ATHENS CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

November 13, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

The Athens City Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, November 13, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at the Administration Building, 943 Crestway Drive, Athens, Tennessee.

CALL TO ORDER

Mike Bevins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Mike Bevins, Amy Sullins, Chris Adams, Johnny Coffman, Beth Jackson, Abby Burke Carroll, and Director of Schools Dr. Melanie Miller were present for the meeting. A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Board and guests stated the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. A moment of silence was observed.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Mr. Bevins welcomed everyone to the meeting. Guests present were: Missy Boyd, Administrative Assistant to Director of Schools; Susan Freeman, Finance Administrator; Angie Newman, Food Service Supervisor; John Dyer, Technology Supervisor; Melody Armstrong, Curriculum and Instruction Supervisor; Janey Morris, Federal Projects Supervisor; Bob Owens, Facilities and Attendance Supervisor; Holly Owens, Principal of North City; Tracy Lee, Principal of Westside; Jill Swafford, Principal of Ingleside; Mike Simmons, Principal of Athens City Middle; Kristine Walden, Principal at City Park; Ray Grant, Assistant Transportation Supervisor/HR Recruiter; Michelle Haney, City Park Teacher; and Greg Moses, Editor for *The Daily Post Athenian.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Bevins explained that at this time of the meeting the attendees were provided an opportunity to discuss topics with the Board. No one requested to speak to the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of Agenda – November 13, 2017
*Items 1-19

B. Approval of Minutes
- October 2, 2017- Regular Meeting
- October 6, 2017- Executive Meeting
- November 6, 2017- Called Meeting

C. Approval of Financial Reports for the Quarter Ending September 30, 2017

1.) General Purpose
2.) Federal Projects
3.) Food Service

Mr. Adams made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Second was made by Dr. Sullins. **Motion carried.**
(A copy of the documents discussed is included in the Minutes Book.)

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Dr. Miller shared the news that Mr. Bevins received the Athens Kiwanis Club Distinguished Service Award and the TSBA Level V Boardsmanship.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Dr. Miller reviewed the personnel update.
(A copy of the document is included in the Minutes Book.)

UPDATE ON ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE

Dr. Miller provided an update on the attendance and enrollment. The attendance is currently at 95.66% and the enrollment is at 1609.
(A copy of the documents discussed is included in the Minutes Book.)

EXPENDITURE REPORT

Dr. Miller provided an update on the September and October 2017 Summary Financial Reports for General Purpose and Federal Projects**,** stating the report also includes September and October 2016 reports to be used for comparison.
(A copy of the documents is included in the Minutes Book.)

BEREAVEMENT LEAVE REPORT

Dr. Miller stated 25 employees used a total of 46 days' bereavement leave during October 2016 thru September 2017. No official action was required by the Board.
(A copy of the document is included in the Minutes Book.)

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

Mr. Coffman and Mrs. Jackson attended the Delegate Assembly on November 4, 2017, as part of the TSBA Annual Convention. Mr. Coffman and Mrs. Jackson provided an update from the delegate assembly which included a total of ten Resolutions to be brought to the State legislators in 2018. The Resolutions are as follows:

Resolution 1: To express appreciation to president of our Board of Directors Wayne Blair. Passed.

Resolution 2: To change the reporting of participation rates of the ACT/SAT. Not applicable. Passed.

Resolution 3: To change the weighting of Advanced Placement, Honors, and Dual Enrollment courses. Not applicable. Did not pass.

Resolution 4: To expand the ways in which school systems dispose of surplus property so that it can be done the most efficient, cost effective way. Passed.

Resolution 5: To lower the nurse-pupil ratio be lowered to one nurse for every 750 students. Passed.

Resolution 6: To request that students' TNReady scores be returned to the system no later than two weeks. Passed.

Resolution 7: To amend the BEP formula to include funding for Response to Instruction and Intervention positions. Passed.

Resolution 8: To request that teachers from out of a state with reciprocity be allowed to receive a TN teaching license without an assessment, as long as they have level 4 or 5 evaluations in their first three years as a TN teacher. Passed.

Resolution 9: To resolve that no additional assessments be required beyond those in 2016-2017 until there are measures to ensure the accuracy of existing tests. Passed.

Resolution 10: To give school districts 15 business days to verify test results before public release of this information. Passed.

NSBA—To change the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act to keep personal information like address, telephone, etc. private. This was probably in response to private and charter schools seeking this information to recruit students. Passed.

NSBA—To allow all authorized diplomas to be recognized when listing graduation rates. Passed.

B&B INVESTMENT LAWSUIT

Dr. Miller reported the motion for interlocutory appeal on behalf of Athens City Schools was filed by Athens City Schools attorney, Mr. Chris Trew. At this time, there was no further update regarding the appeal.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Miller provided the following update to the Board.

- Dr. Miller stated that the Achievement scores have been released and Athens City Schools is above the state in English Language Arts and Math.
- Dr. Miller shared that each school had a Veteran's Day service or recognition during the week of November 9th-13th.
- Dr. Miller reported that fifty-four percent of the recent Math Contest winners were students from Athens City Schools. Athens City Middle School, North City, and Westside students participated in this local contest.
- Dr. Miller informed the Board that the Fall Camp sessions have come to an end, and adding they were successful.
- Dr. Miller told the Board that the Athens City Middle School Fall Sports had come to an end and the Winter Sports had begun.
- Dr. Miller communicated to the Board that during the last month the Athens City Schools was represented at the LEAD Conference by Athens City Middle School, the TSBA Conference by Family Engagement and the ACMS Singers, the Athens City Schools Attendance Initiative was presented to the Optimist and Kiwanian Clubs, the Cougar Day of Caring was presented to the Optimist Club, and the school camp program and Camp Oo-Tah-Nee-Noh-Chee was presented at TAPHERD.
- Dr. Miller conveyed to the Board that Mr. Seth Sumner, Athens City Manager, and herself had attended a meeting of the Coalition of Better Schools, with which Athens City and Athens City Schools are members. During this meeting, the funding issues city schools face was discussed.
- Dr. Miller told the Board that she had been involved with TOSS and several legislative issues. Three of those issues are vouchers, letter grading, and TNReady.

- Dr. Miller shared with the Board the School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding. She stated that the Athens City Council would be looking at the MOU during their work session that night. The plan is to discuss the SRO and the MOU at the next Quarterly Joint Meeting.
- Dr. Miller reminded the Board that the next Quarterly Joint City Council/School Board Meeting will be Monday, November 20, 2017. The meeting will begin 5:30 p.m. at the Administration Building.

COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Miller shared a letter from the United States Department of Education thanking the Athens City Schools Board of Education for submitting a letter to Secretary Betsy DeVous, U.S. Department of Education, regarding the proposed funding reductions and eliminations of key programs in the fiscal year 2018 budget proposal, specifically the proposed elimination of the Title II, Part A program.

Dr. Miller also shared an invitation from McMinn County Education Foundation for the Teacher Grant Awards Ceremony.

The final document shared by Dr. Miller was a letter from TOSS thanking the Athens City Schools Board members for passing a resolution against A-F school letter grades in Tennessee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dr. Amy Sullins thanked Dr. Miller and the Central Office staff for all that has been done to empower teachers, school employees, and students to be involved in show-casing Athens City Schools.

NEW BUSINESS

With there being no other business before the Board, Mr. Bevins adjourned the meeting on November 13, 2017 at 6:10 p.m.

APPROVED ON: _____
(Date)

APPROVED BY: _____
Chair

_____
Director of Schools