 + 72	377 + 72	376 + 74	378 + 74	377 + 75	377 + 75
FAME Academy @ BES	362 + 18	362 + 18	366 + 17	361 + 18	367 + 18	371 + 18
SPARK Academy @ CES	304 + 18	303 + 18	302 + 18	302 + 18	298 + 18	304 + 18
Julian Newman Elementary	417 + 51	417 + 51	418 + 49	424 + 49	427 + 50	429 + 51
Athens Intermediate	685	683	687	693	695	700
Athens Middle	926	925	928	939	943	942
Athens High	1296	1287	1291	1287	1287	1269
Athens Renaissance	678	675	671	660	655	641
Renaissance Virtual	425	446	449	441	441	473
Total:	5,632	5,634	5,646	5,644	5,651	5,668

January is Gifted Education Month

This is a great time to recognize the impact of gifted programs and the important role they play in helping students explore their interests, embrace academic challenges, and reach their full potential. Athens City Schools proudly serves nearly 160 students across the district through Gifted Services. Screening for gifted identification begins in 2nd grade, with services provided to students in grades 3-5. The ACS Gifted Program is designed to nurture curiosity, creativity, and academic growth while encouraging students to think critically and innovate. This year, our Gifted Program has received nearly \$20,000 in grants to enhance learning and bring lessons to life, including 3D printers, laser cutters, ChompSaw cardboard cutters, computers, and other instructional tools. Students in Gifted Services participate in a wide range of enriching activities that foster collaboration, problem-solving, and learning, including novel studies, coding, robotics, drone exploration, the Stock Market Game and more. We appreciate all who work with our gifted program for their dedication to excellence and for inspiring innovation across our district.

SCHOOL REPORTS

Athens High School

The following students qualified to go to **HOSA** State Leadership Conference:

Maggie Leonard-Clinical Laboratory Sciences

Gavin Swint-Medical Innovations

Gavin Rodriguez-Medical Innovations

Emma Christopher-Dental Sciences

Brooklyn Farmer-Dental Sciences

An Nguyen-Medical Math

Jessie Kloepfer-Medical Spelling

Ethan Lawniczak-Physical Therapy

Wyatt LaBarr-Healthcare Photography

These students will compete at the state conference in February with the top qualifiers from around the state!

AHS **JROTC** once again hosted the Annual Jingle Bell Jog in December and had a great turnout. This was a fundraising event that will help to fund the Military Ball that will be taking place on February 21st at Athens State University. The Military Ball teaches the students about military traditions, etiquette and social skills.