

ATHENS CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting, Capital Plan Presentation, and Budget Hearing
August 27, 2026
5:00 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 22 members of the public.

CALL TO ORDER: Beverly Malone – Board President called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: Members Present: Toby Harrison
 Beth Patton, Superintendent
 Karen Clem
 Shannon Hutton, Board Vice-President
 Anthony Townsend

1. Mrs. Malone opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Mrs. Hutton led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Mrs. Malone 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. Mr. Lee Edminson, Facilities Manager for ACS, presented the proposed Capital Plan 2027-2031 for review.
6. Mrs. Serena Owsley, CSFO for Athens City Schools, presented the proposed Fiscal Year Budget for 2027.
7. Upon Superintendent Patton’s recommendation of the following items, Mrs. Hutton moved that the Board approve the items set forth below in the consent agenda. Mrs. Malone 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 – August 13, 2026
2. Field Trip Approvals for ACS
3. Field Trip Request – AHS Girls Softball – Overnight
4. Facility Use Request – First Priority Club
5. Fiber Optic Infrastructure Installation Project
6. Contract approval – The Stepping Stones Group
7. Contract approval - Center for Speech and Language Pathology LLC
8. Personnel

B. Personnel Items Approved:

A. Resignation

1. Mark Tennent - Bus Driver for ACS
2. Morgan Gentry - SPED Teacher at AMS
3. Jeffrey Michael Fraker - SPED Teacher at AHS

4. Emi "Bella" Dutton — TEAMS Math Teacher at AHS, this cancels her TEAMS contract as of December 18, 2026

B. Canceled Contracts and Letter of Appointments

1. Hannah Cera - Music Teacher at CES effective August 28, 2026
2. Taylor Allen - K-2 Aux Teacher at JNES
3. Kyleigh Jones - Latchkey Worker at JNES

C. Leave of Absence

1. Lila Johnston - School Counselor at AIS
2. Kaitlyn Cornelius - Teacher at BES
3. Megan Hobbs - Teacher at AIS

D. Employment

1. Tiffany Burns — 12-month Assistant Principal at RenV
2. Eric Carter — System-Wide Special Education Instructional Assistant, placed at JNES
3. Dominique Taggart - Science Elective Teacher at AMS, effective August 14, 2026
4. Darryl Wesley Brock - Maintenance Coordinator for ACS

E. Temporary, Part-Time Employment

1. Ana Rosales - EL Intervention PPL Substitute at AES (August 24th - September 30th)
2. Dr. Lloyd Jones - Interim Band Director for ACS
3. Rhonda Moss - K-2 Aux Teacher at AES
4. Julie Morgan - K-2 Aux Teacher at CES
5. Anna Farmer - K-2 Aux Teacher at AES
6. K'Yani Houston - Latchkey Teacher at CES
7. Alyssa West - K-2 Aux Teacher at AES
8. Ana Rosales - K-2 Aux Teacher at AES (August 6–21, 2026)
9. John Romine, Jr - Football Game Announcer for ACS
10. Sierra Taylor - K-2 Aux Teacher at AES

G. Contracted Services and Stipends

1. Molly Lauderback - LETRS Training Units 1-4 at JNES
2. Zoe Jackson-McGinnis - LETRS Training Units 1-4 at AES
3. Madison Brown - Latchkey Worker at BES 2026-2027
4. Katie Dalrymple - PST Coordinator for ACS
5. Darla Russell - Latchkey Worker at BES 2026-2027
6. Kara Beth Crumbley - Latchkey Worker at AIS 2026-2027
7. Payton Aderholt - Latchkey Worker at BES 2026-2027
8. Caleb Kerby - Latchkey Worker at AIS 2026-2027
9. Haley Bush - Latchkey Worker at AIS 2026-2027
10. Alexis Statton - Latchkey Worker at AIS 2026-2027

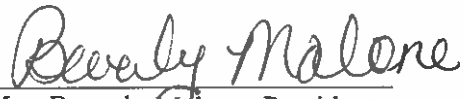
8. Mrs. Patton recommended that the Board enter into an executive session to discuss with their attorney the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated or imminently likely to be litigated if the governmental body pursues a proposed course of action. Prior to the vote on this recommendation, Shane Black, attorney for the board of education, provided the oral and written certification required by law with respect to the litigation exception. (The signed declaration and opinion is attached to the minutes).
9. Mrs. Clem moved that the board accept that recommendation and enter into Executive Session. Mrs. Hutton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, with all five members voting yes.

10. Upon conclusion of the executive session, Mrs. Hutton moved that the board return to regular session. Mr. Harrison seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, with all five members voting yes.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Clem.



Mrs. Beth Patton
Superintendent



Mrs. Beverly Malone, President

STATE OF ALABAMA)
COUNTY OF LIMESTONE)

DECLARATION AND OPINION

My name is E. Shane Black. I am over the age of nineteen (19), and I make this Declaration and Opinion based upon my own personal knowledge, information and belief. I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Alabama and am the Attorney for the Athens City Board of Education. I am offering this Declaration and Opinion in compliance with Section 36-25A-7 of the *Code of Alabama* (1975).

On the 27 day of August, 2026, at a meeting of the Athens City Board of Education, there has been or will be made a motion calling for an executive session for the following purpose(s):

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To discuss with the Board's attorney the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation;

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To discuss with the Board's attorney controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated or imminently likely to be litigated if the Board pursues a proposed course of action;

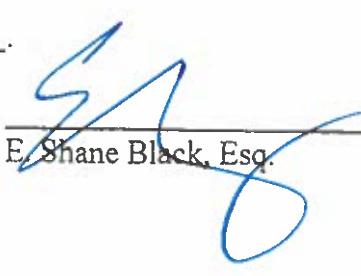
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To meet or confer with a mediator or arbitrator with respect to any litigation or decision concerning matters within the jurisdiction of the Board involving another party, group, or body.

Prior to voting to convene the executive session, I am offering this Declaration and Opinion for the purpose of stating that Section 36-25A-7 of the *Code of Alabama* (1975) is applicable to the planned discussion, and I hereby request that this written Declaration and Opinion be reflected in the minutes for said meeting. I have further advised the Board that if any deliberation begins among them regarding what action to take relating to pending or threatened litigation based upon the advice of counsel, the executive session shall be concluded and the deliberation shall be conducted in the open portion of the meeting or the deliberation shall cease.

This Declaration and Opinion shall not constitute a waiver of the attorney-client privilege.

Dated this 27 day of August, 2026.



E. Shane Black, Esq.