ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS
REGULAR MEETING – 6:30 P.M.
JUNE 25, 2026

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Board President Paul Grippa calls the May regular board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present.

Paul Grippa
Rusty Rittenhouse
Charity Wilhelm
Jason Heinrich
Dave Hayden

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - MOMENT OF SILENCE

2026-086 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Athens City School District Board of Education adopts the agenda for its regular meeting of June 25, 2026, as presented and amended.

Motion by:
Second by:

Discussion:

Paul Grippa
Rusty Rittenhouse
Charity Wilhelm
Jason Heinrich
Dave Hayden

2026-087 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Athens City School District Board of Education approves the minutes of the Regular Monthly Board meeting held on May 14, 2026.

Motion by:
Second by:

Discussion:

Paul Grippa
Rusty Rittenhouse
Charity Wilhelm
Jason Heinrich
Dave Hayden

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

"Upon request to the Superintendent, the District shall make reasonable accommodation for a disabled person to be able to participate in this activity."

"No more than a total of thirty (30) minutes for public participation is permitted at each regular board meeting. Individuals are welcome to speak provided they identify themselves by name and address, give the topic to be discussed and limit their presentations to three (3) minutes each".

AFSCME Local
Athens Education Association

PRESENTATION/BOARD DISCUSSION

The Superintendent and the Athens CSD Athletic Director will recognize Sophia Szolosi for her accomplishments as an AHS student and athlete.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

Legislative Liaison:
McClure Foundation:
Tri-County Career Center:
Educational Service Center:

2026-088 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Athens City School District Board of Education approves the Treasurer's Report as submitted. The report contains the Bank Reconciliation, Fund Report, Monthly Financial Report, Monthly Check Summary Report, and Investment Report.

Motion by:
Second by:

Discussion:

Paul Grippa
Rusty Rittenhouse
Charity Wilhelm
Jason Heinrich
Dave Hayden

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

2026-089 PERSONNEL

PUBLIC NOTICE OF BULLYING REPORTS

The Superintendent reports no verified instances of bullying or harassment during the 2nd semester of the 2025-2026 school year. He is required to report this at a board meeting.

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENT—The Athens City School District Board of Education accepts the resignation of the following individuals:

Resignations:
Marlesia Boivin from her position as a bus driver as of 8/5/26.

Matthew Boyd from his position as 5th grade teacher at The Plains Intermediate School at the end of his current contract.

Cindy Pyle effective at close of business on June 25, 2026, per the terms of the parties' agreement, which is hereby approved and the Superintendent's signature ratified retroactive to June 16, 2026.

Retirements:
Julia Fahrion from her position as paraprofessional at East Elementary School as of April 1, 2027. (27 years)

EMPLOYMENT/CONTRACT RECOMMENDATIONS (pending successful verification of certification, college transcripts and experience, completion of criminal records check and other state and local requirements for the positions)

1. Administrative Contract – The Athens City School District Board of Education issue an administrative contract to the following individuals listed:

   Chelsa Carter – for the position of school psychologist on a five (5) year, 202-day, contract beginning August 1, 2026.

2. Limited Contracts - The Athens City School District Board of Education issues limited contracts to the following individual(s) beginning the 2026-2027 school year:

- Sophia Tenoglia – 2nd grade teacher at Morrison Gordon Elementary on a one (1) year contract, master's degree Step 0.
- Jaylin Stevens – 2nd grade teacher at East Elementary on a one (1) year contract BA Step 0, bachelor's degree.
- Mika McFadden – Intervention Specialist at Morrison Gordon Elementary on a one (1) year contract BA Step 0

2026-089 PERSONNEL (continued)

3. Supplemental Stipend. The Athens City School District Board of Education issues a stipend to the following individuals

- Sabrina Stalder to be paid primarily from the Agricultural 5th Quarter Grant to support student projects and internships above and beyond what are accounted for with extended service days for additional days at her daily rate; to not exceed the grant amount approved this year for $2,122.60.
- Summer School
    - Yukino Tsukiyama for a max of 40 hours at her hourly rate for the purposes of summer school.
    - TJ Johnson for a max of 40 hours at his hourly rate for the purposes of summer school.
- Teacher stipends for the Bulldog Jumpstart Program to be paid out of the State Kindergarten Bootcamp Grant for incoming kindergarten students, not to exceed 180 hours total per building that will be shared by the following teachers.
    - East Elementary – 180 hours total
        - Lindsey West to be paid at her hourly rate.
        - Jen Pero to be paid at her hourly rate.
        - Cheryl Schroer to be paid at her hourly rate.
        - Ashley Sechkar to be paid at her hourly rate.
    - Morrison Gordon Elementary – 180 hours total
        - Cassie Goodwin to be paid at her hourly rate.
        - Sammi Riddle to be paid at her hourly rate.
        - Lesley Michigan to be paid at her hourly rate.
        - Camilla Hibbard to be paid at her hourly rate.
- Administrative stipends at a rate of $150 per day to oversee the Bulldog Jumpstart Program to be paid out of the State Kindergarten Bootcamp Grant for incoming Kindergarten to not exceed a total cost of $6,000 to be shared by the following administrators.
    - Heather Skinner
    - Elizabeth Braun
    - Michael Apke Starkey

4. Supplemental Contracts: Issue supplemental contracts based on the salary schedule in effect July 1, 2025 for the position listed for the 2025-2026 school year to the following individuals:
Certified
    - Melanie McGrath, AMS Principal Advisory Committee

5. Supplemental Contracts: Issue supplemental contracts based on the salary schedule in effect July 1, 2026 for the position listed for the 2026-2027 school year to the following individuals:
Certified
    - Breanna Issa, Building Leadership Team
    - Stephanie Nisley, Building Leadership Team
    - Mandi Rodgers, Building Leadership Team
    - Megan Starkey, Building Leadership Team
    - Camilla Hibbard, Building Technology Facilitator
    - Theresa House, Principal Advisory Committee
    - Jenn Pero, Principal Advisory Committee

2026-089 PERSONNEL (continued)

- Colleen Post, Principal Advisory Committee
- Mary Jo Starkey, Principal Advisory Committee
- Abby Miller, PBIS at EAST
- Abby Miller, Building Technology Facilitator at East
- Mandi Rodgers, PBIS at East
- Cheryl Schroer, PBIS at East
- Liz Schwarzel, PBIS at East
- Aaron Backes, High School Band Director
- Aaron Backes, Pep Band (10 total 5 GBK, 5 BBK); Split with Whitney Cope
- Aaron Backes, Summer Band (2)
- Jill Davis, Mentors
- Angela Hall, Andrew Jackson Davison Club Advisor
- Angela Hall, Middle School Student Council Advisor
- Angela Malone, Building Leadership Team
- Ben Claussen, Principal Advisory Committee
- Beth Zinn, Freshman Class Advisory
- Bill Rogers, Principal Advisory Committee
- Bill Rogers, Sophomore Class Advisor
- Blue Scott, Math Curriculum
- Jan McGarry, Mentors
- Brad McNally, Building Technology Facilitator
- Brad McNally, e-sports Coach/Advisor Athletic Extra Duty
- Brad McNally, Key Club
- Lesley Michigan, Mentors
- Brook Kaiser, Principal Advisory Committee
- Cameron Hess, Math Curriculum Adoption Committee
- Carol Parsons, Mentors
- Cassie Goodwin, Building Leadership Team
- Cassie Goodwin, PBIS at MG
- Cassiopeia Moseley, PBIS at TPIS
- Chris Stepp, Building Leadership Team
- Colleen Horst, Building Leadership Team
- Dana Diertele, Principal Advisory Committee
- Deanna Crum-Wasserman, PBIS at AHS
- Elizabeth Swatzel, Building Leadership Team
- Elizabeth Swatzel, Math Curriculum
- Emily Dodd, PBIS at MG
- Emily Rittenhouse, PBIS at AMS
- Fitz Read, Andrew Jackson Davison Club Advisor
- Heather Sammons, Elementary Student Council Advisor
- Heather Sammons, Play Advisor – Intermediate
- Irene Kidd, Building Leadership Team
- Jennifer Hinkle, Andrew Jackson Davison Club Advisor
- Jennifer Trainer, Math Curriculum

2026-089 PERSONNEL (continued)

- Jennifer Wakeley, Building Leadership Team
- Jennifer Wakeley, Curriculum Review Committee (if needed)
- Jennifer Wakeley, Mentors
- Jennifer Wakeley, Play Advisor – Elementary
- Jessica Jarvis, TPIS Cross Country Club – Clubs/Special Programs
- Jessica Young, PBIS at MG
- Josie Dupler, Building Leadership Team
- Josie Dupler, Math Curriculum
- Kala Saltsman, Arena Advisor
- Kala Saltsman, National Honor Society
- Kelly Masterson Booth, LPDC
- Kelly Masterson Booth, Matrix Advisor
- Kelly Masterson Booth, Principal Advisory Committee
- Kimberly Shuster, Building Technology Facilitator
- Kimberly Shuster, FCCLA – Clubs/Special Programs
- Kimberly Shuster, Yearbook Advisory, Middle School
- Korrie Block, Mentors
- Laura Hibbard, Building Leadership Team
- Laura Tuljak, High School Science Fair Advisor
- Lauren Rauber, Building Leadership Team
- Lauren Rauber, Junior Class Advisor
- Lauren Rauber, PBIS at AHS
- Leigh Crites, Elementary Student Council Advisor
- Lesley Michigan, Principal Advisory Committee
- Lesley Michigan, Math Curriculum
- Lindsay Endick, Building Leadership Team
- Lindsay Patterson, PBIS at TPIS
- Lisa Weyand, Multicultural Club Advisor
- Martha Izard, Principal Advisory Committee
- Melanie Horne, Vocal Music Director (HS, 3 performances)
- Melanie Horne, Vocal Music Director (MS, 2 performances)
- Melanie McGrath, MATHCOUNTS – Clubs/Special Programs
- Melanie McGrath, Building Leadership Team
- Melissa Myers, French Club Advisor
- Melissa Myers, HS Student Council Advisor
- Melissa Myers, Principal Advisory Committee
- Michele Karoub-Holzschu, Principal Advisory Committee
- Michele Karoub-Holzschu, LPDC
- Michele Karoub-Holzschu, Vocal Music Director (2 performances)
- Michelle Tuten, PBIS at AHS
- Michelle Tuten, Spanish Club Advisor
- Morgan Drake, PBIS at TPIS
- Morgan Hutchison, Building Leadership Team
- Morgan Hutchison, DLT

2026-089 PERSONNEL (continued)

- Natalie Pankratz, Principal Advisory Committee
- Nathan Young, Building Leadership Team
- Nathan Young, PBIS at AMS
- Nathan Young, DLT
- Olivia Pokas, Principal Advisory Committee
- Olivia Pokas, Mentors
- Paul Kristofco, Activities Assistant – MS
- Paul Kristofco, Principal Advisory Committee
- Penny Purdy, LPDC
- Penny Purdy, Principal Advisory Committee
- Phil Armstorng, Principal Advisory Committee
- Piper Scolaro, Building Leadership Team
- Piper Scolaro, Mentor
- Rachel Frazee, Principal Advisory Committee
- Ricki Miller, PBIS at MG
- Robin Hawk, Principal Advisory Committee
- Sarah Fuller, PBIS at AMS
- Shannon Williams, Building Technology Facilitator
- Shannon Williams, Vocal Music Director – Elementary (2 performances)
- Sherri Biegeleisen, Intermediate School Science Fair Advisor
- Stephanie List, Middle School Science Fair Advisory
- Tami Benyei, National Art Honor Society – Clubs/Special Programs
- Thomas Johnston, PBIS at AHS
- Thomas Johnston, Building Leadership Team
- Whitney Allen, Principal Advisory Committee
- Whitney Allen, 0.5 Senior Class Advisor (Split with Graeme Schwartz)
- Graeme Schwartz, 0.5 Senior Class Advisor
- Whitney Cope, Assistant HS Band Director
- Whitney Cope, MS/Elementary Band Director
- Whitney Cope, Pep Band (10 total 5 GBK, 5 BBK); Split with Aaron Backes
- Whitney Cope, Summer Band (2)

Non-Certified

- Zachary Saunders, Athens Middle School Basketball Coach (Volunteer)
- Alexis Parsons, Drama Club Advisor – Club/Special Programs
- Alexis Parsons, Play Advisor – High School (3 Performances)
- CeCe Patterson – AHS JV Volleyball Coach
- Don Cooley – AMS girls basketball coach (resignation)
- David Herold – Varsity Girls Golf coach

2026-089 PERSONNEL (continued)

6. Substitute Teacher/Home Instructor/Tutor for the 2026-2027 School Year: The Athens City School District Board of Education issues a substitute teacher contract at the Board approved rate of pay on an as needed basis to the following:

   Substitute Teacher
   Elikem Lumorvi (pending licensure)

7. Extended School Year (ESY) Contracts for the 2025-2026 school year to provide services to identified students as preapproved by the Director of Special Services and being compensated at their hourly rate. The following teachers are limited to the number of minutes outlined on the IEPs they are connected to:

   Samantha Riddle

8. Classified Personnel – The Athens City School District Board of Education in accordance with Article VII, Job Postings/Transfer/Assignment and Bidding Procedure approves the following position as listed and detailed below (pending successful verification of certification, highly qualified status for paraprofessional positions, completion of criminal records check and other state and local requirements for these positions):

   Food Services
   Cheryl Hasson – server at TPIS.

9. Substitute Classified Personnel—The Athens City School District Board of Education approves the employment of the following personnel for the 2026-2027 school year on an as need basis at the Board approved rate of pay for the position they are subbing in.

   Bus Driver
   John Lucas

   Paraprofessional
   David Herold (pending licensure)
   Leila Abukamail (pending licensure)

10. Summer Technology Interns - The Athens City School District Board of Education approves the employment of the following personnel as Summer Technology Interns at the Board approved rate of pay for the position they are interning in.

    - Kadin Crawford
    - Alexander McGlade

2026-089 PERSONNEL (continued)

The Athens City School Board of Education accepts the resignations/retirement of employment and approves the Superintendent's personnel recommendations for employment as listed and detailed above.

Motion by:
Second by:

Discussion:

Paul Grippa
Rusty Rittenhouse
Charity Wilhelm
Jason Heinrich
Dave Hayden

2026-090 BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVALS

A. APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING OVERNIGHT TRIPS

- The Athens City School District approves the 8th grade overnight trip to Washington DC on May 12-14, 2027.
- The Athens City School District approves the June 4th-7th, 2026, trip for the varsity Girls and Boys Track team to Columbus to compete in the Track and Field State Tournament.
- The Athens City School District approves the July 30th-August 1st overnight FFA officer retreat at Burr Oak State Park.

B. APPROVAL OF THE STUDENT HANDBOOK AND THE ATHLETIC HANDBOOK FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

The Athens City School District Board of Education approves the student handbook and the athletic handbook for the 2026-2027 school year as submitted.

C. APPROVAL OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE OHIO COALITION FOR EQUITY & ADEQUACY OF SCHOOL FUNDING

The Athens City School District Board of Education approves the renewal of its membership in the Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding.

D. APPROVAL FOR PURCHASE OF A THREE-YEAR CONTRACT WITH IXL

The Athens City School District Board of Education approves a three (3) year contract with IXL for a total of $71,475 for the purposes of data monitoring and remediation.

2026-090 BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVALS (continued)

E. ACCEPTANCE OF BID FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

The Athens City School District Board of Education approves and accepts the bid for dairy products for the 2026-2027 school year from United Dairy as per META pricing as submitted.

F. ACCEPTANCE OF BID FOR BREAD AND BAKERY PRODUCTS FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

The Athens City School District Board of Education approves and accepts the bid for bread and bakery products for the 2026-2027 school year from Nickles Bakery, Inc. as per META pricing as submitted.

G. APPROVAL OF THE MASTER SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH METASOLUTIONS

The Athens City School District Board of Education approves the one (1) year master service agreement with Metasolutions.

H. APPROVAL OF A THREE-YEAR CONTRACT WITH J.L UHRIG AND ASSOCIATES FOR THE SERVICES OF GAAP CONVERSION

The Athens City School District Board of Education approves a three (3) year contract with J.L. Uhrig and Associate for the services of GAAP conversion for the District for a cost not to exceed $40,000.

I. APPROVAL OF SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH MUSKINGUM VALLEY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

The Athens City School District approves the service agreement with the Muskingum Valley ESC to provide orientation and mobility Services for the 2026-2027 school year.

The Athens City School District approves the list of Board of Education Approvals as submitted.

Motion by:
Second by:

Discussion:

Paul Grippa
Rusty Rittenhouse
Charity Wilhelm
Jason Heinrich
Dave Hayden

2026-91 ADOPT FINAL FY26 AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF ESTIMATED RESOURCES

The Athens City School District Board of Education adopts the Final FY2026 Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources as submitted.

Motion by:
Second by:

Discussion:

Paul Grippa
Rusty Rittenhouse
Charity Wilhelm
Jason Heinrich
Dave Hayden

2026-92 ADOPT FINAL FY2026 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS

The Athens City School District Board of Education adopts the Final Permanent FY2026 Appropriations as submitted.

Motion by:
Second by:

Discussion:

Paul Grippa
Rusty Rittenhouse
Charity Wilhelm
Jason Heinrich
Dave Hayden

2026-93 ADOPT TEMPORARY FY2027 APPROPRIATIONS

The Athens City School District Board of Education adopts the Temporary FY2027 Appropriations as submitted.

Motion by:
Second by:

Discussion:

Paul Grippa
Rusty Rittenhouse
Charity Wilhelm
Jason Heinrich
Dave Hayden

2026-94 **APPROVE TRANSFER**

The Athens City School District Board of Education approves the following Transfer as recommended by the Treasurer:

Placeholder from last year $233,181.03
From: 001-0000 General Fund To: 006-0000 Food Service Fund
To cover the cafeteria operating loss.

Motion by:
Second by:

Discussion:

Paul Grippa
Rusty Rittenhouse
Charity Wilhelm
Jason Heinrich
Dave Hayden

2026-095 AUTHORIZING GMP AMENDMENT NO. 1 FOR THE 2026 SOLAR PROJECT WITH KOKOSING INDUSTRIAL, INC. D/B/A KOKOSING SOLAR

The Superintendent recommends the Board authorize GMP Amendment No. 1 to the Construction Manager at Risk Agreement ("CMR Agreement") with Kokosing Industrial, Inc. d/b/a Kokosing Solar ("Kokosing") for the 2026 Solar Project (the "Project") and requests authority to negotiate and execute GMP Amendment No. 1 to the CMR Agreement on the Board's behalf.

Rationale:

1. The Board previously authorized the CMR Agreement with Kokosing for the Project.
2. Kokosing submitted its proposal for GMP Amendment No. 1 in the total amount of $1,236,027.
3. The Superintendent recommends the Board authorize GMP Amendment No. 1 in an amount not to exceed $1,236,027 and requests authority for the Superintendent, Treasurer, and Board President, working with legal counsel, to negotiate and execute GMP Amendment No. 1 on behalf of the Board.

The Board of Education resolves as follows:

1. GMP Amendment No. 1 to the CMR Agreement with Kokosing is authorized in an amount not to exceed $1,236,027.
2. The Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent, Treasurer, and Board President, working with legal counsel, to negotiate and execute GMP Amendment No. 1 and any related documents on behalf of the Board.

The Athens City School District approves the resolution as submitted.

Motion by:

Second by:

Discussion:

Paul Grippa
Rusty Rittenhouse
Charity Wilhelm
Jason Heinrich
Dave Hayden

2026-096 RESOLUTION REQUESTING CERTIFICATION OF ESTIMATED TAX RATES FOR A RENEWAL INCOME TAX (OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 5748.02)

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Section 5748.02 authorizes school districts to impose voter-approved income taxes upon their residents; and

WHEREAS, the School District is currently levying a 1.00% per annum income tax that was most recently renewed by the voters of the School District on November 7, 2017 for a ten-year term that began on January 1, 2019 for the purpose of providing for current operating expenses (the "Existing Income Tax"), with the last year of collection of the Existing Income Tax being in 2028; and

WHEREAS, the "school district income" (as defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 5748.01(G)) that is subject to the Existing Income Tax is the "taxable income" defined in Ohio Revised Code ("Revised Code") Section 5748.01(E)(2); and

WHEREAS, a resolution declaring the necessity to raise additional School District revenue must be passed and certified to the Tax Commissioner for the State of Ohio (the "Tax Commissioner") in order to permit the Board to consider the renewal of a school district income tax and to preserve the right to submit the question of levying such a renewal school district income tax to the electors of the School District at the election to be held on November 3, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Athens City School District, Athens County, Ohio, a majority of all of the members thereof concurring, that:

Section 1. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5748.02, the Board determines that it is necessary to raise annually the additional amount of $5,652,908 (the "Specified Revenue Amount") by proposing the question at the election to be held on November 3, 2026 of renewing the Existing Income Tax on the school district income of individuals residing in the School District for the purpose of providing for current operating expenses for a continuing period of time (the "Income Tax").

Section 2. The school district income that shall be subject to the Income Tax is the "taxable income" defined in Revised Code Section 5748.01(E)(2).

Section 3. The Treasurer is directed to immediately certify a copy of this Resolution to the Tax Commissioner, not later than July 24, 2026, together with a request that the Tax Commissioner determine and certify to the Board (i) the property tax rate that would have had to be imposed by the School District in the current year to produce the Specified Revenue Amount and (ii) the income tax rate that would have had to have been in effect for the current year to produce an equivalent amount of money to the Specified Revenue Amount.

Section 4. It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Revised Code Section 121.22.

2026-096 RESOLUTION REQUESTING CERTIFICATION OF ESTIMATED TAX RATES for a renewal income tax (Ohio Revised Code Section 5748.02) (continued)

The Athens City School District approves the resolution requesting certification of estimated tax rates for a renewal income tax.

Motion by:
Second by:

Discussion:

Paul Grippa
Rusty Rittenhouse
Charity Wilhelm
Jason Heinrich
Dave Hayden

2026-097 ADOPTION OF UPDATED/REVISED BOARD POLICIES

Policy 2460.03 - Independent Educational Evaluations (Replacement)
Ag 2460.03 - Independent Educational Evaluations (Replacement)
Policy 8500 – Food Services (Revised)

The Athens City School District adopts the updated/revised board policies.

Motion by:

Second by:

Discussion:

Paul Grippa
Rusty Rittenhouse
Charity Wilhelm
Jason Heinrich
Dave Hayden

ADJOURNMENT

The Board President declared the Athens City School District Board of Education Regular Meeting of June 25, 2026 adjourned at p.m.

_____ _____
Board President Jared M. Bunting, Treasurer/CFO

(No addendum after the Board Authorized Signatures is a valid account of the meeting.)