

Athens Technical College
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2026
9:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Phil Bettendorf
Mr. Kyle Brown
Mr. Tom Denny
Mr. Tony Ferguson
Judge Cheveda McCamy
Ms. Jean Mullis
Ms. Ruth Tellano-Daniel
Dr. Reginald Woods

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Mike Sale

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chair Dr. Reginald Woods called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. welcoming everyone to the March board meeting.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Scott Anderson presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled "2026 Facilities Update". The Walton Campus renovation is coming along good. They meet every other week to discuss the project. The renovation will make the campus look more like a college campus and will be similar to our other campuses. The lighting will be similar to Building T. He gets a lot of complements about the lighting in Building T.

The bathrooms on that campus are in dire need of renovation work to fix numerous problems. There is a need for a water shutoff valve to the building. There will be new furniture that will match furniture on the main campus. There will be also be a welding building added to the campus.

There are other Spring/Summer projects taking place. Building M will get an interior makeover with new paint, flooring and furniture. Building P will get new carpet in the main entrance, classrooms and office suites. Building D and E will receive exterior repainting and the sidewalks at Buildings H, J, I and K will be replaced with new concrete. We will get drainage improvements to prevent water intrusion in the B Building. We will also get roof repairs to Building 300 on the Elbert Campus and installation of interior insulation in the Agricultural Science Headhouse building.

Also during Spring break, we will have sprinkler testing going on, mulch being put around campus, power washing of buildings and plumbing backflow testing. This will all be done while students are not on campus.

Dr. Daniel passed out a Save the Date for the Walton Campus Groundbreaking Ceremony on May 22nd.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Woods called for approval of the February 2026 minutes. Tom Denny made a motion to approve the minutes and Phil Bettendorf seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. The minutes were approved.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Kathryn Thomas presented the Financial Report as of February 28, 2026.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS/INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Dr. Kristen Douglas provided an update for Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness. She is working with school systems to plan what they each will need next year. Elbert County School System is wanting some Cosmetology and Diesel classes. The Greene County Career Academy wants more statistics math classes.

Board members received a booklet on the Wonders of Work event that took place on campus recently. It was an outstanding event in which 8th graders attended. She thanked the industry partners who showed up for the event including Georgia Power, Caterpillar, and Coca Cola. They are already planning another event next year.

Faculty have been going out into the community and participating in events with schools. Recently a faculty member attended an event with Gwinnett County Schools called "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day".

We have a new Program Chair for the Nursing Program, Beth Heath, who is a faculty member and is our clinical coordinator at the Walton Campus. She fills the vacant position left by Dr. Andraa Perrin who is now the Dean for Life Sciences.

They are continuing to work on articulation agreements. Dr. Daniel has an articulation agreement signing ceremony with Brenau University in April. Later today, she has a phone call with Middle Georgia State University to discuss an articulation agreement.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Lenzy Reid gave the board an update on Student Affairs. He thanked Phil Bettendorf for serving on our GOAL judging committee.

Tomorrow is Spring Fling on the Athens Campus from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm.

He recognized Chief Gaissert and Lieutenant Brewer for completing their mandatory firearms training.

He presented a PowerPoint presentation on student anxiety and depression on college campuses. Anxiety has risen from 22% in 2013-2014 to 34% in 2023-2024. Depression has gone up from 21% in 2013-2014 to 38% in 2023-2024. The top five mental health concerns among students today is anxiety, depression, stress, family issues and academic performance.

We now offer a program to help students called UWill. He passed out information on the program which is free to our students. He thanked Dr. Daniel for her support of the program. UWill is a teletherapy and wellness platform in which students can call for support 24 hours a day. Since January there have been 26 students who have registered for the service. Over 150 students have looked at the service. We also offer campus services to students as well as referrals.

We are now offering an online note taking application which allows students to practice quizzes and tests in order to help them improve their test taking skills. Since January students have used the application over 195 times.

TCSG is now offering a Disabled Veterans Scholarship to students. We have three students who have received the scholarship. They will get \$1,000 per semester for their classes.

We have become certified as an Assessment Technology Institute (ATI).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Al McCall provided an update on Economic Development. His department is having more community engagement lately. They are working with the Madison County Chamber of Commerce a lot recently.

Elbert County was recently selected by the Carl Vinson Institute as a PROPEL county. PROPEL means Planning Rural Opportunities for Prosperity and Economic Leadership. They were one of three counties selected. The program helps counties develop and activate a plan to advance their economies.

They are working with Adult Education to develop a program for construction fundamentals.

They have been providing numerous trainings recently including advanced excel, forklift, OSHA 30, first responders and rigging training.

The next driver's education class begins on April 20th.

He and Antoine Boynton have been working with Leadership Dawgs on a marketing plan for their department. They recently participated in a competition in which they came in second place and received \$3,000.

On February 28th there was a cow show held in the arena on the Elbert Campus. There were approximately 60 cows in the show.

Spring Fling was held on the Elbert Campus last week.

Tom Denny congratulated Mr. McCall on running for Chairman of the Elbert County Board of Commissioners. No one is running against him so he will win the election.

ADULT EDUCATION

Dr. Fabersha Flynt gave the board an update on Adult Education. They held an Accelerated Academy at the beginning of March in which 190 people showed interest. Of the 190 there were 50 people who participated in the orientation which included a GED pre-test. There were 8 people who made the cut score. Of the 8 there were 7 people who took their GED. We had 5 people who received their GED and 2 who are planning to retest.

Dr. Flynt shared a heartwarming story about one of the people who participated in the Accelerated Academy and received her GED.

She thanked Dr. Daniel and the board members for their support of the Accelerated Academy and Adult Education.

She is working on partnerships with the Athens Housing Authority, Walton County School District and Walton County Sheriff's Department.

COLLEGE UPDATES

Antoine Boynton is at a conference and could not attend the meeting today. Dr. Daniel presented an update on External Affairs and the Athens Tech Foundation. They will run two campaigns this year with the Lumina Foundation Grant. The funding will be for digital campaigns.

Public Relations is working on the Federal ADA mandate where our digital presence must be ADA compliant.

They are continuing to see higher engagement on post making announcements of student and college success or accomplishments.

To increase our followers, they are inviting non-followers who have liked or provided a reaction to a post to follow our page.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Andrea Daniel presented the President's Report. She thanked Ruth Tellano-Daniel, Phil Bettendorf, Mike Sale and Judge Cheveda McCamy for agreeing to be reappointed to another term on the board.

Dr. Daniel informed board members that Chair Dr. Woods would roll off the board at the end of the fiscal year so we need to appoint another board chair and vice chair. Phil Bettendorf has agreed to be the chair and Tony Ferguson has agreed to be the vice chair. Chair Woods asked the board for approval of the new board chair and vice chair. Tom Denny made a motion to approve the new chair and vice chair and Jean Mullis seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. The new chair and vice chair were approved.

Dr. Daniel presented the Alumnae of the Year Award to Sebrina Vaughn. Ms. Vaughn graduated from Athens Technical College in 2017 and is currently the Asset Manager for the Business Office.

She passed out revised board meeting dates. The April board meeting has been changed to April 28th due to the Leadership Summit being in Atlanta on the original board meeting date. The October board meeting date falls the same time as the Leadership Conference in Savannah so the meeting date has been changed to October 27th.

She passed out college information that was in the TCSG Annual Report.

Graduation is May 5th. She thanked Judge Cheveda McCamy who will be our keynote speaker at the GED graduation at 2:00 pm. Also, Dr. Alvetta Thomas is the keynote speaker for the 10:00 am academic graduation.

She is continuing to work on our budget. She was able to support the \$2,000 stipend for our employees. She thanked Governor Kemp for all of his help. Our \$48 million MR&R funds are included in the budget. She has worked very hard to get the Dual Achieve bill passed, however, there are no funds available. She is continuing to work on getting the funds.

She thanked her team who are always willing to work together on projects or to solve issues.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Chair Woods thanked the board members for attending the meeting. He is always excited to come to the board meetings and see what great things are happening at the college. He will miss that once he retires from the board. He has enjoyed serving on the board.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Chair Woods adjourned the meeting with appropriate motion and second at 10:00 a.m.

Dr. Andrea Daniel, President
Rebecca Allen
Executive Assistant
March 17, 2026

Next scheduled Board Meeting: April 28, 2026

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