

ATHENS CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting
February 19, 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 38 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
 Anthony Townsend

1. Mr. Townsend opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Mr. Harrison 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 five members voting yes.
4. There was no public input.
5. Mrs. Patton presented some special recognitions.
 1. Career and Technical Education Month – A proclamation was presented to Mr. Willie Moore, and Mrs. Patton thanked all the CTE teachers for empowering our students and preparing them for the future.
 2. National Board Certified Teachers
Athens City Schools is proud to have 12 National Board Certified Teachers.

Our National Board Certified Teachers include

- KARA CRUMBLY, Athens Intermediate School (2021)
- ERICA HAND, Athens Renaissance School (2022)
- PAIGE HICKS, Athens High School (2018)
- DR. BENITHA JONES MASS, Athens Intermediate School (2007)
- SUE NOAH, Athens Elementary School (2020)
- LESLIE SEDBERRY, Athens Middle School (2017)
- SADI SHANNON, Athens Middle School (2022)
- ASHLEY WHITE, Athens Intermediate School (2019)
- KASEY STARNES, FAME at Brookhill Elementary School (2019)
- SONJA TRUESDELL, FAME at Brookhill Elementary School (2019)

And congratulations to our newest National Board Certified Teacher

- SUMMER NEELY, Renaissance Virtual School (2025)

I also want to give a special shout-out to our very first AHS National Board Certified Teacher and Athens City Schools Board Member, KAREN CLEM (2000)

3. School Board Member Recognition Month – January was National School Board Recognition Month. Tonight, the board members were presented with a token of appreciation for their commitment and dedication:

- Beverly Malone, ACS Board President
- Shannon Hutton, ACS Board Vice President
- Anthony Townsend, ACS Board Member
- Toby Harrison, ACS Board Member
- Karen Clem, ACS Board Member

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

Julian Newman

Punch List;
started replacing the thumb turns

AIS - Roof

Working on the last side of the courtyard and continuing on the North wing

SUMMER PROJECTS:

AIS - Road/parking

Base Bid;
Adding another lane off Washington to double-stack all the way around to drop-off point
Adding nineteen (19) parking spaces in the front, along with 1.5" Mill & Overlay, Full depth patching on the worst spots
Adding an Alt to continue the 1.5" mill & overlay and full depth patching
BID March 12th

AMS - Bleachers / Gym Floor

Approved by DCM
Pre-Bid scheduled March 4th
BID March 10th

AHS - Sidewalks

Install +/- 800 ln/ft of sidewalks at the North Parking lot

BES - Parking in front

We'll go from eight (8) parking spaces to forty-five (45) parking spaces
Adding some contingency to possibly cover sealing asphalt around the campus
BID March 5th

CES - Intercom

Centigex and Valcom are working

CES - HVAC / Windows

Submitted and approved by DCM
Bid - 2/26

If we are within budget, we will issue a notice to proceed to start the submittal & contract process - takes approximately 2 weeks on submittals
Equipment delivery is 10-12 weeks

Due to the time over the summer, we will concentrate on completing the classrooms: HVAC, Windows & Ceiling grid/tiles
Next summer we will concentrate office, cafe/kitchen, and auditorium

ARS (New Construction)

Working through the drop-off / pick-up during construction

Tentative Schedule;

Drop off / pick up - March - July 2026

Environmental (60 days) Start July / August 2026 - Complete Sept / Oct 2026

Demo (120 days) Start Sept / Oct 2026 - Complete Jan / Feb 2027

Construction (14-16 months) Start Feb / Mar 2027 - Complete May / June 2028

BES- Intercom

Summer work

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 – January 15, 2026
2. Approval of Minutes – February 10, 2026
3. Paid Payables – January 2026
4. Financial Statements – January 31, 20226
5. Personnel
6. Field Trip Approvals for ACS
7. Field Trip Request – AHS Band Out-of-State
8. Field Trip Request – AHS Girls Softball Overnight
9. Field Trip Request – AHS Girls Softball Overnight
10. Facility Use Request – Oasis Church
11. Job Description Approval – CEO Facilitator
12. Curriculum Guide Approval

B. Personnel Items Approved:

A. Resignation

1. Brenda Glass - CNP Worker at AMS
2. Lanise Kirk - K-2 Auxiliary Teacher at CES
3. Lisa Miller - CNP Worker at AHS
4. Jessica Wallace - System-Wide SPED Instructional Aide at AES

B. Canceled Contracts and Letter of Appointments

1. Katie Deen - AL Teacher Mentor at JNES (canceled 2nd Semester)
2. Russ McNutt - Sub Bus Driver for 2025-2026
3. Laura Minor - Gifted for ACS
4. Ande Jackson - Graphic Board Operator for ACS
5. Sierra Taylor - K-2 Auxiliary Teacher at CES

C. Retirement

1. Laura Moore - 6th Grade Teacher at AMS

D. Employment

1. Breonna Allen-Jackson - K-2 Auxiliary Teacher at AES for the remainder of the School Year 25-26

2. Tiffany Blakely - System-Wide Instructional Aide at AIS, start date February 17, 2026, for the remainder of the 25-26 School Year
3. David Chittam - Bus Driver for ACS, start date February 23, 2026, for the remainder of the 25-26 School Year
4. Jennifer Harryman - SPED Instructional Aide at AES, start date February 2, 2026, for the remainder of the 25-26 School Year
5. Lanise Kirk - System Wide Instructional Aide at CES, start date February 10, 2026, for the remainder of the 25-26 School Year
6. Payton Brodie Richardson - System-Wide SPED Instructional Aide at AIS, start date February 5, 2026, for the remainder of the 25-26 School Year
7. Sierra Taylor - K-2 Auxiliary Teacher at CES, start date February 10, 2026, for the remainder of the 25-26 School Year

E. Leave of Absence

1. Arica Alexander - AHS
2. Amanda Holaday – AES

F. Temporary, Part-Time Employment

1. Michele Weathers - Reading Specialist at AES
2. Kayela Elders - K-2 Auxiliary Teacher at CES
3. Laura Minor - Gifted Specialist for ACS
4. Russ McNutt - Sub Bus Driver for ACS
5. Emily Harris - ACT Tutor for AHS

G. Contracted Services and Stipends

1. Summer Feeding
 - a. Tracy Daniel
 - b. Minieva Timberlake
2. K-3 After School Tutoring
 - a. Deborah Popour
 - b. Tara Jones
3. Melitta Malone - Fame Fun After School Instructor at BES
4. Ande Jackson - Inputs and maintains content for AHS Graphic Boards
5. Debra James - Sub Bus Driver for ACS
6. Katie Harbin - Teacher Mentor at JNE

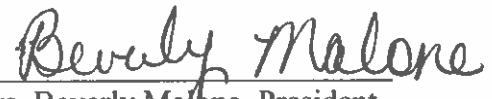
8. Mrs. Hutton moved that the board approve Item number 10 on the Agenda – Budget Amendments. Mr. Harrison seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, with all five members voting yes.
9. The Superintendent's Report is attached to the minutes.
9. Mrs. Patton requested an Executive Session to discuss the consideration that the school board is willing to offer or accept for the purchase, sale, lease, or market value of real property. Mrs. Hutton moved that the board go into executive session. Mrs. Clem seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, with all five members voting yes.
10. Mrs. Clem moved that the board return to regular session. Mr. Townsend seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, with all four members voting yes.

11. Mrs. Patton made a recommendation for a Resolution Concerning the Purchase of certain real property near Athens High School. Mr. Harrison moved that the board approve the resolution. Mrs. Clem seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, with all five members voting yes. A copy of the resolution is attached to the minutes.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Clem.



Mrs. Beth Patton
Superintendent



Mrs. Beverly Malone, President



A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY NEAR ATHENS HIGH SCHOOL

WHEREAS, Section 16-11-12 of the *Code of Alabama* authorizes the Athens City Board of Education to purchase real estate for the use of the school system, to sell the same, to make expenditures for school grounds, buildings and other property, and to make necessary and proper agreements in relation to such matters;

WHEREAS, this Resolution concerns 19.86 acres of real property, more or less, that lies adjacent to Athens High School, and that is generally depicted and shown in Exhibit A hereto (the "Property");

WHEREAS, the Athens City Board of Education has determined that it is in the best interest of the Athens City School System to purchase and acquire the Property for public school purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Athens City Board of Education has consulted with real estate professionals and believes that the purchase price for the Property is fair and reasonable, given market conditions, the location of the property, and the school system's need for the property.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ATHENS CITY BOARD OF
EDUCATION** on February 19, 2026 at 5:30 p.m., as follows:

1. The Superintendent, on behalf of the Athens City Board of Education, is authorized to purchase the Property for a total price of One Million One Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,100,000.00). The Superintendent, on behalf of the Board, is further authorized to enter into a contract(s) for such purchase, upon such customary terms and

conditions as the Superintendent may deem reasonable and appropriate, to carry out the terms of such contract(s), and to acquire a deed to the Property on behalf of the Board. The Superintendent is also authorized to expend any incidental costs related thereto in connection with the purchase and closing, including but not limited to the subdivision of the real property in preparation for sale.

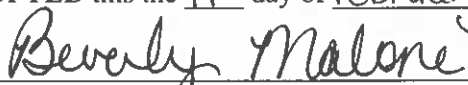
2. The Superintendent is further authorized to carry out such purchase as soon as may be practicable, and to execute such other and additional documents that may be necessary and/or required in order to facilitate the transaction contemplated herein, including but not limited to implementing and participating in procedures relating to the subdivision of Property.

RECOMMENDED this 19 day of February 2026,



BETH PATTON
SUPERINTENDENT

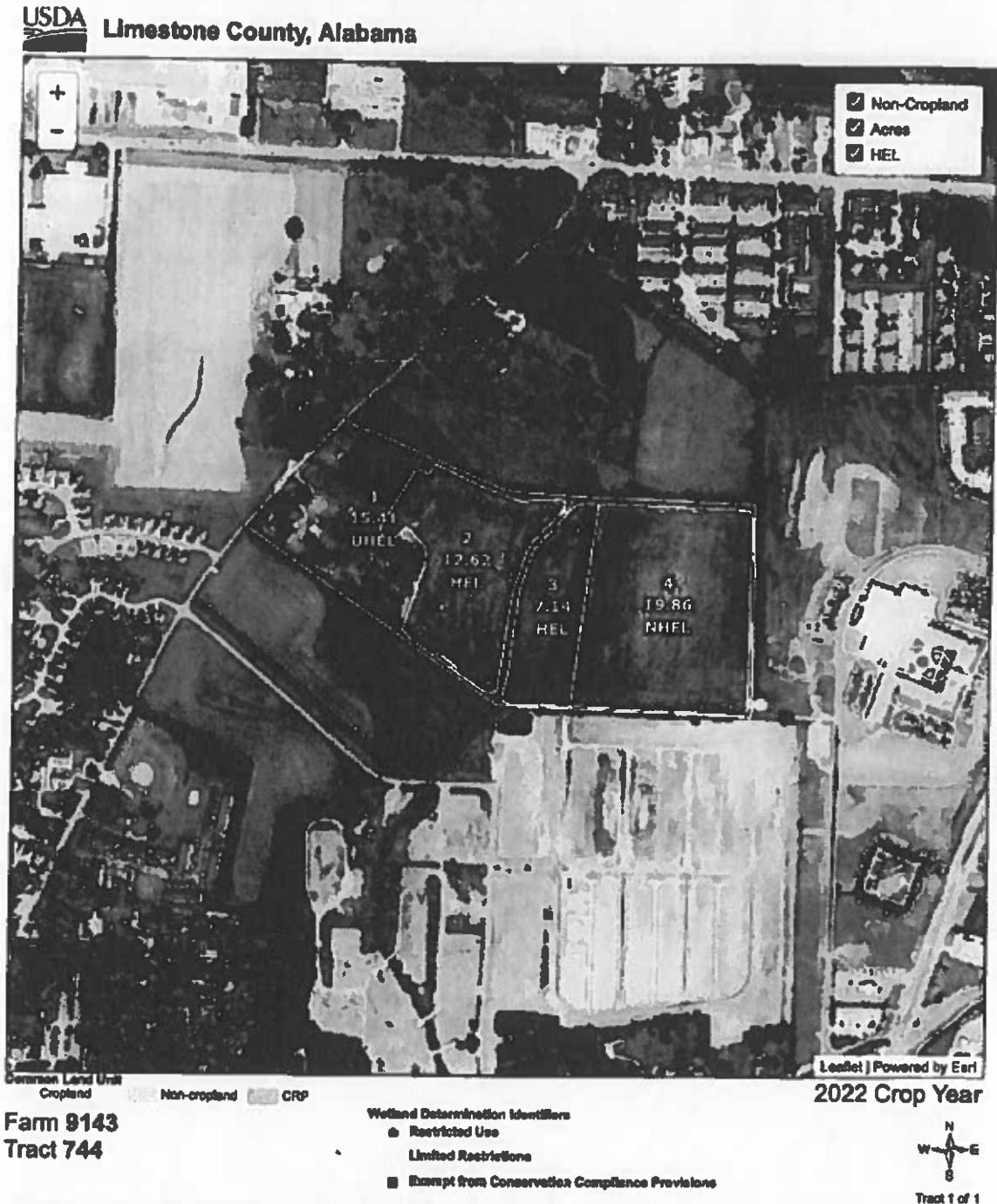
ADOPTED this the 19 day of February, 2026,



BEVERLY MALONE
PRESIDENT
ATHENS CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

EXHIBIT A

Tract 4 as shown on the USDA map below, of 19.86 acres, more or less



United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) maps are for FSA Program administration only. This map does not represent a legal survey or reflect actual ownership; rather it depicts the information provided directly from the producer under National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP) imagery. The producer accepts the data for use and assumes all risks associated with its use. USDA-FSA assumes no responsibility for actual or consequential damage incurred as a result of any user's reliance on this data outside FSA Programs. Wetland identifiers do not represent the size, shape, or specific determination of the area. Refer to your original determination (CPA-428 and attached maps) for exact boundaries and determinations or contact USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).



Superintendent's Report February 19, 2026 Board Meeting

ATTENDANCE REPORT

School	August 2025	September 2025	October 2025	November 2025	December 2025	January 2026	February 2026
Athens Elementary	380 + 72	377 + 72	376 + 74	378 + 74	377 + 75	377 + 75	378 + 76
FAME Academy @ BES	362 + 18	362 + 18	366 + 17	361 + 18	367 + 18	371 + 18	373 + 18
SPARK Academy @ CES	304 + 18	303 + 18	302 + 18	302 + 18	298 + 18	304 + 18	308 + 18
Julian Newman Elementary	417 + 51	417 + 51	418 + 49	424 + 49	427 + 50	429 + 51	434 + 50
Athens Intermediate	685	683	687	693	695	700	705
Athens Middle	926	925	928	939	943	942	939
Athens High	1296	1287	1291	1287	1287	1269	1264
Athens Renaissance	678	675	671	660	655	641	638
Renaissance Virtual	425	446	449	441	441	473	473
Total:	5,632	5,634	5,646	5,644	5,651	5,668	5,674

SCHOOL REPORTS

Athens High School

Congratulations to Mildriana Dempsey and Kylie Wheeler for placing in the **MLK Jr. Day Art Contest**. Both students were recognized at the annual celebration in January at the Veterans Museum.

Congratulations to Zoey Powers who is the overall winner for the state of Alabama in the **Youth Art Month Flag Design** competition. Zoey's design will be printed on a fabric flag and hung at the National Art Education Convention in Chicago in March. Zoey, along with Mrs. Tavia Slaton, will also be recognized at the Alabama Art Education Association's 2026 Fall Art Conference.

Congratulations to the following students for being chosen to represent Athens High School at the **State Superintendents Visual Art Exhibition** in Montgomery:

Mildriana Dempsey
Cecelia McFadden
Joanna Newborn
Tilly Holt
Angelina Galavez

CONGRATS to Nolyn McGinness for earning top honors in the **VFW Voice of Democracy Essay Contest**! This national competition encourages high school students to reflect on civic responsibility and patriotism through written expression. This year's essay theme, "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?", challenged students to share personal perspectives on what it means to be an engaged and responsible citizen. Nolyn was selected as the winner for VFW Post 4765 and advanced to earn first place at the District 1 level for VFW North Alabama. The Voice of Democracy program, sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, provides students with an opportunity to develop their voice, strengthen their writing skills, and deepen their understanding of democratic values and civic engagement.

Students in **Dr. Wagner's Aviation Year 1** have been exploring the three primary segments of aviation: commercial, military, and general aviation, while also examining the gradual evolution of flight. Instruction has included tracing aviation innovation from ancient Greek STEM concepts to Leonardo da Vinci's early design ideas, helping students understand how modern aviation developed over time. This term, students have completed a heavy-lift rocket design challenge, created mini paper helicopters, and are currently engineering drag devices. Through these hands-on projects, students collaborate to design, test, evaluate, and refine their ideas using the engineering design process.

In addition, students have learned about the many applications of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). They designed safety posters and successfully completed the Recreational UAS Safety Test (TRUST) during class, earning certificates that demonstrate their understanding of safe and responsible recreational drone use. These experiences reinforce both STEM skills and a strong emphasis on safety and real-world aviation practices.

Students in **Dr. Wagner's Aviation Year 2** have been introduced to pilot licensing requirements and the various types of pilot certificates available. They have also studied the categories and classes of aircraft and can identify them based on defining characteristics. Building on this knowledge, students examined both manned and unmanned aircraft components and constructed scale models of selected manned aircraft to demonstrate their understanding of aircraft structure and function.

Students have begun practicing basic flight controls using a classroom drone and have engaged in flight simulations to better understand airplane control surfaces and aircraft behavior. Currently, they are researching real-world flight scenarios and identifying the safety systems and procedures designed to protect pilots, passengers, and aircraft, strengthening their understanding of aviation safety and operational decision-making.

SCA collected items for The Full Tummy Project at the end of January. The Full Tummy Project is a local program that provides small bags of food on Fridays for children in the Athens City and Limestone County school systems who have been identified by school administrators as at risk for hunger. For many of these students, this is how they get to eat each weekend. The clubs and organizations at AHS have been working together to coordinate how we as a school can collect enough items to take care of the entire month of April for the Full Tummy Project! February 10th was packing day and students packed 1,105 bags on that day!

CONGRATS! Athens High School is proud to announce our 2025-2026 **Bryant-Jordan Scholarship Program** nominees!

Caitlyn Tedford, AHS Bryant-Jordan Scholar-Athlete Award Nominee (Softball, Flag Football)

Lakin Barnes, AHS Bryant-Jordan Achievement Award Nominee (Basketball)

The Bryant-Jordan Scholarship Program honors Alabama high school seniors who demonstrate excellence and success in both academics and athletics.

SPORTS REPORT

Winter Sports is quickly coming to a close.

Basketball: Both girls and boys basketball teams ended their season in the area tournament, losing close games to Decatur (40-47) and Muscle Shoals (46-49), respectively. The basketball program continues to grow each year. Returning players are eager to get back in the gym to prepare for next season.

Indoor Track: 8 athletes participated in the AHSAA 6A Championship at The Birmingham Crossplex on Friday, January 30th.

- Shanila Nance ended 6th place for the 400m with a time of 58.82. In addition, Shanila Nance broke the indoor 400m school record earlier this season, running a 58.01 at the Last Chance meet on 1/23.
- Kate Sanders ended 5th in the 32 with a time of 11:40.51 (this was a new PR and she's now ranked #16 in the state of Alabama)
- Boys 4x200 team broke the school record and placed 9th with a time of 1:32.60(25th in the state of Alabama). The team consisted of Gavin Stroup, Tyler Long, River Vegara, Owen Sowell and Xavier Edwards (alternate)
- Reco Allen got 7th in the Triple with a jump of 45-05.50 (14th in the state of Alabama). Reco also set the school record for the triple jump at 45' 4.5"
- Reco Allen got 13th in the long jump with a 19-11 jump
- Braylen White got 8th in shot with a throw of 44-08

Winter Signing Day was on February 4th. Congratulations to these athletes that signed.

CJ Croone-Football-Carson Newman University
Kinley Hargrove-Soccer-Calhoun Community College
Grayson Nails-Cross Country-University of Tennessee Southern
Keivyn Shockley-Cross Country-Calhoun Community College
Hayden Smith-Golf-Southern Union State Community College
Leslie Vicente-Soccer-Calhoun Community College

Next month, we will recognize and celebrate our Wrestling and Cheer Teams!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR WINTER SPORTS ATHLETES!

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