Athens Technical College

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2026 | 9:00 A.M.

Members Present

Mr. Phil Bettendorf; Mr. Kyle Brown; Mr. Tom Denny; Judge Cheveda McCamy; Mr. Tony Ferguson; Mr. Mike Sale; Ms. Ruth Tellano-Daniel

Members Absent

Ms. Jean Mullis

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chair Philip Bettendorf called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. welcoming everyone to the September board meeting.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Antoine Boynton presented an overview on brand and advertising. They recently completed a website refresh that is now more streamlined and includes an updated header and navigator. There are now social media videos on the website and the news section is highlighted. The new website should be more user friendly.

A recent project, our vision video, has been completed and will start airing on different social media sites. He presented the video to the board members.

They recently conducted a couple of awareness campaigns. One is a lead generation campaign which involves our articulation agreement with Middle Georgia State University. This Google Ad campaign ran from July 28th through August 21st and cost $420.28. There were 5,133 clicks which led to 53 leads for the college. The cost per lead was $7.93.

Another campaign is the Lumina Foundation Grant Adult Learner. This Meta Ad campaign ran from July 5th through August 17th and cost $10,000 which was grant funded. From this campaign there were 2,927 clicks which led to 81 leads. The cost per lead was $104.94.

The difference between these two campaigns gives the board an idea of how using different platforms can give different results.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Bettendorf called for approval of the August 2026 minutes. Tony Ferguson made a motion to approve the minutes with one change and Mike Sale seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. The minutes were approved with the one change.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Andrea Daniel presented the President’s Report. She announced her retirement as President of Athens Technical College effective December 1, 2026. After 30 years of service, she has decided it is time to retire. She passed out her official retirement letter to the board.

Dr. Daniel also announced that Cindy Simmons, Coordinator for the President’s Office will be retiring effective December 1, 2026 as well as her husband Sterling Daniel, who works for Georgia Quick Start.

She will miss the college, faculty, staff and students; however, she is looking forward to the next chapter. She thanked the board members for the dedication to the college and everything they do to support the college. She invited the board to join her on November 30th at 9:00 am for a college holiday celebration downstairs. This will be her last day at the college.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Kathryn Thomas presented the Financial Report as of August 31, 2026.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS/INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Dr. Kristen Douglas provided an update for Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness. Cognia is the accrediting agency for our secondary programs including our career academy which works with high school students. We have a Cognia site visit in April 2027. She thanked everyone who has been working diligently to get ready for the visit. Cognia assigns a mentor to each college to help with the accreditation process. She is happy to announce that our mentor said that the information we submitted was beyond excellence.

She has been working on Workforce Pell which is a new expansion of our Federal Pell grant. Students in short term certificate programs like our Commercial Truck Driving Program will benefit from Workforce Pell.

Arlen Hart, who is the Program Chair for the Automotive Technology Program, and Dean Betty Watts have a great partnership with Advanced Auto Parts. The automotive store chain recently opened up two new stores, one is just around the corner from the college. Thanks to our partnership Advanced Auto Parts donated $1,000 to the college. Please thank them if you happen to go into one of their stores.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Susan Fyffe presented an update on Student Affairs. Our current enrollment for Fall semester is 4,526 which is up from last year.

She has been collaborating with Antoine Boynton to contact the leads he obtained from the two campaigns. The Admissions Office is calling the leads to hopefully get potential students enrolled.

Centegix, our new security system, is moving along. They are starting to install necessary equipment at all three campuses. Badges will be rolling out soon and employees will be trained on how to use the badges.

This week we are going live with a new dispatch center in Lawrenceville. Calls will be sent to the dispatch center who will in turn notify our officers.

Nominations are being submitted for our next GOAL student.

She has been promoting Skills USA to students.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Al McCall provided an update on Economic Development. He congratulated Dr. Daniel on her retirement and thanked her for giving him a chance years ago. He appreciates all of her support over the years.

They have been working with Caterpillar on a grant for a mobile lab.

OSHA 10 training to was provided to Georgia Recycling Group.

UGA requested electrician and plumbing continuing education classes for their facilities department. We provide this training to them each year.

They provided CPR training to the Early Childhood Program.

Yesterday there was a CDL test preparation class for students who are going into the CDL Program.

The next driver’s education class begins September 26th.

Last month we hosted a Chamber roundtable that involved multiple Chambers in our service area.

There will be a Forestry Forum on the Elbert Campus on November 4th.

Last week they held an industrial maintenance pre-apprenticeship graduation ceremony.

ADULT EDUCATION

Dr. Fabersha Flynt gave the board an update on Adult Education. They have resumed Saturday testing at all the sites. This will help students who are unable to get to a site during the week due to their schedules.

They have done very well with the Accelerated Academy. They have been asked to present on the Accelerated Academy at the Adult Education Fall Conference later this month.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Chair Bettendorf thanked the board members for their service on the board. He congratulated Dr. Daniel on her retirement and thanked her for her leadership and service to the college over the past 30 years. She is leaving the college in great shape for the next president.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Chair Bettendorf adjourned the meeting with appropriate motion and second at 9:50 a.m.

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Dr. Andrea Daniel, President

Rebecca Allen

Executive Assistant

September 15, 2026

Next scheduled Board Meeting: October 27, 2026

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