

Henderson County Board of Public Education
MINUTES
November 12, 2019

The Henderson County Board of Public Education met in a regular business meeting on November 12, 2019 in the Boardroom of the Administrative Offices located at 414 Fourth Avenue West, Hendersonville, N. C.

Board Members Present: Amy Lynn Holt, Chairperson; Mary Louise Corn, Vice Chairperson; Michael Absher, Dot Case, Blair Craven, Jay Egolf and Rick Wood

Administrative Staff Present: Bo Caldwell, Ed.S. Superintendent; John Bryant, Ed.D., Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services; Jan King, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction and Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer

Administrative Staff Absent: Scott Rhodes, Chief Human Resources Officer; Rick Fender, Chief Technology Officer

Attorney Present: Chris Campbell

CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Amy Lynn Holt called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. and requested that everyone present stand as the East Henderson High School Air Force Junior ROTC honor guard posted the colors. Mrs. Holt led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag. The AFJROTC unit is under the direction of Master Sergeant Michael Jenson and Lieutenant Colonel James Cowan.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the agenda be approved as presented, seconded by Mr. Jay Egolf. *(Unanimously approved.)*

RECOGNITIONS

Special Recognitions

1. 2019-20 Principal of the Year (presenter: Dr. Jan King, Assistant Superintendent) Dr. John Shepard, principal at North Henderson High, was selected by his peers as the 2019-20 Principal of the Year for Henderson County Public Schools. Each school year, the Principal of the Year is nominated by and voted on by his or her peers – the other 22 principals in the Henderson County Public Schools system, giving special significance to the designation. Dr. Shepard joined HCPS in 2013 as an assistant principal at North Henderson High, after transitioning from Enka High School in Buncombe County, where he started his education career as social studies teacher in 2004 after earning his Bachelor of Science in Education in Social Science from Western Carolina University. In 2014, Dr. Shepard was named principal at North Henderson and has served in that role ever since – working with teachers and staff to continually improve students' academic growth and foster a culture of student leadership.

2. HCPS 2019 Exceptional Children's "Educator of Excellence" (presenter: Jennifer Shelton, Director of Exceptional Children) Becca Martin of Hillandale Elementary has been named district representative for the North Carolina's Exceptional Children's Educator of Excellence, and will represent Henderson County Public Schools at the statewide annual conference November in Greensboro. Ms. Martin provides leadership opportunities for the students in her Intensive Intervention classroom, actively seeks out enrichment activities to meet their needs, and serves on Hillandale's School Improvement Team and the Lighthouse Team. Ms. Martin also co-chairs the Special Olympics committee in Henderson County and is instrumental in organizing the event each year for our students and the community.

3. 2019-20 National ESEA Distinguished School Nominee (presenter: Shannon Marlowe, Director of Elementary Education & Title I) Hendersonville Elementary received recognition as a top-ranking Title

I school in North Carolina, as a 2019-20 National ESEA Distinguished School Nominee in the “high performance” category. The National Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition Program recognizes high student achievement in schools that have substantial poverty rates, high end-of- grade success rates, and significant growth in scores. Each year, two Title I schools from North Carolina are chosen to represent the state as National Title I Distinguished Schools in the “high progress” and “high performance” categories. This year, Hendersonville Elementary met the eligibility requirements for consideration for the National Title I Distinguished School award in the “high performance” category.

4. Recognition of Service to HCPS (presenter: Dr. John Bryant, Associate Superintendent) A homegrown alum of Bruce Drysdale Elementary, Hendersonville Middle, and Hendersonville High, BJ Laughter has served the Bearcats and HCPS for the past 28 years. Returning to his alma mater in 1991 to coach football, Mr. Laughter was a physical education teacher and assistant coach for six years before leading the HHS Bearcats as head football coach for 17 years. As head coach, Mr. Laughter compiled a 141-78 record, before being named assistant principal and athletic director at HHS in 2014. In 2016, Mr. Laughter became principal at Bruce Drysdale Elementary, where he’s successfully applied his kind, supportive team leadership style to lead the Bearkittens staff, mentor a new generation of students, and praise and promote positive behavior in school. Bruce Drysdale will truly miss Mr. Laughter’s fist bumps, hugs, and personalized support and wish him the best in his retirement from Henderson County Public Schools.

BRUCE DRYSDALE ELEMENTARY

2019 Medal of Honor Excellence in Character Education Award (presenter: BJ Laughter, Principal) Megan Pridmore, 3rd grade teacher at Bruce Drysdale Elementary, has been selected as the elementary winner of the 2019 Medal of Honor Excellence in Character Education Award by the Medal of Honor Character Development Program. This is the second year BDS has implemented the Medal of Honor CDP, a teacher-designed curriculum resource to incorporate important values of courage, commitment, sacrifice, integrity, citizenship, and patriotism into classroom activities. Each year, the Medal of Honor Excellence in Character Education Award recognizes an elementary, middle, and high school educator for excellence in teaching the Medal of Honor Character Development Program (CDP). As an award recipient, Pridmore will receive a \$5,000 prize and will be presented with the award in a special ceremony this fall.

HENDERSONVILLE HIGH

NCHSAA 2A State Tennis Champions (presenter: Bobby Wilkins, Principal) Hendersonville High’s girls tennis team won the 2-A dual-team NCHSAA state championship, marking the first time since 2002 the Bearcats took home a dual-team state title, and the first time in more than 10 years a Western North Carolina school has won an NCHSAA state tennis title. The team consisted of McCullough Perry, Lindsay Bull, Olivia Pursley, Celia Donaldson, Anne Jones, and Anna Trace – who was also named the 2A Most Valuable Player.

NORTH HENDERSON HIGH

Grand Champions of “Trojan Tournament of Bands” (presenter: Dr. John Shepard, principal) The Marching Knights competed in the “Trojan Tournament of Bands” at Chase High School in Forest City on Oct. 12, and won the overall Grand Champions Trophy plus several other awards. As Grand Champions, the Marching Knights were the highest-scoring band of the competition, regardless of classification, and received 1st Place awards in Drum Major and Music, and 2nd Place in Percussion and Color Guard within their classification.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Hendersonville High School Construction Update – (*PFA/LS3P Architects*) Members of the project design team presented milestones of the finalized plan:

- Final Submittal for Conditional Zoning Review 6/14/19
- City of Hendersonville Planning Board Review 7/8/19

- City Council Approval 8/1/19
- DD Submittal to State Agencies 7/1/19
- 95% CD Submittals to State Agencies & Vannoy for GMP#2 bidding 10/2/19
- Bid Documents Ready for Distribution 11/27/19

The latest campus site plan and the projected construction timeline were presented for Board review. January 2020 marks the start date of construction at the Hendersonville site. The new auxiliary gym and remaining gym renovation is scheduled for completion in July of 2021. December of 2022 is the target date for the educational facilities to be completed, including all classroom projects. The overall project completion date is scheduled for August of 2023. Architects, Maggie Carnevale, PFA, and Jamie Henderson, LS3P, shared an overview of the plans for each floor along with a 3D animated tour of the entire site that gave great perspective of what is planned for Hendersonville High School. Ms. Carnevale stated that working with Vannoy Construction Company has been a positive experience and the partnership is going well. Board members were pleased with the presentation and expressed their excitement at the progress of the project. Mr. Rick Wood was pleased to learn there is a celebration of the Old Gym planned for this month at Hendersonville High School; he added, the gym has a lot of history within our community and he is glad for a chance to tour the Old Gym one last time before construction begins.

BOARD CHAIR OBSERVATIONS

Chairperson, Amy Lynn Holt, stated that she was excited to see all of our schools honoring our local veterans on Veterans Day. She added that our schools did a great job with their recognition programs and seeing the smiles of veterans who attended was such a treat.

BOARD MEMBER OBSERVATIONS

Mr. Blair Craven stated that his children loved the Veterans Day program at their school and added they came home sharing many of the veteran's stories they heard throughout the celebration.

Mr. Rick Wood enjoyed the program at Edneyville Elementary School and felt it was great that they added a special honor for the ROTC students from North Henderson High School as well.

Mr. Caldwell stated that several schools raised money for Honor Flight and the Veterans Healing Farm programs which work directly with veterans. At last count, our students had raised enough money to send nine veterans on an Honor Flight trip to Washington, DC. Superintendent Caldwell thanked all of our staff and students who participated in this very important celebration.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Dockendorf, Executive Director of Camp Pinnacle, addressed the board regarding the proposed change to the school system calendar. He feels if the school calendar's start date is moved back by two weeks to early August, it will affect his camp attendance and revenue. He asked that Henderson County camp owners be informed throughout the process of creating the new calendar.

Mrs. May Keyser, a teacher at Hendersonville High School, stated that a change in the school calendar start date would affect teachers and their opportunity for supplemental summer employment. She encouraged administrators to look at various data points, not just early graduation rates, and investigate thoroughly before making a decision to change the school start date.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt 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 School Visit [*Wednesday, December 4, 2019, 12:00 p.m. (Glenn Marlow Elementary)*]
2. HCBPE Regular Business Meeting [*Monday, December 9, 2019, 6:30 p.m., (Boardroom)*]

B. Minutes

1. October 9, 2019 (*School Visit, Flat Rock Middle School*)
2. October 15, 2019 (*Regular Business Meeting*)

C. Personnel (*as presented in closed session*)

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

E. Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Hendersonville - School Resource Officers (*as presented in closed session*)

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. Mr. Michael Absher seconded. (*Unanimously approved.*)

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Policies

Dr. John Bryant presented the following optional policies from the North Carolina School Board Association for first reading:

1. Approval – Policy 3228/7323 Use of Personal Technology to Conduct School Business – (*Dr. John Bryant*)(*First Reading*)
2. Approval – Policy 7360/8225 Crowdfunding on Behalf of the School System – (*Dr. John Bryant*)(*First Reading*)
3. Approval – Policy 4334/5035/7345 Use of Unmanned Aircraft (Drones) – (*Dr. John Bryant*) (*First Reading*)

Mr. Michael Absher made a motion to approve the policies as presented for first reading. Mr. Rick Wood seconded. (*Unanimously approved.*)

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT REPORTS

Dr. Jan King stated School Improvement Plans for 2018-2020 were approved by the Board of Education in the fall of 2018 and they are posted on each school's website. During this mid-cycle year, schools are accessing their progress towards goals and refining strategies to meet targets. Additionally, several schools have been identified for targeted support under the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). These schools are using a state-provided tool called NCSTAR to help them access and track their progress on goals. Parent notification letters about targeted support status are sent home annually. Notification will be sent to HCPS families prior to the Thanksgiving holidays. Over 1600 schools in North Carolina are identified for support. She added, in addition to the NCSTAR tool, the state offered a small amount of funds for schools to use over the summer to plan/address their area(s) of concern. The Henderson County Career Academy has been identified for *Comprehensive Support to Increase Graduation Rate*. Other schools targeted for *Support to Reduce Subgroup Achievement Gaps* are: Apple Valley Middle, Atkinson Elementary, Bruce Drysdale Elementary, Dana Elementary, East Henderson High, Edneyville Elementary, Flat Rock Middle, Hendersonville Middle, Hillandale Elementary, Mills River Elementary, Rugby Middle and Upward Elementary.

REASSIGNMENT REPORT

Dr. John Bryant presented information on the number of students that have been reassigned throughout Henderson County. The data was listed by school and grade levels. Dr. Bryant stated that 78 students have been accepted into HCPS on reassignment from outside of Henderson County. Mr. Craven asked

if our reassignment acceptances have decreased due to the new K-3 class size limitations required by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Dr. Bryant responded by stating this year we have wait lists at all of grade levels and his department will be leaving some spots open due to the upcoming annual decrease in class numbers associated with the new requirements. Mr. Craven feels that current Henderson County students should have first preference when requesting reassignment over students who are requesting a transfer-in from private schools. Mrs. Holt agreed with Mr. Craven. Superintendent Bo Caldwell stated that he would consult our Board attorneys regarding the legality of Mr. Craven's suggestion and he will report back to the Board.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Dr. Bryant said he is very appreciative of the hard work by all personnel involved in the Hendersonville High School project. He added, a second community meeting on the project is scheduled for December 2, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., in the Hendersonville High School Auditorium. Dr. Bryant stated the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Edneyville Elementary School is scheduled for December 18, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., followed by a tour of the new facility. Dr. Bryant added that HCPS should get the keys to the building sometime this week. Furniture deliveries have been scheduled for the new school and HCPS Maintenance staff will assist teachers moving items into their new classrooms. Dr. Bryant said that many teachers plan to set up their classrooms over the holiday break in December and first student day at the new location will be January 6, 2020.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mr. Bernie Sochia presented the financial statements for November 12, 2019: Results of operations of the Local Current Expense and Other Restricted Funds for the 2019-20 fiscal year as of October 31, 2019: Revenues total \$11,845,012 and expenditures total \$8,038,416. This provides enough cash balance to meet the need of the fall local supplement costing approximately \$3.5 million which is paid in November.

Results of operations of the Enterprise Fund for the 2019-20 fiscal year as of September 30, 2019:

- a. Child Nutrition: The first quarter had expenditures exceed revenues by \$139,796. Sales for the year of \$1,121,675 are up \$111,710 from last year and operating expenditures are up \$118,392
- b. Child Care: The first quarter had revenues of \$282,783 which exceeded expenditures by \$3,964. Relative to the prior year, the program showed an increase of \$2,753 in revenues while reducing expenditures \$24,483.

Mr. Sochia stated that there is still no State Approved Budget but local supplement funds are available for the November pay-outs to staff. He added, step increases for certified positions have been approved.

SYSTEM CALENDAR DISCUSSION

Superintendent Bo Caldwell shared that the School Calendar Committee met on Tuesday, November 5, 2019, at the Central Office. Mr. Caldwell presented the same calendar proposal information to committee members as was presented to the School Board at the October 15, 2019 board meeting. After discussion, calendar committee members were asked to share their opinions on the proposed calendar. Mr. Caldwell stated that all committee members agreed that beginning the school year two weeks earlier, ending first semester before Christmas Break and having a school-year end date around Memorial Day, is a much better schedule for our students. The committee also agreed with Mr. Caldwell that the system should not try to implement the new calendar until the 2021-2022 school year so that parents, community stakeholders and staff members could be informed of the reasons for the proposed change. Board members, Mrs. Holt and Mrs. Corn, attended the calendar committee meeting and were asked to give an update from their perspectives. Mrs. Corn stated that the proposed calendar option is much more than just helping early graduation students; this option is a better overall calendar for all of our students. She added, completing semester one before the Christmas Break in the high schools, is a huge benefit to the students and to the teachers. Mrs. Corn agrees that we should plan for implementation in the 2021-2022

school year. Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt echoed Mrs. Corn's remarks and stated that she looks forward to working on the new calendar but wants to ensure community partners, such as local camp owners, are informed throughout the process. Mrs. Corn added that when the number of summer days were compared between the existing calendar and the proposed calendar for 2021-2022, there was only a one day difference.

Mr. Blair Craven initially felt we should move on the calendar change for the 2020-2021 school year but after further consideration, he believes the 16-18 month period would be beneficial for all involved. He feels this proposed calendar will affect businesses more than parents but believes we need to do what is best for our students. Mr. Egolf and Mr. Wood agreed that we need to do what is best for our students and they also believe using the 16-18 months before implementation to share information in the community will be worthwhile. Mr. Caldwell asked for Board approval to meet with the calendar committee again to develop a draft calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. Once the draft is complete, the draft calendar will be presented to the Board, then Mr. Caldwell will schedule community meetings and informational sessions for staff members, parents and community stakeholders. Board members were in agreement and instructed Mr. Caldwell to proceed with scheduling the next calendar committee meeting.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

Superintendent Bo Caldwell acknowledged the receipt of the calendar of events for November and December. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and stated that the holidays are upon us.

GENERAL OPERATIONS

Mr. Caldwell asked for 2 volunteers to serve on a Facilities Committee to be facilitated through the City of Hendersonville; the committee's purpose would be to improve communication between the two entities regarding facilities. Mrs. Holt and Mr. Craven volunteered to represent the Henderson County School Board on the committee.

Mr. Caldwell expressed his gratitude to Mr. Sochia and members of his staff in the Payroll Department for their great work processing the monthly payroll for 2000 employees. He also recognized Dr. Jan King and thanked her for the outstanding job on the recent county-wide staff development day. Mr. Caldwell stated the professional development day was a great success and added he has received positive feedback on the training sessions. Mr. Caldwell thanked Dr. John Bryant for his early morning efforts concerning the bad weather day. Mr. Caldwell stated it is an honor and a privilege to serve as the Superintendent of Henderson County Public Schools.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Michael Absher moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Mr. Rick Wood. (*Unanimously approved at 8:28 pm.*)


Thomas Blair Craven, Chairman


Bo Caldwell, Secretary