

ATHENS CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting
April 23, 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 100 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 Beverly Malone Karen Clem
	Absent:	Shannon Hutton, Board Vice-President Toby Harrison

1. Mr. Townsend opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Members from the Athens High School Rho Kappa Club led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Mrs. Clem moved that the board approve the agenda. Mr. Townsend seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, with all three members voting yes.
4. There was no public input on the agenda items.

5. Mrs. Patton recognized the Aspiring Admin Cohort for 2025-2026.

We are proud to recognize our first-ever Aspiring Administrator Cohort! This yearlong professional learning experience is designed to grow and support the next generation of district leaders. Throughout the school year, this group participated in monthly leadership sessions, studied and applied strategies from Leading a High Reliability School, analyzed school improvement plans, led yearlong projects aligned to district goals, and grew within a supportive network of peers while receiving mentorship from ACS district leaders. Coordinated by Athens Elementary School Principal Amanda Tedford and Athens Intermediate School Principal Jake Herrera, the Cohort provides meaningful, job-embedded learning that empowers educators to make an immediate impact today and prepares them for future opportunities.

- Leslee Gaston, Athens Elementary School
- Thomasena Garner, Athens Renaissance School
- Lauren Kyle, Athens Renaissance School
- Erica Hand, Athens Renaissance School
- Brooke Holt, Athens Renaissance School
- Minouche Kaufmann-Perry, Renaissance Virtual School
- Daphne Scott, SPARK Academy at Cowart
- Wendy Davis, Athens Intermediate School
- Keziah McCarley, Athens Intermediate School
- Patrick Chambless, Athens High School
- Charity Rogers, Athens High School
- Sandra Davila, Athens High School
- Darci Hays, Athens Middle School

6. Mrs. Patton presented some special recognitions.

EMERSON POWLESS, NATIONAL MERIT FINALIST

Congratulations to Emerson Powless on advancing to NATIONAL MERIT FINALIST in the 71st Annual National Merit Scholarship Program! This honor places Emerson among the nation's top academic students, recognizing his exceptional performance on the PSAT, academics, leadership, and service. Emerson will now compete for the title of National Merit Scholar and the opportunity to earn prestigious Merit scholarships. We are so proud of you, Emerson, and this amazing academic achievement, and wish you the best of luck as you continue in the competition!

MR. MICHAEL MAY

We would like to take a moment to congratulate Athens High School teacher Michael May on being named one of the "Sweet Sixteen" finalists for the 2026–2027 Alabama Teacher of the Year! He was selected from more than 155 outstanding educators across the state, and will be recognized in May at a special ceremony in Montgomery. Mr. May represents the heart, passion, and excellence that define ACS, and we're so proud of you Mr. May. AND~

Mr. May was named the 2025 Alabama Association for Career & Technical Education Teacher of the Year at the ALACTE Summer Conference. This honor recognizes outstanding CTE teachers at the middle and high school levels for their innovation in the classroom, commitment to students, and dedication to improving Career and Technical Education in institutions and communities. He is currently competing at the Region II Level of the National Association for Career and Technical Education awards program and, Mr. May, we wish you all the best! AND~

Mr. May teaches Engineering Design classes in the AHS Career and Technical Education Engineer Pathway, where students dive into hands-on, project-based learning. Under his leadership, AHS was named Most Outstanding Chapter and presented with the prestigious Benjamin Eaton Outstanding School Alabama TSA Level II Award for the 7th consecutive year - a state record! This award recognizes excellence in leadership, innovation, and technical achievement.

TSA

Throughout the conference, these students showcased their talents in technology, engineering, design, and leadership events, bringing home 13 medals and 33 Top 10 finishes.

First Place

- Benjamin Eaton Outstanding School Alabama TSA - Athens High School
- Animatronics - Davis Baswell, Matthew Raines, and Jack Web
- Computer Aided Design (2D, Architectural) - Joanna Newborn
- Creed - Aniya Lindsay
- Flight Endurance - Emerson Powless
- Promotional Design - Brayden Truett
- State T-Shirt Design - Matthew Raines

Second Place

- Children's Stories - Joanna Newborn and Carolina Wagner
- Debating Technological Issues - Kendall Gill
- Dragster Design - Wyatt Brumfield
- Music Production - Wyatt Brumfield and Emerson Powless
- Prepared Presentation - Kendall Gill
- State T-Shirt Design - Aniya Lindsay

Third Place

- Debating Technological Issues - Wyatt Brumfield and Emerson Powless

A huge congratulations to our talented students and to their dedicated sponsors for their commitment to excellence and innovation!

WILLIE MOORE, AHSAA CLASS OF 2026 ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS HALL OF FAME

I would like to take a moment to recognize Athens High School Executive Principal Mr. Willie Moore on his induction into the AHSAA 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 held on Monday, March 23 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. Beginning his coaching career in 1995, Mr. Moore has served as a softball and football coach as well as a state-champion basketball coach. His many accolades include AHSAA State Coach of the Year ('14), AHSAA Making a Difference Award ('15), among others. He moved into administration in 2016. Mr. Moore transitioned into administration in 2016. 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).

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

AIS - Roof

Work is complete

Roofing Manufacturer came Monday...awaiting their report

The roofing consultant will do their "official" punch list next week

State inspection the following week

SUMMER

AIS - Road/parking

Bid 3/12

Contractor - Grayson Carter

Base Bid w/ Alternates - \$472,754.96

Contracts approved

Pre-start with the state completed

AMS - Bleachers / Gym Floor

Bid 3/10

Contractor - EMW

Base Bid \$699,000

Contracts approved

Pre-start with the state completed

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

Contracts approved
Pre-start with the state completed

CES - HVAC / Windows

Bid 2/26

Contractor - Boyett Construction

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

Contracts approved

Pre-start with the state completed

ARS

Meeting with the designers this week to review budget

BES - intercom

Still researching options

Others:

Working to remedy flooding around the baseball Fieldhouse

AIS - fill in the gravel corners with concrete to give them more flexibility to set up tables

Maintenance will add a calm down room at BES, continue changing out fluorescents for LED, perform preventative maintenance on HVAC, and many more projects

8. Ms. Lorian Charles, Principal at Cowart Elementary School, and Ms. Sharla Birdsong, Principal at Julian Newman 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. Clem seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion, with all three members voting yes.

A. Consent Items Approved:

1. Approval of Minutes - March 24, 2026
2. Paid Payables - March 2026
3. Financial Statements - March 31, 2026
4. Field Trip Approvals for ACS
5. Field Trip Request - AHS HOSA - Out-of-State and Overnight
6. Field Trip Request - AHS Track & Field Team - Overnight
7. Field Trip Request - AHS Softball Team - Overnight
8. Field Trip Request - AHS Golf Team - Overnight
9. Field Trip Request - AHS Golf Team - Overnight (Mobile)
10. Facility Use Request - Joy Whitt - Theatrical Performance
11. Facility Use Request - Hits, LLC - Baseball Field on Clinton Street
12. 2026-2027 Student-Parent Handbooks
13. Revisions to the Athens High School Curriculum Guide
14. Resolution Concerning the Sale of Surplus Computers

15. Job Description and Salary Approval - Child Nutrition Assistant
16. Job Description and Salary Schedule Approval – Part-Time Summer Worker
17. Job Description and Salary Schedule – Finance Support Specialist
18. 2026 Summer Program Approval
19. Textbook Approval - Textbook and Resources requested for Social Studies
20. CNP - Meal Prices for the 2026-2027 School Year
21. Contract Approval - Bright Thinker Learning Management and Curriculum
22. Contract Approval - Southeast Access, Vision and Educational Services, LLC
23. Contract Approval - Centegix Crisis Alert
24. Contract Approval - TRANE Controls AIS
25. Proposal for Chromebooks, iPads, and Cart Purchases
26. TEAMS Contract Approval for Michael May
27. Personnel

B. Personnel Items Approved:

A. Resignation

1. Amanda Tedford - Principal - AES
2. William Furlong - PE Teacher at AMS
3. Jessica Kraus - Bus Driver for ACS
4. Chandler Greer - Theater Teacher at AHS
5. Kenny Miller - Bus Driver for ACS
6. Tyler Yearwood - Science Teacher at AHS

B. Canceled Contracts and Letters of Appointment

1. Kayela Elders — K-2 Auxiliary Teacher at CES

C. Retirement

1. Shana Winter - School Counselor (9 months) at AMS
2. Leslie Jennings - Reading Intervention Teacher at AIS
3. Ronny Griffin - Assistant Band Director for ACS
4. Michelle Smith - Teacher at AIS
5. Synthia Howell - Kindergarten Teacher at JNES
6. Martha Durisseau - Pre-K Auxiliary Teacher at JNES

D. Employment

1. Thad Guthrie — Bus Driver for ACS for the remainder of the 25–26 School Year
2. Sheila Reaves - Special Education Teacher at ARS for the 26–27 School Year
3. BradAlex Jackson — System Wide Special Education Instructional Aide at AMS for the 26–27 School Year
4. Olivia Rizzo - Science Teacher at AMS
5. Drake Thrasher - Math Teacher at AMS
6. Morgan Beggs - Reading Specialist at AES
7. Morgan Gentry - Special Education Teacher at AMS

8. Blake Burttram - PE Teacher at AIS
9. Nick Looney - Principal at Athens Elementary School

E. Transfer

1. Darla Russell — CNP at AMS to CNP at AES for the 26–27 School Year
2. Charlie Wallace - SPED Teacher at AMS to SPED Teacher at AIS for the 26-27 School Year
3. Emily McDaniel - Teacher at AMS to Teacher at RenV for the 26–27 School Year
4. Leigh Jackson - Registrar (10 months) to Registrar (12 months) at AHS effective July 1, 2026
5. Keziah McCarley - Instructional Partner at AIS to Teacher at RenV for the 26–27 School Year
6. Peyton Gross - PE Teacher at AIS to PE Teacher at AMS for the 26–27 School Year

F. Principal Contracts

1. Nelson Brown - RenV
2. Catherine Preston - ARS
3. Crystal McNeal – BES

G. Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities Facilitator

1. Jennifer Williamson

H. Temporary, Part-Time Employment

1. Megan Davis - Choreographer for Dance Team
2. Katherine Crews - Choreographer for Dance Team

I. Contracted Services and Stipends

1. Taylor Whisenant - Technology Device Set-UP - RenV
2. 2026 Summer Learning Camp Substitutes
 - a. Tammy Strahl
 - b. Julianna Woolard
3. Jeff Mathheus — Online Social Studies Curriculum Alignment - RenV
4. Rachel Bobo — Summer Recovery and Online SS Standards - RenV
5. Joesph Illg — Online Social Studies Curriculum Standard Alignment - RenV
6. Tenika Malone - 2026 Summer Learning Camp Admin Assistant - AES
7. Tiffany Burns - Administrative Duties - RenV
8. Summer Neely - Digital Curriculum Building — RenV
9. Robin Holland - 2026 Summer Learning Camp Counselor - AES
10. 2026 Summer Learning Camp Teachers — AES
 - a. Benitha Mass
 - b. Kandie Newsom
 - c. Heather Patterson
 - d. Hannah Pettry
 - e. Leah Pierce
 - f. Allison Pigg
 - g. Savannah Resendiz
 - h. Jackie Richardson
 - i. Diane Trout
 - j. Erin Vassar
 - k. Madison Wells

- l. Janet Wilbanks
 - m. Tiffany Wilbourn
- 11. 2026 Summer Learning Camp Teachers — AES
 - a. Haley Bush
 - b. Lori Carter
 - c. Kara Beth Crumbley
 - d. Allynda Davis
 - e. Bonnie Downs
 - f. Amanda Elgin
 - g. Lisa Gill
 - h. Keita Gladney
 - i. Emma Holland
 - j. Kristina Jones
 - k. Caleb Kerby
 - l. Tamra Laxson
 - m. Kaite Lewis
 - n. Mindy Magsig
- 12. Danyelle Lyons - Registrar Duties - RenV
- 13. Special Olympics Coordinators
 - a. Charity Rogers
 - b. Nicole Taylor
- 14. Lori Vaughn - 2026 Summer Learning Camp Nurse
- 15. Alexia Statton - 2026 Summer Learning Camp Teacher
- 16. 2026 Summer Learning Camp Aides
 - a. Jimia Bailey
 - b. Kylie Broyles
 - c. Kinsley Carter
 - d. Shalyn Croone
 - e. Shermain Croone
 - f. Logan Davis
 - g. Kendall Gill
 - h. Meredith Hicks
 - i. Levi Magsig
 - j. Luke Magsig
 - k. D'Asia Malone-Johnson
 - l. Brodi Richardson
 - m. Caroline Russell
 - n. Madelyn Tanksley
 - o. Anna Lee Thomas
 - p. John Trout
 - q. Deverly Williams
- 17. 2026 Summer Learning Camp Aides #2
 - a. Bradson Terry
 - b. Khloe Christopher
 - c. Alix Richardson
 - d. Jonathan Thomas
 - e. Dawson Wilbourn
- 18. Driver Recertification (Bus)
 - a. Sandra Dugger
 - b. Thad Guthrie
 - c. Danny Holt
 - d. Debra James
 - e. Russ McNutt
 - f. Barry Phillips

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

11. An Executive Session was not needed.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Townsend.



Mrs. Beth Patton
Superintendent



Mrs. Beverly Malone, President



Superintendent's Report April 23, 2026 Board Meeting

ATTENDANCE REPORT

School	August 2025	September 2025	October 2025	November 2025	December 2025	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026	April 2026
Athens Elementary	380 + 72	377 + 72	376 + 74	378 + 74	377 + 75	377 + 75	378 + 76	383 + 75	380+72
FAME Academy @ BES	362 + 18	362 + 18	366 + 17	361 + 18	367 + 18	371 + 18	373 + 18	375 + 18	374+17
SPARK Academy @ CES	304 + 18	303 + 18	302 + 18	302 + 18	298 + 18	304 + 18	308 +18	308 + 18	309+18
Julian Newman Elementary	417 + 51	417 + 51	418 + 49	424 + 49	427 + 50	429 + 51	434 + 50	440 + 50	444+50
Athens Intermediate	685	683	687	693	695	700	705	710	712
Athens Middle	926	925	928	939	943	942	939	938	939
Athens High	1296	1287	1291	1287	1287	1269	1264	1268	1262
Athens Renaissance	678	675	671	660	655	641	638	636	633
Renaissance Virtual	425	446	449	441	441	473	473	471	471
Total:	5,632	5,634	5,646	5,644	5,651	5,668	5,674	5,690	5,681

SYSTEM REPORTS

Compliance Monitoring

ACS recently held our compliance monitoring review, and I want to thank and congratulate all of our departments for their incredible work in ensuring that we adhere to state and federal requirements, effective internal processes and controls, and a continued commitment to maintaining high standards in operations and student support. Great job!!

Athens High School

On March 23rd Athens High School **Principal Willie F. Moore**, was inducted into the AHSAA Sports Hall of Fame at a ceremony held at the Montgomery Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center. Mr. Moore was one of 12 school administrators and coaches selected statewide for this prestigious honor. Honorees were chosen from a competitive pool of 60 individuals nominated by member schools and other organizations.

On April 14th and 15th, the Athens High School Technology Student Association went to Montgomery to compete in STEM events against some of the top schools from across Alabama. Led by seniors Emerson Powless, Aniya Lindsay, and Kendall Gill, along with sponsors Michael

May, Lara Malone, and Nicholas Kelley, the team delivered an outstanding performance. Athens High School earned 33 top ten finishes, including 13 top three placements. We are proud to announce that the team captured its seventh consecutive first-place overall finish, setting a new Alabama State TSA record.

On March 21st, 15 Members of the Athens **JROTC Drill Team** qualified and competed in the State JROTC Drill Competition. Twenty-One Schools were represented at Alabama A&M University and competed from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 pm. Our team entered into two categories: Color Guard and Unarmed Drill. Our team's performance was outstanding and one to be proud of. We are looking forward to next season and the return of the majority of our Drill Team.

Congratulations to the **JROTC Drill Team**! At the April 10th Drill Meet in Decatur! The Color Guard won 2nd Place and the Armed Drill Team ended with a 3rd place finish.

Athens High School **Indoor Marching Arts** proudly hosted the Athens Arena Classic Competition on March 21st, welcoming over 40 teams from across the Southeastern Color Guard Circuit. Our arena was filled with precision, creativity, and an electric atmosphere during this fantastic showcase of indoor marching artistry. Thanks to all who made this inaugural event a success! And, on March 29th and April 4th, AHS students competed against teams from across the Southeast at Western Kentucky University. Our Winter Guard earned 4th place overall, Indoor Percussion earned 3rd place overall, and Indoor Winds earned 1st place along with the Alabama State Championship title.

The National Association of Student Councils (NASC), has officially recognized the **Athens High School Student Council Association (SCA)** as a 2026 National Council of Excellence (NCOE)! This prestigious award is a testament to the highest standards of quality, leadership, innovation, and community engagement demonstrated through its operation, projects, and activities.

Congratulations to **Mr. May** for being selected as one of sixteen finalists for Alabama Teacher of the year!! We are so proud to have Mr. May represent our school, system and community.

SPORTS REPORT

Spring Sports have officially wound down and it is now playoff season. Don't let the season pass you by—come cheer on our spring athletes before it's over!

Thursday, April 23

HOME

V Girls/V Boys Soccer First Round - 5:00/7:00

*Note: Due to weather, the First Round of Playoffs for baseball will be Thursday, April 23, at Hazel Green. 5:00/7:00 Friday @ 4:30

Thurs-Sat, April 23, 24, and 25

HOME

V Softball I-65 Showdown Tournament

Fri-Sat, April 24 and 25

TBD

V Baseball 1st Round Baseball Playoffs

Fri-Sat, April 24 and 25

AWAY @ Muscle Shoals

V Track AHSAA 6A Section 4 Sectionals

Mon-Tues, April 27 and 28

TBD

V Girls/V Boys Soccer Second Round

Tuesday, April 28

HOME

V/JV Softball vs James Clemons – 4:30/6:30 - Senior Night

AWAY @ Cypress Lakes, Muscle Shoals

Boys and Girls Golf Sectionals

Thursday, April 30

HOME

V/JV Softball vs Florence – 4:30/6:30

Thurs-Sat, April 30-May 2

AWAY @ Gulf Shores

AHSAA State Track & Field Championship

Thurs-Sat, April 30-May 2

TBD

V Girls/V Boys Soccer Third Round

Fri-Sat, May 1 and 2

TBD

V Baseball Second Round Playoffs

Fri-Sat, Mon-Tues, May 1, 2, 4 and 5

TBD

V Softball Area Tournament

Tuesday, May 5

AWAY-Terrapin Hills, Fort Payne

Girls and Boys Golf Sub-State

Thursday, May 7 and Saturday, May 9

AWAY-John Hunt Park Huntsville

V Girls/V Boys Soccer Semi-Finals/Finals – 9:00(G)/11:00(B)

Mon-Tues, May 11 and 12

AWAY-Florence
V Softball AHSAA Softball Regionals

Mon-Tues, May 11 and 12
AWAY-Magnolia Grove, Mobile
Girls and Boys Golf AHSAA State Golf

Mon-Tues, May 18 and 19
AWAY-Oxford
V Softball AHSAA Softball State Tournament

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