

## Henderson County Board of Public Education

### MINUTES

April 8, 2024

The Henderson County Board of Public Education held a meeting on Monday, April 8, 2024, beginning at 4:00 pm, at 414 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue West, Hendersonville, NC. The meeting was accessible to the public via a livestream link at, <http://hcpsnc.org/live>.

#### Board Members Present:

Jay Egolf, Chairperson; Kathy Revis, Vice Chairperson; Stacey Caskey; Shelia Dale

#### Board Members Absent:

Robert Bridges; Blair Craven; Alyssa Norman

#### 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: Chris Campbell

Board Clerk: Tawana Clayton

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Mr. Jay Egolf called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. Mr. Egolf requested everyone present to stand as the West Henderson High School JROTC presented the colors. Mr. Egolf led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

#### MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

Chairperson Mr. Jay Egolf asked those present to remain standing and take a moment of silent reflection.

#### AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Jay Egolf acknowledged receipt of the meeting agenda and asked for a motion to approve. Dr. Kathy Revis moved that the agenda be approved as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Shelia Dale. (*Unanimously approved.*)

#### STAFF/STUDENT RECOGNITION

North Henderson High School Principal Dr. John Shepard recognized several students for FCCLA and wrestling.

- NC FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) State Leadership Conference Results:  
FCCLA Advisors & CTE Teachers: Ms. Audra King and Ms. Natalie Selvey
  - 6th place - Raelynn Boland, Event Management
  - 4th place - Jimmy Dothe-Zapote, Career Investigation
  - 3rd place - Mariana Flores-Diaz, Focus on Children
  - 3rd place - Jessica Gehring, Teach or Train
  - 5th place - Taylor Ledbetter, Interior Design
  - 3rd place - Angel Rodriguez-Ramirez, Leadership
- Wrestling
  - Reese Meadows - 3rd place All-State Men's Wrestling
    - Head Coach: Keang Uy
    - Assistants: Wayne Nock, John Williams, Logan Goforth
  - Women's Wrestling Team

- Finished first as a team and are the Western Regional Champions all classifications.
- Team: Gracie Short, Liliana Zapote, Annaligh Tinoco, Nancy Perez, Sophie Stepp, Zoe Hippe, Azlyn Villafranca, Franshesca Morales, Ariana Flores, Raigan Loudermilk, Sofia Williams
- Head Coach: John Williams
- Assistants: Wesley Metcalf, Wayne Nock, Keang UY, and Logan Goforth

Rugby Middle School Principal Dr. John McDaris recognized Layla Hildenbrand for All-State band.

Band Director: Mr. Sean Smith

Students auditioned by playing selected scales, a solo, and a sight reading excerpt. Rugby middle school had five students that were eligible after making a high enough chair at the All-district honor band. Layla auditioned and was chosen as 15th chair clarinet in the state of North Carolina.

West Henderson High School Principal Luke Manuel recognized several students for band, track, and FCCLA.

All-State Band

- Teague Atwell
- Karo Cumbie

Both students auditioned at the All-State level after placing in the highest chairs of the district level to earn a position in the All-State Band. They performed memorized scales, an extensive solo, and sight read a new piece of music to compete alongside students from across the state and earn a seat in the 95 member ensemble. They will rehearse and perform in a weekend long clinic at UNCG under the direction of top collegiate band directors.

Emma Hall - 60m Hurdles State Champion

NC FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) State Leadership Conference Results:

FCCLA Advisor & CTE Teacher: Ms. Brittany Willis

1st place - Linda Bryant, Job Interview event

1st place - Kaia Hendrix, Repurpose & Redesign event

2nd place - Monica Fuentes, Public Policy Advocate

2nd place - Sara Kim, Chapter Service Project Portfolio

3rd place - Annabelle Wilkie, Chapter Service Project Display

3rd place - JJ Moreno, Sustainability Challenge

Linda, Kaia, Monica, and Sara will represent West Henderson and HCPS at Nationals this summer in Seattle, Washington.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT – Young Scientists – (*Early College Students & Tom Savage, Teacher*)

Students at Early College presented about the Young Scientist Program at Hillendale and Bruce Drysdale Elementary.

- What is the Young Scientist Program?
  - The program is led by Early College teacher, Tom Savage, who is a Burroughs Wellcome Fund recipient of the 2023 Career Award for STEM Teachers.
  - 5 Year STEM Grant
  - 10 Elementary schools
  - \$50,000 science equipment
  - Funds Elementary Teachers to attend NC Science Teachers Conference
  - Dual language support
- Classroom Outreach/STEM Nights
  - Hands-on activities and supplies classrooms

- STEM nights with families
- Pen Pals
  - Connecting with elementary students
  - High School students send cards with engaging questions to elementary pen pals
  - In return, they receive exciting responses
  - Pen Pals become role models
  - This fosters the love of science in young minds
- English 2nd Language / Diversity
  - Science lesson is taught in two different languages
- Future Plans
  - A plan to have an even bigger group of high school students for the 2024-2025 school ye
  - Upward and Dana will be next year
  - Students grow their love of science even further

## BOARD MEMBERS' OBSERVATION

### PUBLIC COMMENT

At 4:52 p.m. Mr. Egolf opened the meeting for public comment. Ten people addressed the Board. Public comments ended at 5:17 p.m. No action was taken.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Jay Egolf 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 Regular Business Meeting [*Monday, May 13, 2024, 4:00 p.m., (Closed Session at 3:00 pm) (Boardroom)*]
- B. Minutes
  - 1. March 11, 2024 (*Regular Business Meeting*)
- C. Personnel (*as presented in closed session*)
- D. Student Acceptances/Releases (*as presented in closed session*)
- E. Budget Amendment

Dr. Kathy Revis moved that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. Mrs. Stacey Caskey seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved.*)

### OLD BUSINESS

NONE

### NEW BUSINESS

- A. Policies Recommended to be Rescinded – (*Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer*)
  - 1. Policy 415 – Foreign Exchange Students
  - 2. Policy 450 – Discipline
  - 3. Policy 560 – Use of Board Furnished Vehicles
  - 4. Policy 645 – Sale of Items Produced in the Course of Instruction
  - 5. Policy 835 – Energy Management
  - 6. Policy 905 – Use of Private Vehicles to Transport

Mrs. Stacey Caskey moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education rescind Policy 415 – Foreign Exchange Students; Policy 450 – Discipline; Policy 560 – Use of Board Furnished Vehicles; Policy 645 – Sale of Items Produced in the Course of Instruction; Policy 835 – Energy Management; Policy 905 – Use of Private Vehicles to Transport. Dr. Kathy Revis seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

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

1. Policy 3470/4305 – Alternative Learning Programs/Schools
2. Policy 6125 – Administering Medicines to Students

Dr. Kathy Revis moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve Policy 3470/4305 – Alternative Learning Programs/Schools and Policy 6125 – Administering Medicines to Students for first reading. Mrs. Stacey Caskey seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

C. Approval – Audit Contract for 2023-2024 Fiscal Year – *(Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer)*

Chief Finance Officer Bernie Sochia presented the audit contract for 2023-2024 fiscal year for approval. In accordance with Board Policy #8310, “Annual Independent Audit”, the contract for the HCPS audit for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024 is presented for approval. The State Treasurer’s recommendations for the selection of the auditor include the following criteria: a.) an understanding of the governmental unit’s needs, b.) the approach and methodology, c.) qualifications in governmental auditing, d.) the experience of the audit firm, and e.) the cost of the audit. The history of service by the audit team from Gould Killian CPA Group (formerly Carland and Andersen) as auditor for Henderson County Public Schools have been invaluable, and the continuity is essential. They continue to assist the Finance Department and the individual school bookkeepers on an ad hoc basis, with no additional fees.

Mr. Sochia stated, as to the issue of qualifications and experience, Gould Killian has current experience auditing governmental entities including the City of Hendersonville, the Town of Mills River, the City of Brevard and others. They have also audited other school districts including Transylvania, Madison and Jackson Counties.

In North Carolina, accounting firms performing audits are required to have a peer review every three years. Gould Killian’s last peer review was submitted in July 2023 by the Raleigh firm of Batchelor, Tillery & Roberts, LLP. Gould Killian received a peer review rating of pass (firms can receive a rating of pass, pass with deficiency(ies), or fail). Although not the primary basis for the recommendation that they be awarded the contract, Gould Killian continues to have a very reasonable and low fee at \$33,200 to conduct the audit and prepare the financial statements.

Mrs. Stacey Caskey moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the “Contract to Audit Accounts” between the Henderson County Board of Public Education and Gould Killian CPA Group for the period beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024. Mrs. Shelia Dale seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

D. School Justice Partnership – *(Ms. Shannon Auten, Director of Student Services & Judge Kimberly Gasperson-Justice, Chief District Court Judge for Judicial Court District 42)*

Chief District Court Judge for Judicial Court District 42, Kimberly Gasperson-Justice, presented to the board details on school justice partnership. School justice partnership is a group of community stakeholders who develop & implement effective strategies to address student misconduct. The goal of SJP is to reduce arrests in the school, out of school suspensions and referrals to juvenile justice. SJP is not meant to change how schools respond to violent and serious misconduct, it is for minor infractions. Judge Gasperson-Justice explained the importance of the school justice partnership. SJPs work to reduce the number of suspensions, expulsions, and referrals to the justice system by timely and constructively addressing student misconduct when and where it happens, helping students succeed in school and preventing negative outcomes for both youth and their communities. The North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC) issued a report recommending statewide implementations of the School

Justice Partnership. Stakeholders in a school justice partnership include, School administrators, Law enforcement officials, Juvenile justice personnel and Court officials. If our local stakeholders choose to move forward with developing a School Justice Partnership, stakeholders will adopt memorandum of understanding (MOU) specifying ways to better address student misconduct based on:

- Data-driven and research-based approaches
- Graduated response model for addressing school-based misconduct
- Guidance on strategies within the school system and the community
- Guidance on when best to utilize referrals to the justice system
- Strategies to minimize disparate impact

The first steps in creating our school justice partnership would include holding an informational meeting with all stakeholders, schedule regular team planning meetings, define roles with law enforcement & schools, identify graduated responses, develop a graduated response model, draft and finalize the Memorandum of Understanding, educate the schools & community about the partnership. No action was taken.

E. Child Care Rates for 2024-2025 – *(Mr. Scott Rhodes, Assistant Superintendent)*

Assistant Superintendent Scott Rhodes presented the child care rates for 2024-2025 to the board for approval. Mr. Rhodes stated due to the increased cost in salaries and benefits, the following weekly rate increases were proposed for the HCPS Child Care program starting at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year.

- PSAM \$5
- PSPM \$10
- Summer Plus \$15

Dr. Kathy Revis moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the weekly Child Care rate increases starting for the 2024-2025 school year. Mrs. Shelia Dale seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

## 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-EH, NH, WH-Preparing RFP
    - Intercom & VoIP-Etowah-June Installation
  - 2023-2024 MRTS:
    - HVAC Replacement- Atkinson- RFP Open
    - Roof Replacement- FRMS, NHHS, WHHS
      - FRMS - Completed
      - WHHS - In Progress
    - HVAC Controls Upgrade- Various- In Progress
    - Secure Entry & Cafeteria Expansion- Upward Elementary
      - Secure Entry - Completed
      - Cafeteria - In progress
    - New Front Office & Building Connection- 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 March 31, 2024: Revenues received totaled \$31,904,178 and expenditures made totaled \$25,173,748 which is 64% of the currently budgeted expenditures through the third quarter of the fiscal year. The largest increases from last year are in Operational Support Services and Payments to Other Governments (charter schools). Each budget category of the Local Current Expense Fund remains on track to finish the year within the initial budget. Results of operations of the Capital Outlay Fund for the 2023-24 fiscal year as of March 31, 2024: Revenues of \$1,610,527 have been received and expenditures of \$1,019,002 have been made. Within the quarter, this reflects \$199,053 spent on projects within the approved Capital budget. No action was taken.
- C. GENERAL OPERATIONS – *(Mr. Mark R. Garrett, Superintendent)*  
Superintendent Mark Garrett shared the following dates with the Board.  
2024-2025 Kindergarten Registration Open - Welcome HCPS Class of 2037
- April: School Library Month & Occupational Therapy Month
  - April 15: BOE Workshop, 9:00 a.m., Central Office
  - April 18: NC Scholars Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Blue Ridge Conference Hall
  - April 25: Special Olympics of Henderson County Spring Games, 9:30 a.m. at East Henderson High School (rain date May 3rd)
  - April 26: Annual Leave Day; No School for Traditional & Early College Calendars
  - April 30: 2024 Education Celebration, 5:30 p.m., Jeter Mountain Farm
  - May 2: Top Scholars Banquet, 6:00 p.m., Blue Ridge Conference Hall
  - May 3: School Lunch Hero Day
  - May 6-10: National Teacher Appreciation Week
  - May 8: HCBPE School Tours, 10:00 a.m. at Hendersonville High School, Rugby Middle School, Sugarloaf Elementary
  - May 8: National School Nurse Day
  - May 9: Teacher of the Year Luncheon, 12:00 p.m., The Main Event
  - May 9: HCPS Retirement Celebration, 5:30 p.m., The Main Event
  - May 13: CTE Scholars Reception, 12:30 p.m., Blue Ridge Conference Hall
  - May 13: HCBPE Regular Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Closed Session, 3:00 p.m. Boardroom
  - May 24: Henderson County High School Graduations:
    - Henderson County Early College, 5:00 p.m.
    - Hendersonville High School, 6:00 p.m.
    - East Henderson High School, 7:00 p.m.
    - Henderson County Career Academy, 7:00 p.m.
    - North Henderson High School, 6:00 p.m.
    - West Henderson High School, 7:30 p.m.
- No action was taken.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mrs. Shelia Dale moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Dr. Kathy Revis. *(Unanimously approved at 6:05pm.)*