

**ATHENS-MEIGS EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 27, 2026**

The Governing Board of the Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at the Chauncey Office, located at 21 Birge Drive, Chauncey, Ohio.

Ms. Dugan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

A moment of silent reflection was held, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call:

Mr. John G Bailey	Yes	Mr. Fred Davis	Yes
Mr. Kevin Dugan	Yes	Ms. Connie Dugan	Yes
Mr. Mick Davenport	Yes	Mr. Jeff Koehler	Yes
Mr. Steve Wheeler	Yes	Mr. Gary Dicken	Yes
Mr. Mony Wood	Remote		

Ex-officio Members: Mr. Covert Absent Mr. Grippa Yes

26-047. Mr. Dicken moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Governing Board Meeting held on May 13, 2026. Mr. Wood seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Mr. John G Bailey	Yes	Mr. Fred Davis	Yes
Mr. Kevin Dugan	Yes	Ms. Connie Dugan	Yes
Mr. Mick Davenport	Yes	Mr. Jeff Koehler	Yes
Mr. Steve Wheeler	Abstain	Mr. Gary Dicken	Yes
Mr. Mony Wood	Yes		

Motion carried.

Trainings

The Board, Treasurer, and Superintendent all watched the Fraud Training and Sunshine Law Training videos together during the meeting.

Public Participation

None

Head Start Director's Report and Recommendations

26-048. Ms. Koehler moved to approve the following items under the Head Start Report and Recommendations. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion.

A. Approve the April 2026 Financial Statements

Roll call:

Mr. John G Bailey	Yes	Mr. Fred Davis	Yes
Mr. Kevin Dugan	Yes	Ms. Connie Dugan	Yes
Mr. Mick Davenport	Yes	Mr. Jeff Koehler	Yes
Mr. Steve Wheeler	Yes	Mr. Gary Dicken	Yes
Mr. Mony Wood	Yes		

Motion carried.

State Support Team Region 16 Director's Reports and Recommendations

Nothing for the board at this time.

Executive Session

No Executive Session

Treasurer's Reports and Recommendations

No items for Board action at this time.

Superintendent's Reports and Recommendations

26-049 Mr. Dugan moved to approve the following Reduction in Force. Mr. Koehler seconded the motion.

RESOLUTION REGARDING REDUCTION IN FORCE

FOR ATHENS-MEIGS ESC STAFF

In accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 3319.17 the Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center Governing Board has determined that it needs to reduce its certified staff due to discontinuation of services needed. The reduction in staff will include the following:

1. Abolishment of one (1) Physical Therapy Assistant position

Roll call:

Mr. John G Bailey	Yes	Mr. Fred Davis	Yes
Mr. Kevin Dugan	Yes	Ms. Connie Dugan	Yes
Mr. Mick Davenport	Yes	Mr. Jeff Koehler	Yes
Mr. Steve Wheeler	Yes	Mr. Gary Dicken	Yes
Mr. Mony Wood	Yes		

Motion carried

26-049 Mr. Bailey moved to approve the following implementation of the Reduction in Force. Mr. Koehler seconded the motion.

Recommend that as a result of the implementation of the Reduction in Force, the following contracts be suspended in whole at the end of the business day listed:

Kaitlyn Russell, Physical Therapy Assistant
Effective Date: August 15, 2026

Roll call:

Mr. John G Bailey	Yes	Mr. Fred Davis	Yes
Mr. Kevin Dugan	Yes	Ms. Connie Dugan	Yes
Mr. Mick Davenport	Yes	Mr. Jeff Koehler	Yes
Mr. Steve Wheeler	Yes	Mr. Gary Dicken	Yes
Mr. Mony Wood	Yes		

Motion carried

26-050 Mr. Dugan moved to approve the following Reduction in Force. Mr. Wood seconded the motion.

**RESOLUTION REGARDING REDUCTION IN FORCE
FOR ATHENS-MEIGS ESC STAFF**

In accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 3319.172 the Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center Governing Board has determined that it needs to reduce its non-teaching staff due to discontinuation of services needed. The reduction in staff will include the following:

1. Abolishment of one (1) 1:1 Aide position

Roll call:

Mr. John G Bailey	Yes	Mr. Fred Davis	Yes
Mr. Kevin Dugan	Yes	Ms. Connie Dugan	Yes
Mr. Mick Davenport	Yes	Mr. Jeff Koehler	Yes
Mr. Steve Wheeler	Yes	Mr. Gary Dicken	Yes
Mr. Mony Wood	Yes		

Motion carried

26-051 Mr. Koeehler moved to approve the following implementation of the Reduction in Force. Mr. Davenport seconded the motion.

Recommend that as a result of the implementation of the Reduction in Force, the following contracts be suspended in whole at the end of the business day listed:

Nichole Stevens, 1:1 Aide, Federal Hocking
Effective Date: August 15, 2026

Roll call:

Mr. John G Bailey	Yes	Mr. Fred Davis	Yes
Mr. Kevin Dugan	Yes	Ms. Connie Dugan	Yes
Mr. Mick Davenport	Yes	Mr. Jeff Koehler	Yes
Mr. Steve Wheeler	Yes	Mr. Gary Dicken	Yes
Mr. Mony Wood	Yes		

Motion carried

26-052 Mr. Dugan moved to approve the following items under the Superintendent's Report and Recommendation. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion.

Meigs Local

E. Approve the recommendation of the Superintendent that it is the intent and action of the Board to non-renew the contracts of the following employees by issuing to them a written notice of non-reemployment on or before June 1, 2026, and to direct the Treasurer/Superintendent to prepare and deliver, or cause to be delivered, to said employees written notice of non-renewal on or before such date:

1. Richard (Clinton) Patterson, Alternative School Instructor (ISS)

F. Approve a One Year Contract (2026 through 2027) to Nolan Yates, Alternative School Instructor (ISS), 9 Months, at the rate of \$71,335.03, with Board approved benefits, being contingent upon proper certification, continued funding and need.

Southern

G. Approve the recommendation of the Superintendent that it is the intent and action of the Board to non-renew the contracts of the following employees by issuing to them a written notice of non-reemployment on or before June 1, 2026, and to direct the Treasurer/Superintendent to prepare and deliver, or cause to be delivered, to said employees written notice of non-renewal on or before such date:

1. Rachel Cowdery, Paraprofessional

H. Approve the Second Reading of the Board Policies that were reviewed by the Policy Committee on April 22, 2026:

<u>Policy #</u>	<u>Policy Name</u>
3440	JOB-RELATED EXPENSES (<i>REVISED</i>)
4162	DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING OF CDL LICENSE HOLDERS WHO PERFORM SAFETY- SENSITIVE FUNCTIONS (<i>REVISED/TITLE CHANGE</i>)
4162.01	DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING OF EMPLOYEES WITHOUT CDL LICENSES WHO TRANSPORT STUDENTS IN ALTERNATIVE VEHICLES (NON-DOT TESTING) (<i>NEW</i>) (<i>CLARIFICATION</i>)
4440	JOB-RELATED EXPENSES (<i>REVISED</i>)
6320	PURCHASING AND BIDDING (<i>REVISED</i>)
6325	PROCUREMENT - FEDERAL GRANTS / FUNDS (<i>REVISED</i>)
6423	USE OF CREDIT CARDS (<i>REVISED</i>)
6425	USE OF CENTER TAX EXEMPT CERTIFICATE (<i>NEW</i>)
6460	VENDOR RELATIONS (<i>REVISED</i>)
6465	AFFINITY, REWARDS, OR OTHER DISCOUNT PROGRAMS (<i>NEW</i>)
7540.09	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (“AI”) (<i>REPLACEMENT</i>)
8500	FOOD SERVICES (<i>REVISED</i>)
8600.04	BUS AND ALTERNATIVE VEHICLE DRIVER CERTIFICATION (<i>REVISED</i>)
8640	TRANSPORTATION FOR NON-ROUTINE TRIPS (<i>REVISED</i>)
8650	TRANSPORTATION BY ALTERNATIVE VEHICLES (<i>REVISED</i>)

Roll call:

Mr. John G Bailey	Yes	Mr. Fred Davis	Yes
Mr. Kevin Dugan	Yes	Ms. Connie Dugan	Yes
Mr. Mick Davenport	Yes	Mr. Jeff Koehler	Yes

Mr. Steve Wheeler	Yes	Mr. Gary Dicken	Yes
Mr. Mony Wood	Yes		

Motion carried

Addendum

26-053 Mr. Wheeler moved to approve the following item under the Superintendent's Report and Recommendation. Mr. Dicken seconded the motion.

RESOLUTION TO ABOLISH POSITIONS IN WHOLE AND SUSPEND EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT IN WHOLE – REDUCTION IN THE TEACHING STAFF

Abolishing One (1) Position – Federal Hocking Local School District School Psychologist

WHEREAS Governing Board Policy 3131, R.C. 3319.17, and applicable laws permit the Governing Board to proceed in achieving a reduction in teaching staff by abolishing positions – in whole or in part – in accordance with the recommendation of the Superintendent due to financial reasons; reduction in the total number of pupils the Governing Board is required to provide with the service under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts; and reduction in the total level of the service the Governing Board is required to provide under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Governing Board Policy 3131, R.C. 3319.17, and applicable laws, the Superintendent recommends that the Governing Board proceed in achieving a reduction in the teaching staff by abolishing one (1) Federal Hocking Local School District School Psychologist position in whole by one hundred percent (100%) due to financial reasons; reduction in the total number of pupils the Governing Board is required to provide with the service under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts; and reduction in the total level of the service the Governing Board is required to provide under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts effective **June 1, 2026**.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Governing Board Policy 3131, R.C. 3319.17, and applicable laws, the Superintendent recommends that the Governing Board proceed in achieving a reduction in the teaching staff by abolishing one (1) Federal Hocking Local School District School Psychologist position in whole by one hundred percent (100%) due to financial reasons; reduction in the total number of pupils the Governing Board is required to provide with the service under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts; and reduction in the total level of the service the Governing Board is required to provide under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts effective **June 1, 2026**.

Suspending Contract – Danielle Polk

WHEREAS Governing Board Policy 3131, R.C. 3319.17, and applicable laws permit the Governing Board to proceed in achieving a reduction in the teaching staff by suspending employment contracts – in whole or in part – in accordance with the recommendation of the Superintendent (who shall, within each teaching field affected, give preference to teachers on continuing contracts and shall not give preference to any teacher based on seniority, except when making a decision between teachers who have comparable evaluations) due to financial reasons; reduction in the total number of pupils the Governing Board is required to provide with the service under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts; and reduction in the total level of the service the Governing Board is required to provide under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Governing Board Policy 3131, R.C. 3319.17, and applicable laws permit, the Superintendent (who shall, within each teaching field affected, give preference to teachers on continuing contracts and shall not give preference to any teacher based on seniority, except when making a decision between teachers who have comparable evaluations) recommends that the Governing Board proceed in achieving a reduction in the teaching staff by suspending the employment contract of Danielle Polk in whole by one hundred percent (100%) due to financial reasons; reduction in the total number of pupils the Governing Board is required to provide with the service under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts; and reduction in the total level of the service the Governing Board is required to provide under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts effective **June 1, 2026**, to the extent the employment relationship between the Governing Board and Danielle Polk has not ceased prior to **June 1, 2026**.

WHEREAS the notice requirements of R.C. 121.22, R.C. 3313.16, and applicable laws were complied with for this governing board meeting of **May 27, 2026**.

WHEREAS all formal action of the Governing Board concerning and relating to the adoption of the instant resolution were taken in an open meeting of the Governing Board and all deliberations of the Governing Board that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, pursuant to Governing Board Policy 3131, R.C. 3319.17, and applicable laws, the Governing Board accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent and hereby proceeds in achieving a reduction in the teaching staff by abolishing one (1) Federal Hocking Local School District School Psychologist position in whole by one hundred percent (100%) due to financial reasons; reduction in the total number of pupils the Governing Board is required to provide with the service under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts; and reduction in the total level of the service the Governing Board is required to provide under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts effective **June 1, 2026**.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, pursuant to Governing Board Policy 3131, R.C. 3319.17, and applicable laws, the Governing Board accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent and hereby proceeds in achieving a reduction in the teaching staff by abolishing one (1) Federal Hocking Local School District School Psychologist position in whole by one hundred percent (100%) due to financial reasons; reduction in the total number of pupils the Governing Board is required to provide with the service under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts; and reduction in the total level of the service the Governing Board is required to provide under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts effective **June 1, 2026**.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, pursuant to Governing Board Policy 3131, R.C. 3319.17, and applicable laws and after, within each teaching field affected, giving preference to teachers on continuing contracts but not giving preference to any teacher based on seniority, except when making a decision between teachers who have comparable evaluations, the Governing Board accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent and hereby proceeds in achieving a reduction in the teaching staff by suspending the employment contract of Danielle Polk in whole by one hundred percent (100%) due to financial reasons; reduction in the total number of pupils the Governing Board is required to provide with the service under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts; and reduction in the total level of the service the Governing Board is required to provide under all interdistrict contracts as a result of the termination or nonrenewal of one or more of these interdistrict contracts effective **June 1, 2026**, to the extent the employment relationship between the Governing Board and Danielle Polk has not ceased prior to **June 1, 2026**.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately upon its adoption by the Governing Board.

Roll call:

Mr. John G Bailey	Yes	Mr. Fred Davis	Yes
Mr. Kevin Dugan	Yes	Ms. Connie Dugan	Yes
Mr. Mick Davenport	Yes	Mr. Jeff Koehler	Yes
Mr. Steve Wheeler	Yes	Mr. Gary Dicken	Yes
Mr. Mony Wood	Yes		

Motion carried

26-054 Mr. Dicken moved to approve the following item under the Superintendent's Report and Recommendation. Mr. Dugan seconded the motion.

RESOLUTION TO DECLARE INTENTION NOT TO REEMPLOY TEACHER

WHEREAS Governing Board Policy 3140, R.C. 3319.11, and applicable laws permit the Governing Board to permit the Governing Board, acting upon the written recommendation of the Superintendent that a teacher employed under a limited contract and not eligible to be considered for a continuing contract, to not reemploy such a teacher provided the a teacher is given

written notice of the Governing Board's intention not to reemploy such teacher **on or before June 1, 2026**.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Governing Board Policy 3140, R.C. 3319.11, and applicable laws, the instant resolution serves as the written recommendation of the Superintendent that the Governing Board should not reemploy Danielle Polk.

WHEREAS the notice requirements of R.C. 121.22, R.C. 3313.16, and applicable laws were complied with for this governing board meeting of **May 27, 2026**.

WHEREAS all formal action of the Governing Board concerning and relating to the adoption of the instant resolution were taken in an open meeting of the Governing Board and all deliberations of the Governing Board that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, pursuant to Governing Board Policy 3140, R.C. 3319.11, and applicable laws, the Governing Board hereby accepts the written recommendation of the Superintendent that the Governing Board should not reemploy Danielle Polk and, therefore, the Governing Board declares its intention not to reemploy Danielle Polk.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, pursuant to Governing Board Policy 3140, R.C. 3319.11, and applicable laws, the Governing Board hereby directs the Administration to give Danielle Polk written notice of the Governing Board's intention not to reemploy Danielle Polk **on or before June 1, 2026**.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately upon its adoption by the Governing Board.

Roll call:

Mr. John G Bailey	Yes	Mr. Fred Davis	Yes
Mr. Kevin Dugan	Yes	Ms. Connie Dugan	Yes
Mr. Mick Davenport	Yes	Mr. Jeff Koehler	Yes
Mr. Steve Wheeler	Yes	Mr. Gary Dicken	Yes
Mr. Mony Wood	Yes		

Motion carried

Legislative Report

None

Tri-County Career Center Report

Tri-County is currently negotiating the teacher's contract.

Tri-County held the commencement ceremony and had 260-270 students attending.

Old Business

None

New Business

1. Accept the Meigs County Board of Developmental Disabilities' Resolution to transfer Carleton School to the Athens-Meigs ESC at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 program year.
2. Approve the following Resolution:

The Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center Governing Board ("Governing Board") hereby approves the agreement between the Governing Board and the law firm of McGown & Markling Co., L.P.A. ("Firm"), a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein. The Governing Board further directs the Governing Board President, Superintendent, and Treasurer to execute the agreement with the Firm on behalf of the Governing Board.

The Board meet with Matt Markling from McGown & Markling Co.,L.P.A via Zoom. The Board and Mr. Markling had a discussion about Federal Hocking and the issue with not receiving funds surrounding the School Psychologist. During the discussion, the Board and Mr. Marling discussed what option the ESC had to retrieve those funds. The Board ask Mr. Markling to draft a letter to Federal Hocking Superintendent and Board members regarding the situation at hand. During the discussion it was asked if the ESC Board should try to sit up a face to face meeting with Federal Hocking. The ESC has tried in the past and failed at doing so.

26-055 Mr. Davis moved to approve the following item under the Superintendent's Report and Recommendation. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Mr. John G Bailey	Yes	Mr. Fred Davis	Yes
Mr. Kevin Dugan	Yes	Ms. Connie Dugan	Yes
Mr. Mick Davenport	Yes	Mr. Jeff Koehler	Yes
Mr. Steve Wheeler	Yes	Mr. Gary Dicken	Yes
Mr. Mony Wood	Yes		

Motion carried

The next regular Athens-Meigs ESC Governing Board Meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, June 10th, 2026, 6:00 p.m., at the Athens-Meigs ESC, 21 Birge Drive, Chauncey, Ohio.

26-056. Time 7:04 p.m. Mr. Dugan moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned.

President

Treasurer