

ATHENS CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
School Board Meeting
September 29, 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: Anthony Townsend
 Beth Patton, Superintendent
 Karen Clem
 Shannon Hutton, Board Vice-President
 Toby Harrison

1. Mr. Townsend opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Mr. Harrison led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Mrs. Hutton moved that the board approve the agenda. Mr. Harrison seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, with all five members voting yes.
4. There was no public input.
5. Mr. Lee Edminson, Facilities Manager for ACS, gave an update on current projects within the system:

SUMMER 2027

AMS - Phase I HVAC / Renovation

Meeting with designers on Oct 7th to review the scope of work

We'll bring the Architect / Engineering Agreement to the board at the next meeting

AMS - Lower Panels

On the Board Agenda this evening is the Arch Agreement to design, bid the removal and installation of the lower panels

AIS - HVAC

Engineer met with maintenance regarding a scope of work

We'll bring the Engineering Agreement to the board at the next meeting

CES - Phase II HVAC / Windows

We received 80% drawings from the Engineer today.... we will review and make comments / changes as necessary

ARS

As I mentioned last meeting we took soil samples. Unfortunately, it wasn't the greatest soils, but we'll address.

Currently we are at 50% design documents and I will be in Huntsville Thursday to review all the systems with the Civil, Mech, Elect, Plumbing, Fire Protection Engineers along with the Arch.

BUS Garage

Still looking at and for land for a new bus garage / maintenance building

And we WELCOME Mr. Wes Brock to Athens City Schools. Mr. Brock will serve as Maintenance Coordinator.

6. 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 five members voting yes.

A. Consent Items Approved:

1. Approval of Minutes – September 1, 2026
2. Paid Payables – August 2026
3. Financial Statements – August 31, 2026
4. Field Trip Approvals for ACS
5. Field Trip Request - AHS Boys Soccer - Overnight
6. Field Trip Request - AHS Girls Volleyball - Overnight
7. Facility Use Request – Cottonwood United Soccer Club
8. Facility Use Request – Grace House Church
9. Facility Use Request – Athens Bible School
10. Contract Approval – Bailey Education Group, LLC
11. Contract Approval – Melinda Dellert
12. Contract Approval – Active Internet Technologies LLC dba Finalsite
13. Contract Approval – McKee & Associates
14. Contract Approval – Morell Engineering, Inc – Civil Engineering Services (Clinton Street)
15. Purchase Approval – Southland Transportation Group – 2 additional Buses
16. 2026-2027 Student-Parent Handbook Revisions
17. ACS School Board Policy Addition – BA-School Board Policy
18. ACS School Board Policy Addition – DQ-Federal Funds-OMB Part 200
19. ACS School Board Policy Revision – DJE-Purchasing
20. ACS School Board Policy Revision – IDE-Alabama Released Time Credit Act Policy
21. 2026-2027 Parent Volunteers
22. Personnel

B. Personnel Items Approved:

A. Resignation

1. April Sandifer — 12-month Custodian — AMS
2. James Wells - Bus Driver for ACS
3. Angel Cooper - CNP Worker/Cashier placed at BES

B. Employment

1. Helen Carter — System Wide Special Education Instructional Aide assigned to AMS — start date 9/14/2026
2. Ashley Williams - Bus Driver for ACS — start date 9/28/2026
3. Tasha Redus — 12 Month Custodian at AMS — start date 10/6/2026
4. Suzanne Enoch — System Wide Special Education Teacher placed at AHS — start date 9/25/2026
5. Andrea Donaldson - System Wide Special Education Instructional Aide placed at AMS
6. Jaci Jackson - System Wide Special Education Instructional Aide placed at BES - start date 9/25/2026
7. Rebekah Hogsed - System Wide Special Education Instructional Aide placed at AMS - start date 9/28/2026

C. Temporary, Part-Time Employment

1. Deborah Isbell - Latchkey Worker at BES for the 26-27 SY
2. Julie Estes - AMS Band Teacher for the 26-27 SY
3. Isaac Britnell — Video Production Facilitator at RenV

D. Contracted Services and Stipends

1. Taylor Whisenant - AL Teacher Mentor Program at ARS
2. AL Teacher Mentor Program — JNES
 - a. Lauren McCormick
 - b. Ashley Steward
 - c. Laura Leigh Terry
3. AL Teacher Mentor Program — CES
 - a. Sheila Jones
 - b. Holly Scarbel
4. AL Teacher Mentor Program — BES
 - a. Deborah Popour
 - b. Katie Walker
5. AL Teacher Mentor Program — AES
 - a. Sue Noah
 - b. McKenzie Thomas
6. Kennedy Leopard - AL Teacher Mentor Program - RenV
7. Andrew Campbell - AL Teacher Mentor Program — AHS
8. AL Teacher Mentor Program — AHS
 - a. Austen Dorning
 - b. Jared Laxson
 - c. Michael May
 - d. Patricia Owens
 - e. Lindsey Ramsden
 - f. Canna Ricketts
 - g. Charity Rogers
9. AL Teacher Mentor Program — AMS
 - a. Kipp Cain
 - b. Keziah McCarley
 - c. Ben Tucker
 - d. Ashley Wise
10. AL Teacher Mentor Program — AIS
 - a. Valerie Azzarello
 - b. Ashley Boutwell
 - c. Leslie Brown
 - d. Bridget Clevenger
 - e. Allie Ezell
 - f. Shane Leopard
 - g. Carey Matthews
 - h. Jessica Veysey
 - i. Allie Harris
11. AL Teacher Mentor — AMS
 - a. Allie Barnes
 - b. Jessica Byrd
 - c. Carey Graves
 - d. Stanley Hand
 - e. Phillip Jarmon
 - f. Bryan Pigg
 - g. Sadi Bess Shannon
12. Symone Moore - LETRS Units 1-4 AES
13. Christie Shields - Bus Aide at AMS
14. Kelly Mathheus - AL Teacher Mentor ARS
15. Caprie Tucker - AL Teacher Mentor AHS
16. LETRS Units 5-8 Extension BES
17. ARI Beyond 3rd Grade Peer Coaching — AIS
 - a. Allie Harris
 - b. Tiffany Wilbourn

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

8. Mrs. Patton made the recommendation 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. Mrs. Hutton moved that the board accept the recommendation and enter into executive session. Mr. Harrison seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, with all five members voting yes.
9. Upon the conclusion of the executive session Mrs. Clem 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 5:32 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Clem.



Mrs. Beth Patton
Superintendent


Mrs. Beverly Malone, President



Superintendent's Report September 29, 2026 Board Meeting

ATTENDANCE REPORT

School	May 2026	September 2026					
Athens Elementary	383 + 75	396 + 62					
FAME Academy @ BES	375 + 18	374 + 18					
SPARK Academy @ CES	308 + 18	298 + 17					
Julian Newman Elementary	440 + 50	485 + 51					
Athens Intermediate	710	761					
Athens Middle	938	965					
Athens High	1268	1240					
Athens Renaissance	636	673					
Renaissance Virtual	471	458					
Total:	5,690	5,798					

SCHOOL REPORTS

Julian Newman Elementary

August

- Began the first full week of school with 540 students present.
- Six of our teachers presented at ACS Marketplace on August 4th- Hannah Harwell, Katie Deen, Sydney Reed, Cassidy Goff, Maddie Carter & Morgan Wilbanks.
- Our annual and largest fundraiser, sponsored by our PTF, was launched on August 24th. The Color Run will be held on September 25th from 5:00pm-7:00pm.
- Spirit Sales from AHS Cheerleaders on Thursday, August 20th was a huge success.
- Our MTSS plan focuses on the 3R's (responsible, respectful, ready) and was introduced at the beginning of the school year. We, as a school, spent time explicitly teaching the expectations for how to: Be Respectful (August 10th-14th), Be Responsible(August 17th-21st) & Be Ready (August 24th-28th).
- The 3R Challenge Week was held August 31st-September 4th. This challenge was to reward students that were caught displaying any of the 3R behaviors. Each student received a 3R Superstar Sticker when modeling expected behavior. The goal was to get as many stickers as you can.
- Friday, August 21st, JNES showed our golden eagle pride by "Repping the A", welcoming our Eagle Buddies for their first visit, & the traditional Pep Rally on the square.
- Diane Trout, STEM lab teacher, was awarded a grant from TVA in the amount of \$2500.

- Congratulations to the following teachers for being awarded grants from the Athens City Schools Foundation:
 - Diane Trout: Harmony Garden, Reading, Music & Imagination -\$500
 - Amy Lungrin: Voices Without Limits- \$500
 - Katie Harbin and Ellie Lovvorn: Words on Wheels-\$1,000

September

- Began the month of September with 539 students present.
- Started our *September Attendance Gumball Challenge* on September 1st for classrooms & staff. As of Wednesday, September 16th, we had 2 classes with perfect student attendance since September 1st!
- First Friday Lunch for staff was a nice treat on Friday, September 4th.
- Congratulations to Foster Bradford and Tyrese Redus for being chosen as students to spotlight from the Fine Arts Department.
- Our Candy Cart sales from September 9th brought in a record amount of profit to be utilized for instructional resources for teachers.
- Congratulations to Mrs. Diane Trout for receiving JNES Teacher of the Year on Wednesday, September 16th.
- Students and staff had the best time showing golden eagle spirit by participating in AHS dress up days during Homecoming Week.
- JNES welcomed and celebrated Grandparents Day during lunch for four days during the week of September 13th.
- On Friday, September 25th, we hosted our annual Color Run with friends and families.

Athens High School

Congratulations to **AHS Teacher of the Year**, Canna Ricketts! Ms. Ricketts has been at AHS for 43 years! **The Pride of Athens Marching Band** is excited to welcome Dr. Lloyd Jones to Athens High School as Interim Director of Bands. Dr. Jones brings a wealth of experience to the Marching Program. Dr. Jones served as the Band Director for the University of North Alabama for the past 26 years and is an inductee of the Alabama Bandmasters Association Hall of Fame for his outstanding contributions to music education.

2026-2027 Mr. and Miss AHS have been selected! Congratulations to Holden Whitaker and Bella Newby.

The Be Pro Be Proud Mobile Workshop came to Athens High School Aug 25th and 26th. The Be Pro Be Proud truck is a mobile career-exploration experience designed to introduce students to skilled trades and high-demand career opportunities. Students had the opportunity to participate in hands-on, interactive activities that help them learn more about careers in transportation, construction, manufacturing, technology, and other skilled professions.

This experience allowed our students to:

- Explore career options they may not have considered before.
- Participate in hands-on career simulations and activities.
- Learn about skilled careers that are in high demand.
- Discover the education, certifications, and training needed for different career pathways.
- Connect what they are learning in school to real-world career opportunities.
- Begin thinking about career and education plans after high school.

This opportunity was set up by the AHS Career Coach, Ms. Ramona Malone, to give students meaningful exposure to career pathways and help them recognize that there are many different routes to a successful future.

AHS Juniors and Seniors had the special opportunity to hear from nationally recognized youth speaker Reggie Dabbs! Through heartfelt storytelling, music and humor, Dabbs shared a powerful message of hope,