

For Immediate Release
May 21, 2015

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LEADERSHIP AT ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS

The Athens City School District Board of Education met for its regular meeting on May 21. One topic before the Board again was the transition of leadership for the district.

Superintendent Carl Martin approached the board about two years ago to begin to plan for his exit or transition. At that time, Dave McAllister, the Associate Superintendent, was planning to retire at the end of 2013, and Tom Gibbs was being eyed as a replacement. Meanwhile, Mr. Martin was planning to step aside in 2015.

At the May 21 Board meeting, the Board approved the decision of Superintendent Carl Martin to use vacation leave from May 22 through July 31, at which time his contract as Superintendent of the district will conclude.

Mr. Martin has been with the Athens City School District since 1995. He started as Superintendent, retired and was rehired in 1999 as Business Manager, and employed again as Superintendent in 2000. The Board wishes to thank Mr. Martin for his many achievements and leadership of the District during the last 20 years.

Tom Gibbs joined the district in the summer of 2013. He came from Washington County, where he was superintendent of two school districts simultaneously. Carl Martin formulated the plan whereby Dr. Gibbs would start with the district as Associate Superintendent and transition into the role of Superintendent.

Mr. Martin was to become the Associate Superintendent beginning August 1, 2015, but the Board determined, and Mr. Martin agreed, that due to financial reasons the position would need to be eliminated. "As a Board, we will be looking at other reductions as well, given the financial outlook for the district," stated Board member Chris Gerig.

Also, at its meeting on May 21, the Board moved forward with a second reading of child abuse and neglect policy revisions. The Board was provided with a confidential review of legal counsel's investigation of allegations against district personnel. It was the opinion of counsel that no further action by the Board is necessary with regard to district personnel. Legal counsel provided some recommendations to the Board regarding continued training efforts for staff members on child abuse and neglect issues and reporting.

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