

**ATHENS CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**December 19, 2024**  
**6:30 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 Meeting Law”. Present were approximately 17 members of the public.

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

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

Absent:                   Toby Harrison

1. Mr. Townsend opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Mrs. Hutton led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Mrs. Clem moved that the board approve the agenda. Mrs. Hutton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, with all four 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:

**Athletic Facility / Under Stadium Work**

Punch list down to 10 items  
Tested final HVAC unit shut down this week  
Final set for Jan 8th  
Architect - McKee & Associates  
Contractor: Premier Structures

**Julian Newman**

The brick is complete and cleaned  
Metal studs, approximately 40%  
Block fill paint approximately 75%  
First coat of paint complete in A and proceeding to E  
Ceiling grid being installed in A  
Loop road delayed due to weather  
All windows installed  
Storefront installed in selected areas  
FEMA doors installed  
100% dried in tomorrow. Final shingle install next week  
The only long lead item / possible delay is the switchgear. Should be here Feb 15 w/ 2wks to make up the wiring

Completion summer of 2025  
Architect - McKee & Associates  
Contractor - Lee Builders

**AIS - Addition**

**Gym / Storm Shelter:**

New contractor poured the Storm Shelter lid on Monday  
Ductwork and electrical installation started  
Trying to get trusses installed over Christmas break  
Projecting Feb / March completion

**Classroom wing:**

Installing furniture today  
Issue with storefront so we are going to install HM frames / doors....frames to arrive Jan 2nd,  
doors / hardware to follow  
Architect - Brown Odell Architects  
Contractor - Limestone Building Group

**ARS - Clinton Street; Auditorium HVAC**

A temporary wall was built to separate the work area  
The demo has started in the mechanical room in preparation for the new boilers  
We are going to work as much as we can over the holidays  
12/15 - boilers  
1/15 - Package units  
2/15 - condensing units  
4/11 - AHU's

6. Mrs. Patton recognized the 2024 Teachers of the Year from each school and they were presented with a certificate from the Board.
7. Upon Superintendent Patton's recommendation, Mrs. Malone moved that the Board approve the items set forth below in the consent agenda. Mr. Townsend seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion, with all four members voting yes.

**A. Consent Items Approved:**

1. Approval of Minutes - November 14, 2024
2. Approval of Minutes - December 2, 2024 Special Called Meeting
3. Paid Payables - October 2024
4. Paid Payables - November 2024
5. Financial Statements - October 31, 2024
6. Financial Statements - November 30, 2024
7. Financial Statements - FINAL September 30, 2024
8. Personnel
9. Contract Approval - Center for Speech and Language Pathology LLC

10. Facility Use Request - In the Vine Ministries - AHS
11. Facility Use Request - North Alabama Elite Wrestling
12. Field Trip Approvals for Athens City Schools
13. Field Trip Request - Out-of-State - ARS Elementary
14. Field Trip Request - AHS Softball - Overnight
15. Field Trip Request - AHS Softball - Overnight
16. Field Trip Request - AHS Softball - Overnight
17. Field Trip Request - AHS HOSA - Overnight
18. AHS Athletics - Approval Request for Flag Football

**B. Personnel Items Approved:**

**A. Resignation**

1. Jennifer Horne - Speech Language Pathologist for ACS
2. Eddie Groves - Social Studies Teacher at AMS and Bus Driver for ACS
3. Brad Bray - Teacher at AHS and Football Coach

**B. Employment**

1. Addison Kennedy - Latchkey Teacher at BES
2. Brooke Quinn Holt - Elementary Teacher at ARS
3. Rodreeka Watkins - 3rd Grade Teacher at CES
4. Jessica Kraus - Bus Driver for ACS
5. Jordan "Chase" Crowson - SPED Teacher at AMS
6. Brian Puckett - Strength and Conditioning Teacher at AHS
7. Jennifer Rosso - Art Teacher at AMS
8. Charlie Wallace - SPED Teacher at AMS
9. Jonathan Jones - System Wide Instructional Aide at AMS

**C. Retirement**

1. Chris Paysinger - History Teacher at ARS

**D. Transfer**

1. Jeff Mathheus - History Teacher at AMS to History Teacher at ARS

**E. Leave of Absence**

1. Kathryn Kennedy Leopard
2. Lisa Brown

**F. Contracted Services Cancellation**

1. Megan Evett - After School Ballet Instruction at BES

**G. Contracted Services and Stipends**

1. Hazel Lindholm - Contracted SPED Aide at JNE
2. Russell McNutt - Contracted Bus Substitute
3. Heba Nixon - Contracted Interpreter for SPED Testing
4. Chelsea Robinson - Contracted Student Coverage and ACCESS at ARS
5. Ubd Training - Secondary
  - a. Moore, Melissa
6. UBD Training - Elementary
  - a. Hillard, Christy
  - b. Pope, Margaret
  - c. Stude, Heather
7. Peter Inglett - AHS Band Indoor Music and Drill
8. Justin Williams - AHS Band Indoor Music Writer

- 9. Tanya Griffin - Contracted ACCESS Testing - AES
- 10. Tamara Bone - SNA Certification Level 4

- 8. Mrs. Patton recommended the 2025-2026 Calendar to the Board Members. Mrs. Malone moved that the board approve the 2025-2026 Calendar. Mrs. Hutton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, with all four members voting yes.
- 9. The Superintendent's Report is attached.
- 10. An Executive Session was not needed.
- 11. Superintendent Beth Patton collected Affirmation Certificates in October from the School Board Members. Mr. Townsend could not attend that meeting and signed it on December 19, 2024. Mrs. Patton has the board members sign these to be in compliance with the School Board Governance Improvement Act of 2012. Pursuant to the law, she has presented this certificate to be recorded in the minutes and a copy of Mr. Townsend's certificate is attached to the minutes.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Townsend.



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Mrs. Beth Patton  
Superintendent



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Mrs. Beverly Malone, President

# ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS

## CERTIFICATE OF AFFIRMATION OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

As required by the **School Board Governance Improvement Act of 2012**, I do hereby affirm all of the following principles of educational governance:

1. That each decision, action and vote I take or make as a member of the school board shall be based solely on the needs and interests of students or the system.
2. That I will take or make no decision, action or vote to serve or promote my personal, political, or pecuniary interests.
3. That each decision, action and vote I take or make shall be based on the educational interests of the school system as a whole.
4. That I will consider the views of all members of the board and the superintendent before making a decision or taking an action on any measure or proposal before the board.
5. That, except to the extent otherwise provided by law, I shall take formal action only upon the written recommendation of an in consultation with the superintendent, and that I may not individually or jointly attempt to direct or corrupt the operations of the school system in a manner inconsistent with the discharge of the statutory functions and responsibilities of the superintendent.
6. That I shall actively promote public support for the school system and a sound statewide system of public education, and shall endorse ideas, initiatives and programs that are designed to improve the quality of public education for all students.
7. That I shall attend scheduled meetings and actively participate in school system functions, activities and training programs that promote quality boardsmanship unless good cause is shown.

Affirmed on this 19 day of December, 20 24

By  (Signature)

Anthony Townsend (Print Name)

Athens City Schools Board of Education



## Superintendent's Report December 19, 2024 Board Meeting

### ATTENDANCE REPORT

School	April 2024	September 2024	October 2024	November 2024	December 2024
iAcademy @ AES	363 + 71	392 + 77	393 + 65	394 + 65	396 + 65
FAME Academy @ BES	342 + 18	359 + 18	361 + 18	365 + 18	364 + 18
SPARK Academy @ CES	315 + 18	309 + 18	310 + 18	313 + 18	313 + 18
HEART Academy @ JNES	354 + 35	373 + 36	373 + 36	381 + 36	381 + 36
Athens Intermediate	603	638	638	644	646
Athens Middle	921	925	929	931	934
Athens High	1213	1263	1261	1262	1260
Athens Renaissance	753	599	590	585	584
Renaissance Virtual	N/A	345	361	360	362
<b>Total:</b>	<b>5,006</b>	<b>5,352</b>	<b>5,353</b>	<b>5,372</b>	<b>5,377</b>

### SCHOOLS REPORT

#### Curriculum and Instruction – Mr. Garner Ezell:

- Athens City's Exceptional Services, Federal Programs, and Curriculum and Instruction Departments collaborated to apply for the **Alabama Summer and After-School Program (ASAP) Grant** to support the 2025 Elementary Summer Learning Camp. Athens City Schools was selected as a grant recipient and awarded \$50,000.
- The Curriculum and Instruction Department partnered with our secondary schools to apply for the **Alabama College and Career Readiness Grant**. Athens High School and Athens Renaissance School were each awarded \$32,500. Additionally, the district received \$98,000 to support activities aimed at increasing the number of students graduating with one or more College and Career Readiness (CCR) indicators.
- Approximately 50 K-12 teachers from the **District English Language Arts (ELA) and Math teams** met during the second quarter to continue developing resources for unit design. Each session was preceded by a two-hour Zoom meeting with our partners from McTighe & Associates to deepen their understanding of the Understanding by Design (UbD) framework.
- The district's **Portrait of a Graduate (POG) team** convened during the second quarter to further develop understanding and essential questions for the six POG skills and characteristics. The session included professional learning on performance tasks, facilitated by Jay McTighe.

School administrators and instructional partners participated in a **One Athens professional learning session** in November, focusing on Level 2 of the High-Reliability Schools framework: Effective Teaching in Every Classroom. Hosted at Athens Elementary School, the session featured a learning walk, observations of collaborative grade-level meetings, and an analysis of student work.

### **iAcademy – Athens Elementary School:**

- We were thrilled to receive a score of 92 on the most recent Alabama State Report Card! Our staff of difference makers work hard every day to make a difference in the lives of each student.
- We recently had students engaged in many fun activities during National Computer Science Week. Students each went home with a stem kit that they could create with their families. While at school, in special area classes all during the week students were learning about computer science principles and completing computer science tasks. Students learned about coding, digital citizenship, algorithms, and artificial intelligence.
- Athens Elementary was highlighted in the most recent COSSBA (Consortium of State School Boards Association) national publication! You can read the article at this link: <https://bit.ly/COSSBAnewsletter>
- Our Wow lab teacher, Mrs. Wiseheart has had her morning enrichment groups create AES news bulletins. They are so cute and informative! You can watch some of the editions at this link: <https://bit.ly/AESnewslinks>
- Our annual school wide Christmas sing-along is this Thursday at 9:30. We get all the students and staff together and sing holiday songs. We love this tradition that leads us into the holiday break!

### **HEART Academy – Julian Newman Elementary:**

- Congratulations to Mrs. Amanda Johnson for receiving the BEE the Difference award in November, presented by our Partners in Education, Athens-Limestone Hospital. The nominee proudly represents Julian Newman as a place where everyone is treasured, diversity is respected, character is encouraged, learning is loved, success is celebrated and leaders shine.
- On November 20th, our school participated in Learning Walks. We had the local Assistant Principals join in and visit classrooms with us.
- On November 21st, we hosted our annual JNES Retired Teachers Luncheon. We had 14th retirees who were able to join us. Our ladies in the lunchroom cooked a delicious traditional lunch for them to enjoy.
- All of our students were able to visit the Festival of Trees at the Donnell House on Friday, November 22.
- We began iReady Diagnostic testing in Reading and Math on December 2.
- We will celebrate the holiday season with Christmas Carols and parties on December 20th.

### **Athens High School:**

- Miss Emmie Prater was chosen as Miss Merry Christmas and represented us in the Christmas Parade.
- Our AHS Jazz Band shared the sounds of the season with the Athens Rotary Club and performed for the students at Athens Intermediate School.
- The AHS JROTC held its annual Jingle Bell Jog and had a great turnout.
- SCA held the annual SOAR Christmas Party.
- AHS has enjoyed the Deck the Halls Door Decorating Contest.
- Members of the Athens High School Thespians competed in the State Trumbauer High School Theatre Festival. All of our participating students received a rating of either Superior or Excellent. Additionally, Nash Gilbert placed 2nd in the state in Varsity Lighting Design and Cora Dye and Logan Lindsay placed 1st in the state in Novice Duet Acting Contemporary Dramatic. Teachers got very creative with their themes for this project.

- AVID went on two field trips this past month. We attended University of Tennessee Southern in Pulaski. The students enjoyed touring the campus and UT Southern Admissions department graciously purchased all of the students lunch in their cafeteria on campus. The next field trip, we visited Drake State Community and Technical College. The students were able to visit the different departments and because finals had just wrapped up, they were able to visit with instructors. Several instructors/professors talked to the students and spent time talking about their fields. The AVID Elective students also collected toys for Toys for Tots and gave them to United Way of Athens for distribution. The students earned community service hours for donating toys. The estimated donation of toys was around \$500.
- For the Veteran's Day Field of Flags Fundraiser, the AHS Mike Jones Chapter of Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society recently raised \$750.00 as a donation in honor of our chapter namesake for the local Athens VFW post. The society will present the VFW post with the donation at AHS on Wednesday, Dec 18, 2024.
- Detective Joe McClanahan from the Athens Police Department visited the Forensics class to demonstrate fingerprint dusting techniques, answer questions, and discuss the role of detectives in the community.
- HOSA recently had 9 students compete in the State Qualifying Events competition in order to be able to represent and compete for Athens High School HOSA at the State Leadership Conference. The following students qualified and will be attending the conference in Montgomery, February 27th-28th.

Gavin Curry, Medical Terminology  
 Brooklyn Farmer, CPR/First Aid  
 Jessie Kloefer, Medical Spelling  
 Wyatt LaBarr, CPR/First Aid  
 Ethan Lawniczak, Sports Medicine

## **SPORTS REPORT**

### **Winter Sports**

Winter sports are in full swing!

#### **Wrestling**

The coaches are very proud of how well their athletes have performed thus far this season. Several athletes have placed in the top three in their weight class at tournaments. The athletes have faced others from Georgia, Tennessee, and Florida. After a home dual with Hazel Green and Gardendale on Thursday, December 19, the team will travel to Cleveland Tennessee to participate in the Bradley High School Invitational.

#### **Basketball**

Both the boys and girls basketball teams are playing well at this time. Even being a young team, the players are settling into their new roles this year. The coaches are excited for the remainder of the season and the future of basketball at AHS and AMS. The 2nd Annual Border Wars Tournament is December 27-28, beginning at 10:00 each day at Athens High School.

#### **Indoor Track**

Indoor Track began its season on Saturday, December 7, with a follow up on Saturday, December 14. Several athletes were able to stand on the award podium during each meet. A number of athletes received personal best during their performance. After a couple of weeks off, the team will be back in action in the new year.

#### **Spring Sports**

Spring sports begin practicing in January. The coaches and players are expecting to continue their success from last season.