

ATHENS CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Called - School Board Meeting
March 24, 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 59 members of the public, along with the Athens High School Cheerleaders and Wrestling Team.

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. Townsend opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Mrs. Hutton 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 on the agenda items.
5. Jeremy Blackburn and Krystle Stell gave the Audit Presentation from Mauldin & Jenkins.
6. Mrs. Patton presented some special recognitions.

ATHENS CHEER

Athens High School and Athens Middle School Cheer teams are led by Gia Russell, Cheer Coordinator, Tasia Farmer, Varsity Cheer Coach, and Ashley Lovelace, Junior Varsity Coach.

Athens Cheer brought home top honors after bringing all of their Golden Eagle Spirit to the mat! Over 50 student-athletes competed against high school cheerleaders across the country and around the world at the Universal Cheer Association National High School Cheerleading Championship and International Cheer Union World Cheerleading in Orlando earlier this year. Teams were judged on spirit, crowd engagement, use of props and motions, stunt techniques, showcase ability, energy, and overall performance excellence.

Congrats to **Athens High School Varsity Cheer** for earning:

- **1st Place - Super Varsity Traditional, International Cheer Union World Cheerleading Championships** (Gold Medal and Championship Jacket)

And congrats to our **Athens Middle School Junior Varsity Cheer** on earning:

- **1st Place - Junior Varsity Traditional, International Cheer Union World Cheerleading Championship** (Gold Medal and Championship Jacket)
- **3rd Place Junior Varsity Non-Tumbling Division II Game Day, Universal Cheer Association National High School Cheerleading Championship** (bronze medal and trophy)
- **And JV Cheer also claimed the title of AHSAA 6A Junior Varsity Coed State Champions.**

This marks the ninth year Athens Cheer has competed in Orlando, and the fourth consecutive year to capture a Gold Medal and White Championship Jacket. Athens Cheer earned UCA National Championship titles in 2023, 2024, 2025, and ICU World titles in 2023 & 2026.

Athens High School Wrestling

I would like to take a moment to recognize our BACK-TO-BACK State Championship Wrestling Team!

Our Golden Eagles captured the Blue Map in 2025 and went on to dominate this season, earning top honors at AHSAA 6A Wrestling Duals, AHSAA 6A North Sectionals, and AHSAA 6A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP!

Thirteen of our Golden Eagle Wrestlers competed at STATE in February.

- Jaxon Unger/165
- Austin Campbell/175
- Bryce Schwan/190
- Carter Campbell/150
- Preston Davidson/106
- 113 Brice Emery/113
- Brylynn Brite/120
- Lakin Poff/126
- Cam Fielder/132
- Matthew Raines/138
- Landon Buttleman/144
- Halston Barker/157
- Braylon Young/215
- Pratt Johnsey/HWY

And Individual State Champs:

- 1st Place - Jaxon Unger/165
- 1st Place - Austin Campbell/175
- 1st Place - Bryce Schwan/190
- 1st Place - Carter Campbell/150

Mr. Willie Moore, Athens High School Executive Principal

I would like to take a moment to recognize and congratulate Mr. Moore on his induction into the Class of 2026 Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame! Mr. Moore is one of just 12 administrators and coaches statewide chosen for this prestigious honor. The induction ceremony was last night in Montgomery. Honorees were chosen by a selection committee assembled by the Alabama High School Athletic Directors & Coaches Association (AHSADCA) from a competitive pool of 60 nominations submitted by member schools and other organizations. With a career spanning more than three decades in education, Mr. Moore has made a lasting impact on countless students and student-athletes. His leadership, character, and commitment to excellence, both in the classroom and on the field, have earned him this honor, which reflects a distinguished career rooted in service, integrity, and the heart of a true champion. In addition to his leadership at Athens High School, Mr. Moore serves on the Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS) Board of Directors and is the President of the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals (AASSP). Way to rep the A Mr. Moore! We are #AthensProud of you!

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

Julian Newman

Punch List;

Still working through a few new building issues.

AIS - Roof

Roof panels installed

Metal trim nearly complete

Trim on dormers 75% complete

Seaming has started

Contingency - Painting of kitchen vents, fresh air intakes, and caulking the control joints to begin next week...

SUMMER

AIS - Road/parking

Bid 3/12

Contractor - Grayson Carter

Base Bid w/ Alternates - \$472,754.96

Alternatives include doing additional paving and adding a sidewalk on the 5th-grade side

AMS - Bleachers / Gym Floor

Bid 3/10

Contractor - EMW

Base Bid \$699,000

Currently, the bleachers and flooring are on schedule

AHS - Sidewalks

Moss Concrete will install +/- 800 ln/ft of sidewalk on the North end for better access from the parking lot to the Auditorium / Gym

BES - Parking in front

Bid 3/10

Contractor - Hawkins Groundworks

Base Bid - \$110,765

CES - HVAC / Windows

Bid 2/26

Contractor - Boyett Construction

Base Bid w/ Alternates - \$1,238,496

The alternates included 4 classrooms that will be included in the project....Every classroom now will have new;

Ceilings, Grid & tiles, Lights (by maintenance), HVAC, Windows & Blinds

We have a ship date of 5/4 for the units

We took advantage of spring break and field measured every opening...all window frame material is now on order and will be shipped to the contractor mid-May

ARS

Meeting with the designers this week to review budget, demo

BES - intercom

Still looking at options

8. Mr. Jake Herrera, Principal at Athens Intermediate School, and Mrs. Crystal McNeal, Principal at Brookhill Elementary School, provided updates and overviews of their respective schools, highlighting programs, accomplishments, test scores, and the overall school experience.
9. 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 - February 19, 2026
2. Paid Payables - February 2026
3. Financial Statements - February 28, 2026
4. Personnel
5. Field Trip Approvals for ACS
6. Field Trip Request - ARS Middle School Robotics Team - Overnight and Out-of-State
7. Facility Use Request - Athens Recreation Department
8. Board Policy - GALBJ - Time and Effort Documentation
9. Board Policy - JCDAC - Athens City Schools Vape Awareness, Education, and Prevention Policy
10. Board Policy Revision - GAID - Conflict of Interest Name Change
11. Board Policy GAIE - Conflicts of Interest
12. Bid Approval - CNP Supplemental Groceries and Milk for the 2026-2027 School Year
13. Bid Approval - Gym Renovation at Athens Middle School
14. Bid Approval - Paving Improvements at Brookhill Elementary School
15. Bid Approval - Paving Improvements at Athens Intermediate School
16. Bid Approval - HVAC, Ceiling, and Windows at Cowart Elementary School
17. Technology - Approval of 26-27 E-Rate Mini-Bid for Networking LAN/WAN Infrastructure
18. Curriculum Guide Approval - AHS 2026-2027
19. Revisions to the Athens Renaissance School Curriculum Guide - 2026-2027

B. Personnel Items Approved:

A. Resignation

1. Sammy Ford - Custodian - CES
2. Allyson Payne - History Teacher at AHS
3. Michelle Stewart - System-Wide SPED Instructional Aide at AES

B. Canceled Contracts and Letters of Appointment

1. Debra James - Sub Bus Driver for ACS
2. Dana Downs - Mentor Teacher -K effective 3/31/2026

C. Retirement

1. Kim Moore - Principal at AMS

D. Employment

1. Megan Adams - System-Wide CNP placed at AHS for the remainder of the 2025-2026 School Year
2. Christie Smith - OSR PreK Auxiliary Teacher at JNE for the remainder of the 2025-2026 School Year
3. Yaritzel Flores - K-2 Auxiliary Teacher at JNE for the remainder of the 2025-2026 School Year
4. Shelby Matier - System-Wide SPED Instructional Aide at AES for the remainder of the 2025-2026 School Year

E. Leave of Absence

1. K'yani Houston Scales
2. Julianna Woolard

F. Temporary, Part-Time Employment

1. Justin Williams - Music Writer for AHS Band

2. Thad Guthrie - Sub Bus Driver
3. Debra James - Substitute Tech Bus Route Driver
4. Hailie Black - Color Guard Sponsor for the AHS Band
5. Sharon Kilgore - Tech Serial Number Documentation - RenV
6. Beth Davis - Honor Choir Clinician - AHS Choir
7. Tiffany Richter - Choir Clinician- AHS Choir
8. Colby Mays - Wellness and Nutrition for Baseball
9. Brad Jackson - Permanent Substitute - AMS
10. Ron Oakley - Teacher at AIS
11. Jacob Viola - Pianist for AHS Choir

G. Contracted Services and Stipends

1. Harold Rogers - Bus Driver Training
2. Lisa Ivey - Driver's Education (Summer 2026) - RenV
3. Darran Alexander - Summer Learning Pre-Camp Admin
4. Daphne Scott - Summer Learning Camp Admin
5. AL Teacher Mentor
 - a. Katie Walker
 - b. Sara Welcher

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

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Hutton



Mrs. Beth Patton
Superintendent



Mrs. Beverly Malone, President



Superintendent's Report March 24, 2026 Board Meeting

ATTENDANCE REPORT

School	August 2025	September 2025	October 2025	November 2025	December 2025	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026
Athens Elementary	380 + 72	377 + 72	376 + 74	378 + 74	377 + 75	377 + 75	378 + 76	383 + 75
FAME Academy @ BES	362 + 18	362 + 18	366 + 17	361 + 18	367 + 18	371 + 18	373 + 18	375 + 18
SPARK Academy @ CES	304 + 18	303 + 18	302 + 18	302 + 18	298 + 18	304 + 18	308 + 18	308 + 18
Julian Newman Elementary	417 + 51	417 + 51	418 + 49	424 + 49	427 + 50	429 + 51	434 + 50	440 + 50
Athens Intermediate	685	683	687	693	695	700	705	710
Athens Middle	926	925	928	939	943	942	939	938
Athens High	1296	1287	1291	1287	1287	1269	1264	1268
Athens Renaissance	678	675	671	660	655	641	638	636
Renaissance Virtual	425	446	449	441	441	473	473	471
Total:	5,632	5,634	5,646	5,644	5,651	5,668	5,674	5,690

SCHOOL REPORTS

Athens High School

On February 13th and 14th, **AHS Thespians** took 9 students with 5 students competing at the Alabama Thespians Festival, where students can perform in acting, musical theatre, and technical categories for adjudication, while top scores qualify for the International Thespian Festival. Our Golden Eagles competed against 1,200 students from across the state and their results are as follows:

Solo Musical Theatre Performance

Giulia Sala: Excellent

Lilly Ruth Hobbs: Excellent

Duet Acting

Logan Stroup & Sadie Kloepfer: Excellent

Duet Musical Theatre Performance

Giulia Sala & Arely Nava: Excellent

Competing at this level is incredibly difficult and these students rose to the occasion! We are so proud of our theatre students and how well they represented Athens High School.

Congratulations to our outstanding **HOSA** competitors! This past week, 13 of our students attended the HOSA State Leadership Conference. Three students have advanced to Nationals, and one student placed in the Top 6 in the state and is waiting to hear if he will also get a bid to Nationals!

Congratulations to:

Jessie Kloepfer – 2nd Place in the State for Medical Spelling

Gavin Swint & Gavin Rodriguez – 2nd Place in the State for Medical Innovations with their prosthetic gallbladder invention

Wyatt LaBarr – Top 6 Finalist in the State for Health Career Photography

Additional strong performances included:

*Maggie Leonard, Top 10 in Clinical Laboratory Sciences

*Emma Christoper, Top 25 in Dental Sciences

*An Nguyen, Top 25 in Medical Math

*Ethan Lawniczak, Top 25 in Physical Therapy

*Emery Lang received the prestigious “Give Me 10” Award, recognizing outstanding recruitment efforts

*Keivyn Chockley designed the official Athens High School HOSA banner

*Azariah Woods and Alex McWilliams served as voting delegates at the conference

Athens High School HOSA earned two significant chapter awards, including the “Give Me 10 Award” for increasing chapter membership by 10% this year and the National Marrow Donor Program HOSA Service Project Award for contributing more than 800 hours of community service in support of the National HOSA Service Project!

We are extremely proud of their dedication, hard work, and excellence. Best of luck to our national qualifiers!

Congratulations to our Athens High School **Choir** on earning SUPERIOR ratings in both Stage Performance and Sight Reading at the State Choral Performance Assessment!

SPORTS REPORT

Congratulations to the Golden Eagle **Wrestling** Team. On Saturday, February 14, the wrestling team won the Class 6A State Wrestling Championship for the 2nd year in a row!!!

Not only did they win the team championship, but four wrestlers won 1st place in their weight class:

Carter Campbell, Austin Campbell, Jaxon Unger, & Bryce Schwan.

The Athens HS **JV and Varsity Boys soccer teams** are both off to a great start in their spring season. The JV Boys began the season with 11 straight wins which included tournament championships in the Golden Goal Tournament at Sand Mountain Park and the Huntsville HS JV Supercup. The Varsity boys also competed in the Golden Goal Tournament, placing 2nd in their division. They went on the road last week to Muscle Shoals for their first area match of the season and came home with a 4-3 overtime victory over the defending area champs. Their quest for the playoffs continues with upcoming home matches against Columbia and Decatur.

The AHS Boys soccer program is excited to partner with the American Cancer Society for their “Red Card Cancer” campaign event during the March 31 home match.

Spring Sports are in FULL BLOOM!

If you haven’t made it to a spring sport game yet, you are missing out on some very good games. All teams are doing a great job of competing. They’ve excelled in single games and tournament games, bringing

home trophies. April is full of regular season games, while the last couple of weeks is playoff time for some.

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

Thursday	April 2	Hartselle Jr High	Hartselle	AMS Baseball	4:30/6:30
Thursday	April 2	Hartselle(DH)	Home	JV Softball	4:30/6:30
Thursday	April 2	Decatur	Home	Varsity Baseball	4:30/7:00
Thursday	April 2	Austin	Home	JV/V Girls Soccer	5:00/7:00
Thursday	April 2	Mae Jemison	Mae Jemison	Varsity Boys Soccer	6:00
				Varsity Outdoor Track	
Friday	April 3	Mobile Challenge of Champions	Mobile		All Day
Friday	April 3	Austin Jr High	Home	AMS Girls Soccer	5:30
Thurs-Sat	April 2-4	Bob Jones Tournament	Palmer Park	Varsity Softball	TBD
Saturday	April 4	Austin	Home	AMS/JV/V Boys Soccer	11:00/1:00/3:00
Saturday	April 4	Mars Hill Bible	Mars Hill	AMS Baseball	11:00/1:00
Saturday	April 4	East Limestone	Home	JV/V Girls Soccer	5:00/7:00
Saturday	April 4	Mars Hill Bible	Home	V/JV Baseball	12:00/2:00
Saturday	April 4	Bob Jones Invitational	Bob Jones	Outdoor Varsity Track	All Day
Monday	April 6	256 Cup Tournament	Discovery	AMS G/B Soccer	TBD
Monday	April 6	East Limestone	East Limestone	AMS Baseball	4:30/6:30
Monday	April 6	Huntsville High	Home	JV Baseball	4:30/6:30
Tuesday	April 7	Decatur	Home(Teacher Appreciation)	Varsity Softball	5:00
Tuesday	April 7	Muscle Shoals	Home	V/JV Baseball	4:30/7:00
Tuesday	April 7	Priceville	Home	JV/V Girls Soccer	5:00/7:00
Tuesday	April 7	Decatur	Decatur	JV/V Boys Soccer	5:00/7:00

Thursday	April 9	Sparkman	Home	V/JV Softball	4:30/6:00
Thursday	April 9	Decatur	Home	AMS Baseball	4:30/6:30

Thursday	April 9	Muscle Shoals	Muscle Shoals	Varsity Baseball	4:30/6:30
Thursday	April 9	North Alabama Jr High Championship		JV/MS Track	
Thursday	April 9	Austin Jr High	Austin	AMS Girls Soccer	5:30
Thursday	April 9	Columbia	Columbia	JV Boys/V Girls/V Boys Soccer	4:30/6:00/7:30
Friday	April 10	Lincoln Co., Tn	Home	V/JV Softball	4:30/6:30
Friday	April 10	Hartselle(DH)	Home	Freshman Baseball	4:30/7:00
Friday	April 10	Arab	Arab	JV/V Girls Soccer	5:00/7:00
Fri-Sat	April 10-11	Cullman Tournament	Cullman	JV Softball	TBD
Saturday	April 11	Sparkman Senator Classic	Sparkman	Outdoor Varsity Track	All Day
Monday	April 13	East Limestone/Danville	East Limestone	AMS Softball	4:30/6:30
Monday	April 13	Elkmont	Home - Senior Night	JV/V Girls Soccer	5:00/7:00
Tuesday	April 14	AHSAA Sectionals	Muscle Shoals	Tennis	8:00 AM
Tuesday	April 14	Hartselle	Home	V/JV Softball	4:30/6:30
Tuesday	April 14	Hartselle	Hartselle	V/JV Baseball	4:30/7:00
Tuesday	April 14	Muscle Shoals	Home(Senior Night)	JV/V Boys Soccer	5:00/7:00
Wednesday	April 15	AHSAA Sectionals	Muscle Shoals	Tennis	8:00 AM
Thursday	April 16	Hoover(DH)	Home	Varsity Softball	4:30/6:30
Thursday	April 16	Hartselle	Home	Varsity Baseball	4:30/7:00
Thursday	April 16	Mars Hill Bible	Home	JV/V Girls Soccer	5:00/7:00
Friday	April 17	Ardmore(DH)	Ardmore	Freshman Baseball	4:30/6:30

Friday	April 17	Hartselle/Florence/Athens	Home	JV Baseball	4:00/6:00/8:00
Fri-Sat	April 17-18	Northwest AI Softball Bash	Florence	V/JV Softball	TBD
Saturday	April 18	Mars Hill Bible	Mars Hill	V/JV Baseball	12:00/2:00
Monday	April 20	Hartselle(DH)	Hartselle	JV Softball	4:30/6:30
Monday	April 20	Athens JV Tournament(Cullman, Decatur, Florence)	Home	JV Baseball	4:00/6:00
Tuesday	April 21	Muscle Shoals	Home	Varsity Softball	5:00
Tuesday	April 21	Athens JV Tournament(Cullman, Decatur, Florence)	Home	JV Baseball	5:00
Tuesday	April 21	Albertville	Home	JV/V Girls Soccer	5:00/7:00
Thur-Sat	April 23-25	Soccer 1st Round	TBD	Varsity Soccer	TBD
Thurs-Sat	April 23-25	I-65 Showdown SB Tournament	Home	Varsity Softball	TBD
Fri-Sat	April 24-25	1st Rd Baseball Playoffs	TBD	Varsity Softball	TBD
Fri-Sat	April 24-25	AHSAA 6A Section 4 Sectionals	Muscle Shoals	Outdoor Varsity Track	All Day
Mon-Tues	April 27-28	Soccer 2nd Round	TBD	Varsity Soccer	TBD
Tuesday	April 28	James Clemens	Home - Senior Night	V/JV Softball	4:30/6:30
Thursday	April 30	Florence	Home	V/JV Softball	4:30/6:30
Thur-Sat	April 30-May 2	AHSAA State Track & Field Champ.	Gulf Shores	Outdoor Varsity Track	All Day
Thur-Sat	April 30-May 2	Soccer 3rd Round	TBD	Varsity Soccer	TBD