ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS
REGULAR MEETING – 6:30 P.M.
August 20, 2026

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Board President Paul Grippa calls the August 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

2027-015 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Athens City School District Board of Education adopts the agenda for its regular meeting of August 20, 2026, as presented and amended.

Motion by:
Second by:

Discussion:

Paul Grippa
Rusty Rittenhouse
Charity Wilhelm
Jason Heinrich
Dave Hayden

2027-016 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Athens City School District Board of Education approves the minutes of the Special Board meeting held on July 30, 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

Athletic Director Eric Sholtis will highlight the student athletes that represented Athens CSD at the 2026 NSLS Conference.

Presentation by Amy Peterson to update the Board of Education on gifted services in Athens CSD.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

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

2027-017 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

2027-018 FINANCIAL FORECAST

The Athens City School District Board of Education approves the Financial Forecast for the district as submitted.

Motion by:
Second by:

Discussion:
Paul Grippa
Rusty Rittenhouse
Charity Wilhelm
Jason Heinrich
Dave Hayden

2026-019 APPROVAL OF THE DISTRICT'S CAPITAL PLAN

The Athens City School District Board of Education adopts the district 5-Year Capital Plan as submitted:

Motion by:
Second by:

Discussion:
Sean Parsons
Rusty Rittenhouse
Paul Grippa
Dave Hayden
Charity Wilhelm

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

2027-020 PERSONNEL

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

Retirements:
Margaret Adams, Paraprofessional – effective October 1, 2026. (35 years)

Resignations:
Tracy Gillum from her position as bus driver effective August 21, 2026.
Sharon Ervin from her position as server effective August 17, 2026.
Ralph (Chuck) West from his position as bus driver effective August 17, 2026

2027-020 PERSONNEL (continued)

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

2. 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
   - Cheryl Schroer – East Math Curriculum Adoption Committee
   - Megan Starkey -East Math Curriculum Adoption Committee
   - Ruby Henry-East Math Curriculum Adoption Committee
   - April Louthain – East Math Curriculum Adoption Committee
   - Angie Malone-AHS Math Curriculum Adoption Committee
   - Ali Koga-AHS Math Curriculum Adoption Committee
   - Colleen Ulbrich – TPIS Math Curriculum Adoption Committee
   - Maria Douglas – TPIS Math Curriculum Adoption Committee
   - Katherine Ihling – TPIS Math Curriculum Adoption Committee
   - Katherine Ihling, Band Flag Corp Instruction, AHS
   - Deborah NoGrady-East LPDC Committee
   - Rebecca Lipscomb-TPIS LPDC Committee
   - Adam Gonczy Varsity Track
   - Kyle Lonas Varsity Baseball
   - Dana Morehead Varsity Boys Tennis
   - Megan Williams, Elementary Vocal (2 performances) East Elementary

   Non-Certified
   - Travis Trititpo – Varsity Softball
   - Ryan Wolfe - Vasrity Wrestling Assistant
   - J. Tyler Jackson - MS Wrestling Coach
   - Joshua Melms - HS Wrestling Volunteer
   - Leo Boese Equipment Volunteer

3. 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
   - Carla Ryan Hirst
   - Rebecca Pidcock
   - Kaitlyn Makowski
   - Sarah Leon
   - Tyler Bell
   - Elisha Sellards
   - Chris Hewitt
   - Makenna Leonard
   - Brittney Sargent
   - Taft Barnett
   - Albert (Will) Matter

2027-020 PERSONNEL (continued)

4. 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):

Paraprofessional	Transportation	Food Service
Esteban Vazquez	Taranne Tuthill	Taranne Tuthill
	John Lucas	
	Justice Jenkins	

5. 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.

Secretarial
- Jennifer Lance

Paraprofessional
- Joanna Carr
- Rebecca Foughty
- Rachel Bateman
- Donna Barnhart

Food Service
- Sharon Montgomery
- Noah McConnell

Custodial
- Blake Seeling
- Sharon Montgomery
- Brandon Matheny

Transportation
- David Herold

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

2027-021 BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVALS

A. APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH NRG BUSINESS MARKETING LLC
The Athens City School District Board of Education approves of an extension of the agreement with NRG Business Marketing LLC to purchase natural gas through Columbia Gas from 7/1/27-6/30/28

B. APPROVAL TO PAY SAVAUNA FITZ AN HOURLY RATE ON 8/14/26
The Athens City School District approves paying Savauna Fitz an hourly rate of $22.21 per hour on 8/14/26 to transport the Trimble Football and Cheer Team to the 2026 AHS Jamboree.

C. APPROVAL TO JOIN THE COALITION FOR RURAL AND APPALACHIAN SCHOOLS (CORAS)
The Athens City School District Board of Education approves the renewal of membership with the Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools (CORAS) Regional Council of Governments for the 2026-2027 school year at the cost of $5,000.00

A. ADULT CAFETERIA PRICES FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

The Athens City School District Board of Education approves the following prices for Federal and State reimbursable school lunch and breakfast for the 2026-2027 school year. It further authorizes the Food Service Director to adjust non-reimbursable meal item prices as determined to be necessary with the approval of the Superintendent.

Breakfast	Lunch
Adult: $3.50	Adult: $5.20

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

2027-022 APPROVAL OF META SOLUTIONS COOPERATIVE ADVERTISING AND RECEIVING BIDS FOR SCHOOL BUS CHASSIS AND BODIES

WHEREAS, the Athens City School District Board of Education wishes to advertise and receive bids for the purchase of two (2) - 71 passenger conventional (type) school bus(es) and or one (1) – 9 Passenger Van(s)

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Athens City School District Board of Education wishes to participate and authorize META Solutions (META) to advertise and receive bids on said Board's behalf as per the specifications submitted for the cooperative purchase of two (2) - 71 passenger conventional school bus(es) and one (1) – 9 Passenger Van(s).

The Athens City School District Board of Education approves advertising and receiving bids for school bus chassis and bodies from META Solutions as submitted.

Motion by:
Second by:

Discussion:

Paul Grippa
Rusty Rittenhouse
Charity Wilhelm
Jason Heinrich
Dave Hayden

2027-023 ACCEPTING AND CONDITIONALLY APPROVING THE EXPEDITED LOCAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM PROJECT CREDIT CLOSEOUT REPORTS

WHEREAS, the Athens City School District Board of Education previously participated in the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission's Expedited Local Partnership Program ("ELPP") for certain discrete portions of the District's master facilities plan;

WHEREAS, under the ELPP Guidelines, following completion of an ELPP project, the District and Commission staff develop a Project Credit Closeout Report for each ELPP project reflecting creditable expenditures made by the District and showing a conditional total credit amount;

WHEREAS, the local project work authorized under the ELPP agreement has been completed or addressed as required;

WHEREAS, the District has received and reviewed the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission Locally Funded Initiative Budget Summary and related ELPP credit worksheets for the following buildings (a) New East Elementary School; (b) New Morrison-Gordon Elementary School; (c) Athens Middle School Renovations; (d) The Plains Elementary School; and (e) West Elementary School Abatement/Demolition (collectively "Project Credit Closeout Reports");

WHEREAS, the Project Credit Closeout Reports reflect total Athens City School District ELPP Credit Worksheet expenditures through March 31, 2025, in the amount of $56,939,606.47, with the final summary reflecting no variance between the District's reports and the current ELPP credit worksheets;

2027-023 **ACCEPTING AND CONDITIONALLY APPROVING THE EXPEDITED LOCAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM PROJECT CREDIT CLOSEOUT REPORTS (continued)**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Athens City School District, County of Athens, State of Ohio, that:

1. The Board hereby accepts and conditionally approves the Project Credit Closeout Reports for: (a) New East Elementary School; (b) New Morrison-Gordon Elementary School; (c) Athens Middle School Renovations; (d) The Plains Elementary School; and (e) West Elementary School Abatement/Demolition.

2. The Board authorizes the Superintendent, Treasurer, Board President, and any other appropriate District officials, as applicable, to execute and deliver any certifications, acknowledgments, transmittals, or other documents necessary or appropriate to submit, confirm, or complete the ELPP closeout process.

The Board further authorizes District officials to take all actions necessary or appropriate to carry out the intent of this Resolution and to cooperate with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission in connection with final closeout review and approval.

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 August 20, 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.)