

Henderson County Board of Public Education

MINUTES

June 10, 2024

The Henderson County Board of Public Education held a meeting on Monday, June 10, 2024, beginning at 4:00 pm, at 414 4th Avenue West, Hendersonville, NC. The meeting was accessible to the public via a livestream link at, <http://hcpsnc.org/live>.

Board Members Present: Kathy Revis, Vice Chairperson; Robert Bridges; Stacey Caskey; Blair Craven; Shelia Dale; Alyssa Norman

Board Members Absent: Jay Egolf

Administrative Staff Present: Mark R. Garrett, Superintendent; Shannon Marlowe, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Mr. Scott Rhodes, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer; Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer

Attorney Present: John Henning

Board Clerk: Tawana Clayton

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Dr. Kathy Revis called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m. Dr. Revis led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

Vice Chairperson Dr. Kathy Revis asked those present to remain standing and take a moment of silent reflection.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Dr. Kathy Revis acknowledged receipt of the meeting agenda and asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Blair Craven moved to approve the agenda with an amendment of adding a Local Budget Discussion under “Old Business - Item B.” Seconded by Mr. Robert Bridges. (*Unanimously approved.*)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT – Agriculture in Henderson County Public Schools – *Mr. Scott Moore, Director of Middle Schools & CTE, Mr. Matthew Rollins (EHHS), Mr. Gary Blackwell (NHHS), Mr. Jason Livingston (WHHS)*

Mr. Scott Moore, Director of Middle Schools & CTE, Mr. Matthew Rollins (EHHS), Mr. Gary Blackwell (NHHS), Mr. Jason Livingston (WHHS), and students presented to the board a program highlighting agriculture in Henderson County Public Schools. East Henderson kicked off the presentation with how FFA is growing and excelling for the Eagles. East Henderson’s FFA program has 55 members, which is the largest number for the program and will be adding a second agriculture teacher next school year. A new livestock barn was built this year to offer students a home for livestock projects such as the WNC Dairy Beef Feeder Calf Program and the Swine project. 95% of the structure was donated by many generous supporters of EHHS FFA. Courses offered include; Animal Science 1 & 2, Horticulture 1 & 2 and new for next year, Agricultural Mechanics 1 & 2. North Henderson continued the presentation with details on how FFA is expanding for the NHHS Knights. The courses offered include: Agriscience, Horticulture 1 & 2, Animal Science 1 & 2, Agricultural Mechanics 1 & 2. The North Henderson FFA participates in several events. North FFA raises catfish in the aquatics program for Farm City Day, Agriculture Awareness Day includes a farm simulator, marigolds, llamas, and much more, 5th grade students from the feeder elementary schools attend. Knights Vs. Cancer Cornhole Tournament raised \$1,000. West Henderson ended the presentation with a recap of how much the FFA program has accomplished this year. Their accomplishments include the following: Gator Wars, Envirothon, Shooting Team, Dairy Judging, Livestock Judging and Truck & Tractor Driving. The WHHS FFA participated in several community events

including, Mooternity Ward at NC Mountain, Mills River Day, FFA Regional Rally, State Convention, Regional Officers, Etowah Lions Club Farmers Market, Farm City Day, Attended Farm Bureau Annual Dinner, Attended Farm Bureau Women's Committee Senior Breakfast

PRESENTATIONS

LS3P and Vannoy Construction jointly presented the board with the 2023 Pinnacle Award for the Best Building Project, recognizing their partnership in the Hendersonville HS Campus expansion and renovations.

Stephanie Cyrus with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Office of Advanced Learning and Gifted Education presented the HCPS Academically or Intellectually Gifted (AIG) program as an AIG Promising District. 1 of only 13 districts statewide to earn this distinction.

STAFF/STUDENT RECOGNITION

Staff members presented certificates to the following students:

West Henderson High School

From April 26-May 1, 2024, five West Henderson High School DECA members traveled to Anaheim, CA for DECA's International Career Development Conference (ICDC). ICDC is the culmination of the DECA year, with over 23,000 people in attendance from around the world.

In only its second year of competition, the WHHS DECA Chapter had a student represented on the big stage.

Aubrey Garrett won a Top Role Play medal and was an international finalist (top 20) in Marketing Communications.

On April 23rd, 11 West Henderson High School students ventured to Greensboro, NC to compete at the state competition for 3 days. This year the high school CTSO also brought 1 Rugby middle school student to compete as well. Roman Federyuk 5th place: Cabinetmaking (live build); Gregory Field 1st place: Cabinetmaking I (live build); Hayden Aardema, 2nd place: Cabinetmaking I (live build); Guadalupe (JJ) Moreno 4th place: Extemporaneous Speaking (live competition); Sadie Luce, Emily Martinez Hernandez & Asha Jones 2nd Place: Promotional Bulletin Board; Roman Federyuk 2nd place: Cabinet/Furniture Making; Mason Seelig 5th place Skill Project Showcase: Cabinet/Furniture Making; Luke Bonnett 1st place Skill Project Showcase: Engineering; Brandon Hamblin (Rugby Middle) 1st place: T-Shirt Design.

North Henderson High School

North Henderson's HOSA Chapter competed at the NC HOSA State Convention at the beginning of April in Greensboro. Natalie Deault placed 4th in Sports Medicine and Luis Magana placed 5th in Medical Terminology. Kyleigh Boyd was honored with the Lifetime HOSA Membership Award. This was the group's first time competing at the state level.

BOARD MEMBERS' OBSERVATION

Dr. Kathy Revis welcomed Mr. Robert Bridges back to the board after a leave of absence.

Mrs. Stacey Caskey talked about the amazing program highlight and student recognitions this afternoon.

PUBLIC COMMENT

At 5:00 p.m. Dr. Revis opened the meeting for public comment. Three people addressed the Board. Public comments ended at 5:09 p.m. No action was taken.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Kathy Revis cited the Board's receipt of the Consent Agenda presented for approval upon recommendation of the Superintendent. Prior to the meeting, Board members received documentation relative to the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A. Meeting Schedule

1. HCBPE Special Called Business Meeting [End of Year Matters (Thursday, June 27, 2024, 9:00 a.m.) (Boardroom)]
2. HCBPE Administrator In-Service Visit [(Monday, July 29, 2024, 12:00 p.m., Blue Ridge Community College)]
3. HCBPE Regular Business Meeting [Monday, August 12, 2024, 4:00 p.m., (Boardroom)(Closed Session 3:00 pm)]

B. Minutes

1. May 13, 2024 (Regular Business Meeting)

C. Personnel (as presented in closed session)

D. Student Acceptances/Releases (as presented in closed session)

E. Budget Amendment

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. Mr. Robert Bridges seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved.*)

OLD BUSINESS

A. Policies for Adoption (*Second Reading*) – (Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer)

1. Action – Policy 4302 – School Plan for Management of Student Behavior

Chief Administrative Officer Carl Taylor presented policy 4302 – School Plan for Management of Student Behavior for approval. Policy 4302 addresses the development of a school plan for managing student behavior consistent with requirements under current state law. This policy is intended to support current policies 4300 – Student Behavior Policies and 4301 – Authority of School Personnel.

Mrs. Stacey Caskey moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve Policy 4302 – School Plan for Management of Student Behavior. Mr. Blair Craven seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved.*)

2. Action – Policy 7305 – Professional Standards of Conduct and Performance for Employees

Chief Administrative Officer Carl Taylor presented policy 7305 – Professional Standards of Conduct and Performance for Employees for approval. Policy 7305 outlines the professional standards of conduct and performance for employees. This policy is similar to and is intended to supersede current policies 708 – Professional Standards of Conduct and Performance for Teachers and 709 – Professional Standards of Conduct and Performance for Non-Teachers.

Mrs. Stacey Caskey moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve Policy 7305 – Professional Standards of Conduct and Performance for Employees. Mr. Blair Craven seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved.*)

B. Local Budget Discussion – (Mr. Mark Garrett, Superintendent)

Superintendent Mark Garrett presented information on budget updates from the county commissioners to make sure the board is aware of what is currently designated for HCPS in the proposed county budget that the county manager presented at the most recent Board of Commissioners meeting. The board is deeply concerned about the proposed local current expense allocation for HCPS, which fails to meet operational needs, much less allow for increased local supplements, the retention of social workers and teaching positions, and enhancements to the coaching scale. The Board encouraged members of the community to attend the next Board of Commissioners meeting on Wednesday, June 19, 2024 - 9:30 a.m. No action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Policies Recommended to be Rescinded – (Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer)

1. Action – Policy 451 – Student Restraint/Seclusion/Isolation

Mr. Taylor stated policy 451 may be rescinded as the provisions of this policy are covered by policies 4300 – Student Behavior Policies, 4301 – Authority of School Personnel, and 4302 – School Plan for Management of Student Behavior.

Mrs. Alyssa Norman moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education rescind Policy 451 – Student Restraint/Seclusion/Isolation. Mr. Robert Bridges seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

2. Action – Policy 708 – Professional Standards of Conduct and Performance for Teachers

Mr. Taylor stated policy 708 may be rescinded as the provisions of this policy are covered by policy 7305 – Professional Standards of Conduct and Performance for Employees.

Mrs. Stacey Caskey moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education rescind Policy 708 – Professional Standards of Conduct and Performance for Teachers. Mrs. Shelia Dale seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

3. Action – Policy 709 – Professional Standards of Conduct and Performance for Non-Teacher

Mr. Taylor stated policy 709 may be rescinded as the provisions of this policy are covered by policy 7305 – Professional Standards of Conduct and Performance for Employees.

Mrs. Stacey Caskey moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education rescind Policy 709 – Professional Standards of Conduct and Performance for Non-Teachers. Mrs. Alyssa Norman seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

B. Policy Update – *(Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer)*

1. Action – Policy 470 – Athletic Participation

Mr. Taylor presented an update to policy 470 – Athletic Participation. This policy update changes the policy number from 470 to 3620. Deletes Section III Tobacco Products as this is covered in policy 4320 – Tobacco Products Students and policy 5026/7250 Smoking and Tobacco Products. Rewards Section VII Hazing and Initiations to align with policy 4310 – Integrity and Civility. Updates Section VIII Academic Eligibility to align with the NCHSAA requirement for students to pass 70% of their courses the preceding semester to be eligible for athletic participation.

Mrs. Alyssa Norman moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the updates to Policy 470 – Athletic Participation as presented. Mrs. Stacey Caskey seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

C. Action – Resolution Authorizing the Chairman to Execute Contracts and Options for the Acquisition of Property and Memoranda Thereof – *(Campbell Shatley, Legal Counsel)*

Attorney John Henning with Campbell Shatley stated this resolution is to enable the Chairman and Superintendent to execute options on property so that the Board can discuss purchase at a regularly scheduled meeting without the need to call emergency meetings when a unique opportunity becomes available.

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the Resolution Authorizing the Chairman to Execute Contracts and Options for the Acquisition of Property and Memoranda Thereof.” Mr. Robert Bridges seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

D. Action – Career and Technical Education Local Plan – *(Dr. Shannon Marlowe, Assistant Superintendent)*

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Shannon Marlowe presented the Career and Technical Education Local Plan for approval. Dr. Marlowe stated the CTE Local Plan is designed to continually assess and improve CTE programming in districts. The 2024-25 CTE Local Plan reflects the data analyzed and needs assessed in Henderson County Public Schools, leading our graduates to being more prepared and informed as they enter the workforce or postsecondary education.

Mrs. Stacey Caskey moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the 2024-2025 CTE Local Plan. Mrs. Alyssa Norman seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

E. Discussion – HCPS Strategic Plan – *(Dr. Shannon Marlowe, Assistant Superintendent)*

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Shannon Marlowe presented the HCPS Strategic Plan to the Board. Dr. Marlowe discussed the timeline of drafting the strategic plan. In January of 2024 invitations to stakeholders were sent out to attend focus group meetings. The focus groups met in February. In March 2024, HCPS School Board and Leadership Team held a Priority setting session using data from focus groups. April 2024: First draft provided to Superintendent; May 2024: Revision of draft, infographic developed; June 2024: School board presentation. Dr. Marlowe shared the 2024-2028 draft strategic priorities. Priority One: Future-Ready Students - Goal: Henderson County Public Schools (HCPS) will graduate all students ready for their future. Subgoal: HCPS will be a top-rated school system in North Carolina, 100% of all schools will meet or exceed growth. HCPS will be a top 5 school district as evidenced by the North Carolina accountability results. HCPS will increase the graduation rate by 2% annually. Subgoal: HCPS will expand opportunities for school readiness for all PreK students. Increase collaborative professional development with community partners. Subgoal: HCPS will develop a comprehensive framework of aligned resources, programs, and supports to ensure student academic and mental health needs are met. Priority Two: Future-Ready Professionals - Goal: Henderson County Public Schools will be the leading employer and educational institution in our region. To achieve this, we are committed to enhancing our operational efficiency, bolstering staff retention, and fostering a positive work and learning environment. Priority Three: Future-Ready Operations - Goal: Henderson County Public Schools students and employees will have access to facilities that are safe and conducive for working, teaching, and learning. Priority Four: Community Relationships & Partnerships - Goal: Henderson County Public Schools will leverage community partnerships to support student success. The board and Mr. Garrett discussed moving to a three year plan (2024-2027), instead of a four year plan. Dr. Kathy Revis asked for some measurable metrics for Priority Four. There was no approval sought at this meeting. The Board will review the draft with the goal of adopting the district strategic plan at the June 27 meeting. No action was taken.

F. Action – Procurement Waivers – *(Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer)*

Chief Finance Officer Bernie Sochia presented a Noncompetitive Procurement Request for approval for the following vendors: Books International- Letterland: Curriculum continuity. The existing support for phonics instruction initiative in K-3 classrooms. Also implemented in Exceptional Children and MTSS programs. Estimated cost \$48,435. Curriculum Associates- Ellevation: Continuity of service and sole source. A national data management system that tracks enrollment, testing and accommodations for English learners. Also used in counties and states with whom we share students. Estimated cost is \$23,000. i-Ready: Curriculum continuity. The only program we have found that completes a positive correlation study specific to NC eOG assessment. First implementation began 6 years ago. iReady Math is the district instructional initiative for K-5. iReady Reading has been added and is for grades 6-8. Estimated cost is \$320,282. Lexia - Lexia English: Continuity of service. An English language development program and curriculum. It provides embedded assessments, individualized instruction and a teacher dashboard that allows for intentional grouping of students for preview, review and extension. Estimated cost is less than \$85,000 for 600 student licenses, teacher dashboard and district success partnership. Lexia LETRS: Contracted at the State level in HB196, provides continuity of instruction and sustainability. Began in 2022. Teacher training to improve literacy and language development of students for early literacy skills. Estimated cost is \$49,660. Mr. Sochia stated that the Office of Budget and Management (OMB) issues Uniform Guidance Procurement Standards (UG) for local governments that receive and expend federal financial assistance. All purchases of goods that exceed \$30,000 and services that exceed \$50,000.00 and will include federal funds, require issuing a bid solicitation using the Uniform Guidance ‘micro-purchase’ procedures. One exception to these new guidelines is for ‘noncompetitive procurement’ which means that the item is only available from a single source provider or that a specific item is necessary for continuity of equipment. Procurement under this exception requires annual local Board approval. A local HCPS committee reviews all potential sole source vendors using established NC DPI and UG guidelines.

Mrs. Stacey Caskey moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the vendors listed as vendors under the sole source exemption guidelines through the 2024-25 fiscal year. Mr. Blair Craven seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

G. Action – Contracts in Excess of \$90,000 – *(Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer)*
Chief Finance Officer Bernie Sochia presented the following contract in excess of \$90,000 for Mountain Professionals, Drivers' Education Services. This is State funded. The 2024-25 estimated allotment is \$241,422. Pursuant to board policies 6420, Contracts with the Board, and 6430, Purchasing Requirements for Equipment, Materials, and Supplies, any purchases or contracts in excess of \$90,000 must be approved by the Board.

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve execution of the contract with the listed vendor as presented. Mrs. Alyssa Norman seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

H. Discussion – HCBPE August Regular Business Meeting Date

The Board discussed the scheduled August 12, 2024 board meeting. With the first day of school for traditional and early college students being August 12, 2024, the board agreed to move the August school board meeting from August 12th to August 19th. No action was taken.

I. Discussion – Joint Facilities Committee Meeting Update

Dr. Kathy Revis and Mr. Blair Craven updated the Board on the Joint Facilities Committee meeting. The Mountain Home Fire Department is requesting a substation be built on a portion of Rugby Middle School property. The fire department will present their request at the June 27th board meeting. There were updates on MRTS projects that are in progress. Attorney John Henning explained the process of selling school property along with disposing of property for the use of a fire station. Mr. Craven expressed the need for a bus garage. The Board plans to visit the current bus garage after the June 27th meeting. No action was taken.

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. CAPITAL UPDATE – *(Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer)*

Chief Administrative Officer Carl Taylor provided the board with status updates on the construction and facility projects currently underway or planned in the near future:

- HCPS Projects:
 - Gymnasium HVAC- East Henderson, North Henderson, West Henderson
 - Contracts Awarded:
 - EHHS - Cooper Construction
 - NHHS - Cooper Construction
 - WHHS - Bolton Construction
 - Pre-Construction Meetings: Completed
 - Next Phase: Begin Construction
- 2023-2024 MRTS:
 - HVAC Replacement Atkinson Pre-Construction Meeting: June 4
 - Next Phase: Begin Construction
 - Roof Replacement FRMS, NHHS, WHHS
 - FRMS - Completed
 - WHHS - Completed
 - NHHS - Completed
 - HVAC Controls Upgrade Various In Progress
 - Secure Entry & Cafeteria Expansion- Upward Elementary
 - Secure Entry - Completed
 - Cafeteria - In Progress
 - New Front Office & Building Connections- West Henderson
 - In progress

No action was taken.

B. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – *(Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer)*

Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer presented the financial report results of operations of the Local Current Expense and Other Restricted Funds for the 2023-24 fiscal year as of May 31, 2024: Revenues received totaled \$36,575,344 (98%) and expenditures made totaled \$30,526,185 (78%). The remaining funds in the Local Current Expense fund will be spent with 50% going to the local supplement and 50% for normal operations and the transfer to School Nutrition for the CEP cost. No action was taken.

C. GENERAL OPERATIONS – *(Mr. Mark R. Garrett, Superintendent)*

Superintendent Mark Garrett shared the following upcoming dates and events with the Board.

- 2024-2025 Kindergarten Registration Open - Welcome HCPS Class of 2037
- June 3-July 26 Summer Meal Program
- June 3-13: Summer Learning (Grade 6-12); Career Accelerator (Rising Grade 10 & 11); Summer Bridge (Rising Grade 6 & 9)
- June 3-20: Summer Learning (Grade K-5); Read to Achieve Camp (Grade 2-3)
- June 27: HCBPE Special Called Business Meeting (End of Year Matters) 9:00 a.m., Closed Session 8:30 a.m.
- July 11: First Day of School for students on Flex Calendar
- July 29: HCBPE Administrator In-Service, 12:00 p.m., Blue Ridge Community College
- August 12: First Day of School for students on Traditional and Early College Calendar

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mrs. Alyssa Norman moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Mrs. Shelia Dale. *(Unanimously approved at 6:35pm.)*

Minutes approved: August 19, 2024