

Athens Technical College
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2024
9:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Phil Bettendorf
Mr. Tom Denny
Judge Cheveda McCamy
Mayor Fred Perriman
Mr. Mike Sale
Mrs. Ruth Tellano-Daniel
Dr. Reginald Woods

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Kyle Brown

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chair Fred Perriman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. welcoming everyone to the March board meeting.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Lenzy Reid spoke about our Skills USA medal winners. We had a total of nine winners last year. This year we had seventeen winners. He introduced the students, faculty, staff, and program chairs. Coleman Simmons from the Heating and Air Conditioning Program introduced Will Kirkland who won a gold medal. Janna Whitfield from the Cosmetology and Barbering Program introduced Omar Phillips who won a bronze medal. Greg Thomas, from the Automotive Collision Repair Program, introduced Josehp Maxwell who won a silver medal. Charles Dawson and Nathan Major from the Diesel Program introduced Robert Hale who won a bronze medal. Jamey Bruce from the Automotive Technology Program introduced Walker Hedrick who won a gold medal and Jonathan Heredia who won a bronze medal. He also introduced the Quiz Bowl students who participated in the competition.

Mr. Reid introduced Nicholas Rucker our GOAL winner. Mr. Rucker, who is a student in the Physical Therapy Assistant Program, told his story to the board members and how technical education has helped him.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Perriman called for approval of the February 2024 minutes. Phil Bettendorf made a motion to approve the minutes and Tom Denny seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. The minutes were approved.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Kathryn Thomas presented the Financial Report as of February 29, 2024.

Dr. Reginald Woods asked Ms. Thomas about current renovation projects. We have been working on small projects such as renovation in Building N due to flooding, parking lot repairs, painting around campus, painting the metal buildings on the other end of campus, and replacing an air conditioning unit for Cosmetology. We are also putting up gates at the new Industrial Systems Technology Building. There are tractor trailers trying to turn around in the parking lot and are causing damage trying to get back out.

Dr. Daniel explained that our large project will be our capital outlay project consisting of the Walton County Campus renovation. This project, which is phase one, is still in the Governor's budget. The driving range at the Walton County Campus has been completed.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS/INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Dr. Kristen Douglas presented an update on Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness. Our next accreditation visit will be for EMS. We have submitted our self-study. The visit will be on December 3rd.

We have submitted our final QEP to SACSCOC. We should have our final reaffirmation documents in June.

We are working with all the career academies in our service area to provide programs they are needing for their students.

We received our approval from the Georgia Department of Driver's Services for the recently completed driving range on the Walton County Campus.

Rivian recently announced that they will not proceed with their Georgia plant at this time. They are, however, still working with our eight students who are a part of their apprenticeship. Rivian is extending the length of the students' apprenticeships and will continue to pay the students. Their decision regarding the Georgia plant will not impact our students.

She invited board members to participate in the library book swap that will be held next week.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Lenzy Reid gave the board an update on Student Affairs. Admissions has been working hard on the Georgia Match Program. We have received 5,208 applications and 2,768 students have been accepted.

Financial Aid is working on verifications, applications, and processing Pell. They will be providing workshops to students, parents, and anyone interested or needing help with the recent changes to FAFSA. The workshops will take place in April, May, June and July.

Student Support Services continues to work with students who are having mental issues.

The Athens Technical College Police Department is working on their state certification.

WIOA continues to process verification funds for students.

Information Technology is transitioning employees from Windows 10 to Windows 11. They are also doing an inventory of all the computers on campus. We will be moving our emergency alert system back to Rave now that Motorola has the contract for the emergency system.

Student Activities has been busy with Skills USA and planning Spring Flings on all of our campuses.

Registration and Records is preparing for graduation on May 2nd.

Recruitment has been doing individual and group tours lately. There have been sixteen tours of groups larger than twenty-five people over the last month.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Al McCall gave an update on Economic Development. Last week Congressman Mike Collins and his staff toured the Elbert County Campus.

His department has been attending county chamber annual meetings lately. Last week they attended the Athens Area Chamber Annual Meeting.

They have partnered with the Walton County School District to provide some training they are needing.

They recently completed five sessions of leadership training for Stripling's in Athens. They are arranging to award the employees their certificates.

Open enrollment classes for QuickBooks, Excel, and other computer classes are taking place in Elbert County.

They are providing first responder and CPR training to employees at Caterpillar.

The next driver's education class begins April 8th.

Toyota Industries will be touring the Athens Campus on Thursday.

ADULT EDUCATION

Fabersha Flynt gave an update on Adult Education. She is happy to announce that sixty-three students have confirmed they will participate in this year's GED graduation ceremony. Marchelle Sandoval will be the keynote speaker.

They are currently providing a math bootcamp to students who need assistance to complete the subject to get their GED. The bootcamp is taking place on the Walton County Campus. There will be another one on the Elbert County Campus next month.

She will be attending the EAGLE conference next week in Atlanta.

COLLEGE UPDATES

Josh Paine provided an update on the Athens Tech Foundation and Public Relations. He passed out an Adult Education flyer that he recently had created. There will be an Adult Education billboard coming soon in Athens as well.

He passed out an Admissions card with the college contact information on it.

He is still promoting free application month that is going on during March.

Next week he is shooting a video for social media.

The Athens Tech Foundation Illuminate event in April has already raised \$82,000 which is more than the event raised last year. He thanked the board members who have purchased tickets to the event.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Daniel presented the President's Report. She passed out a bio for Tony Ferguson who is Georgia's Northeast Region Executive for Georgia Power. She would like to recommend him to join the board. He was a certified board member at Georgia Northwestern Technical College so he will not need to get certified a second time. He will need to be approved by State Board. Once approved his first official board meeting will be in August. Phil Bettendorf made a motion to approve and Tom Denny seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. Tony Ferguson was approved to be recommended to State Board to join local board per this vote.

There is a new tiny house next to the Industrial Systems Technology Building that will be used by students in the Heating and Air Conditioning Program to help train them for real life situations.

We have been invited to partner with the Film Academy in Athens. We will need to be sure there is equipment in their building for SACSCOC purposes.

The State budget session will be over by March 30th. Our capital outlay project is still in the Governor's budget for phase one renovation of the Walton County Campus. We had a 28% increase in our high demand programs which include Nursing, Welding and Truck Driving. There is also a proposed pay raise for state employees in the Governor's budget.

TCSG is working on a brochure that will feature facts about each technical college. She passed out a sample of the Athens Technical College fast facts sheet.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Chair Perriman thanked all the board members for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend the board meetings each month.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Chair Perriman adjourned the meeting with appropriate motion and second at 10:15 a.m.

Dr. Andrea Daniel, President
Rebecca Allen
Executive Assistant
March 19, 2024

Next scheduled Board Meeting: April 16, 2024

** Denotes action items that require a vote for approval by the local board.*