

Henderson County Board of Public Education
MINUTES
October 13, 2020

The Henderson County Board of Public Education met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, beginning at 4:00 pm, at 414 4th Avenue West, Hendersonville, NC.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the October 13, 2020 regular business meeting was held in accordance with approved, safety thresholds for public gatherings established by local health officials and Governor Roy Cooper. Capacity for the public/staff to attend was capped at no more than 25 persons. The Board received public comment via email prior to the meeting. The meeting was accessible to the public via a live stream link on the HCPS YouTube channel, <http://tiny.cc/HCPSlive>

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

Board Members Remoting In Blair Craven, Chairperson

Administrative Staff Present: Bo Caldwell, Ed.S. Superintendent; John Bryant, Ed.D., Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services; Jan King, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction; Scott Rhodes, Chief Human Resources Officer; Rick Fender, Chief Technology Officer; Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer.

Attorney Present: Mr. John Henning

Board Clerk: Mrs. Kathy R. Johnson

CALL TO ORDER

School Board Vice Chairman, Mr. Rick Wood called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Mr. Wood stated that Board Chair, Mr. Blair Craven would be joining the meeting remotely. Mr. Wood stated he would act as chair for the meeting in his place. Mr. Craven acknowledged his presence via Google Meet and thanked Mr. Wood for stepping in. Mr. Wood led all those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

Mr. Rick Wood introduced former Representative Chuck McGrady who thanked the Board for all of its help over his 10 years in the General Assembly. Mr. McGrady noted the “valuable help” of Superintendent Bo Caldwell when making decisions for our district. Mr. McGrady offered his help to the board for whatever it needs in the future. Superintendent Bo Caldwell thanked McGrady for his work, calling it an honor to have the opportunity to work with him. Mr. Caldwell said they had agreed on some things and disagreed on others, but the beauty of it was, that Mr. McGrady took the time to ask what he thought and what the board thought and what the school system thought. Mr. Wood thanked Mr. McGrady for his comments and his attendance at the meeting.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Rick Wood acknowledged receipt of the meeting agenda and suggested the three resolutions under Consent Agenda be read aloud. Mr. Wood called for a motion. Mrs. Mary Louise Corn made a motion to approve the agenda with the three resolutions under Consent Agenda to be read aloud for the record. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt. (*Unanimously approved.*) A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Egolf, Yes; Mr. Absher, Yes; Mrs. Holt, Yes; Mrs. Corn, Yes; Ms. Case, Yes; Mr. Craven, Yes; Mr. Wood, Yes. The motion was approved unanimously.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Henderson County Commissioner Rebecca McCall presented information on an initiative organized by the N.C. Association of County Commissioners aimed at helping disconnected youth find success. Mrs. McCall defined disconnected youth as young people ages 16-19 who are neither in school nor working a job. She shared that 9.65% of the age group statewide fall into this category. Ms. McCall stated that some counties are as high as 23%, Henderson County, is at 7%, or 322 of the 4,562 people between 16 and 19. The NCACC Pathways Initiative Task Force is looking for ways to reduce those numbers, and help students succeed while better understanding the issues. Mrs. McCall shared that 17 county commissioners make up the task force working on the initiative.

Mrs. McCall gave examples of programs around the state that are helping disconnected youth, and emphasized programs in Henderson County that already exist. She acknowledged the partnership with Blue Ridge Community College and how successful that has become for Henderson County students. She said these programs are funded through government grants and financial support from local businesses. Mrs. McCall asked if the Board would provide a representative to the Pathways Task Force.

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S OBSERVATIONS

None.

BOARD MEMBER'S OBSERVATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

30 Public Comment email submissions were received prior to the Board meeting. Due to time constraints the comments were not read aloud. All submissions will be posted to the Henderson County Board of Public Education website on October 14, 2020 for public access. The majority of comments were in reference to Return to Learn plans with staff members and parents sharing their thoughts and suggestions.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes

1. September 8, 2020 (*Regular Business Meeting*)
2. September 28, 2020 (*Special Called Meeting*)

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

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

D. Resolution – American Education Week, November 16-20

E. Resolution – National Homeless Youth Awareness Month, November

F. Resolution – Veterans Month, November

The resolutions were read into record by Mrs. Mary Louise Corn, Mr. Michael Absher and Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt. Mrs. Mary Louise Corn made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented in Closed Session. Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Egolf, Yes; Mr. Absher, Yes; Mrs. Holt, Yes; Mrs. Corn, Yes; Ms. Case, Yes; Mr. Craven, Yes; Mr. Wood, Yes. The motion was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval – Policy 4400, Waiver of Section D, Attendance as a Promotion Requirement – (*Dr. Jan King, Assistant Superintendent Instructional Services*)

Dr. King explained that Section D of the current Board Policy 4400 includes specific attendance requirements related to promotion and course credit. Given the challenges of COVID 19, the Board of Education is asked to consider waiving section D of the policy for the 2020-2021 school year. She added, if approved, promotion and credit decisions will be made without the typical consideration of a specific number of days a student has to attend class. Instead, promotion and credit decisions will be based on academic achievement in place of the number of specific days in attendance.

Mr. Craven asked if the principals had been consulted regarding this request? Dr. King replied, yes and she added that student engagement continues to be a challenge at all grade levels. Mrs. Mary Louise Corn stated that we should trust our teachers to make the right academic decisions from the work they receive from students.

Mr. Michael Absher made a motion to approve the request to waive Section D of Board Policy 4400 for the 2020-2021 school year. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt. A Roll call vote was taken: Mr. Egolf, Yes; Mr. Absher, Yes; Mrs. Holt, Yes; Mrs. Corn, Yes; Ms. Case, Yes; Mr. Craven, Yes; Mr. Wood, Yes. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Approval – 2020-2021 Revised School Calendar (*Dr. John Bryant, Associate Superintendent Administrative Services*)

Dr. Bryant presented the revised 2020-2021 school calendar for board approval. The proposed draft outlines the revised 2020 – 2021 School Calendar for all HCPS students, in accordance with North Carolina School Calendar Law. [G.S. 115C-84.2 and SB 704]. This calendar revision applies to all schools: Traditional, Flex, and Early College. The most important changes to the calendar are that 2 optional teacher workdays are now scheduled for Oct. 19 and Election Day, Nov. 3 (they were originally scheduled as remote learning days,) to allow teachers more time to complete first quarter grades and for additional teacher planning time.

Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt made a motion to approve the calendar revisions as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Mary Louise Corn. A Roll call vote was taken: Mr. Egolf, Yes; Mr. Absher, Yes; Mrs. Holt, Yes; Mrs. Corn, Yes; Ms. Case, Yes; Mr. Craven, Yes; Mr. Wood, Yes. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Jay Egolf reiterated the steps necessary for people to access the digital Public Comments received prior to the meeting. He reminded the public that the file will be posted on Wednesday, October 14, on the Henderson County Board of Public Education website. He felt it important to mention this again due to transparency.

BOARD / SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

A. EQUITY FOCUS GROUP UPDATE – (*Superintendent Bo Caldwell*)

Dr. Bryant attended the Racial Equity Workshop - Phase 1 in October. *REI's two-day Phase 1 training is designed to develop the capacity of participants to better understand racism in its institutional and structural forms. Moving away from a focus on personal bigotry and bias, this workshop presented a historical, cultural, and structural analysis of racism. Topics covered include our fish/lake/groundwater analysis of structural racism; understanding and controlling implicit bias; race, poverty, and place; markedness theory; institutional power arrangements and power brokers; importance of definitions of race and racism; history and legacy of race in American economic and policy development; racial identity and its interaction with institutional culture. With shared language and a clearer understanding of how institutions and systems are producing unjust and inequitable outcomes, participants should leave the training better equipped to begin to work for change.* Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt attended the online training as well and felt it contained powerful information. She said it was a very worthwhile 2-day event. Dr. Bryant stated that 39 people from Henderson County were involved in the training and 6 of those were Henderson County Schools' employees. Dr. Bryant thanked the Community Foundation, the Education Foundation and the United Way for their sponsorship and support of the program.

B. RETURN TO LEARN UPDATE – (*Superintendent Bo Caldwell*)

Superintendent Bo Caldwell restated that Henderson County Public Schools remains under Governor Roy Cooper's Covid-19 restrictions that do not allow a full time return to school for middle or high school students. The North Carolina General Assembly requires school systems to follow the mandates from the CDC as well. Mr. Caldwell stated that K-5 students are now allowed to return to full time learning under Plan A, if the school system agrees, but he emphasized that we would lose social distancing capabilities and significant bus spacing requirements when adding more students to face to face instruction. Mr. Caldwell stated that under our current plan, Plan B, we continue to monitor the health data and local Covid numbers in conjunction with the Henderson County Health Department especially as we look at the opportunity to bring more students back to school. Mr. Caldwell stated the number of students enrolled in the fully remote learning option, as well as transportation needs, must be a consideration in bringing more students back into the buildings.

Mr. Caldwell reminded those in attendance that research data from the Harvard Global Health Institute (HGHI) indicates the risk levels across the country that are calculated based on daily cases per 100,000 populations with a seven-day rolling average. This data is used by the leadership team and the Henderson County Health Department to assess the risk factors in Henderson County. As of October 10, Henderson County is at 12.2, which is down from September 28, 2020, when the number was 14.4. However, numbers are trending upwards overall in North Carolina and in Henderson County, as of the meeting date.

Dr. Bryant shared information about the new Henderson County Covid-19 District Dashboard which shows Student/Staff Positive Case Counts by School. He said that new school-affected cases will be reported the business day after the positive case is confirmed, with updates at 9 a.m. Any clusters will be reported to the NCDHHS by

the local health department and updated on the NCDHHS dashboard. HCPS will send cluster notifications to staff and families of all schools and to the community through all available communication channels. Dr. Bryant shared the following information from the dashboard reflecting the percentages of students/staff impacted by positive case reports.

Total Student Membership is 13,051
 Percent of student impact attending Face to Face instruction = 0.18% (17/9648)
 Elementary School = 0.25% (11/4414)
 Middle School = 0.09% (2/2292)
 High School = 0.14% (4/2942)
 Percent of staff impact = 0.34% (6/1752)

Dr. Bryant said the new Dashboard is meant to increase transparency for community access regarding cases that are reported in our schools. He reminded those in attendance and those joining via livestream, HCPS will not provide personally identifiable information of an infected person and we will not immediately close schools for a positive case.

Board members asked several procedural questions regarding how positive case notifications are handled, the leadership team responded to each question.

Dr. Jan King presented the current attendee group numbers since our move to Plan B in September.

	A-Day Attendees	B-Day Attendees	Everyday Attendees	Fully Remote Attendees
September 25	27%	28%	19%	26%
October 9	26%	26.5%	20%	27.5%

Mr. Caldwell stated that per board recommendation, he asked teachers and staff at each school to provide feedback on Plan B and how it is progressing. Elementary staff members were asked the following questions:

1. Under Plan B, what are the most effective/successful elements of your teaching and student learning?
2. As you implement Plan B, what barriers (within our sphere of control) are adversely impacting your teaching and student learning?
3. In reference to the barriers (within our sphere of control) you identified, what solutions would you like to share?
4. What change(s) to our current Plan B framework would you propose to better support you as a teacher?
5. If approved by the Henderson County Board of Public Education, what specific support or considerations should be made before a transition to Plan A?
6. What additional feedback you would like to share?

Dr. King stated that teachers miss having their students in class and they are enjoying seeing their students for the first time this year. Some teachers stated they have become better virtual teachers.

Dr. King said the most frequent concerns were not being able to have their students in class full time, student and staff safety, the huge workload on teachers while providing virtual and face to face instruction simultaneously, lack of planning time, and the extra hours needed to prepare for the virtual and face to face instruction. Some staff members felt a lack of support and concern for their health and safety as they returned to face to face instruction.

Many teachers would like to have one virtual teacher at each school to host all remote students, while removing that component from their daily in-person duties. Hybrid course sections, more planning time and better virtual options were also suggested as improvements to the current plan.

Mr. Caldwell told the Board that he has scheduled individual meetings with each elementary principal to review

the virtual plan for their school. He will continue to follow the virtual enrollment numbers and provide more updates at the November meeting.

In regards to moving to Plan A, virtual enrollment numbers, class size concerns, health and safety issues, and teacher planning time were the biggest concerns. Mr. Caldwell stated that we have asked our teachers to accomplish superhuman feats, but they are not superhuman. He said his teachers are tired and many are feeling unsuccessful due to the implemented changes. Mr. Caldwell said that a move to a different plan at this time would not be in the best interest of our students or staff. He acknowledged that we need to improve the virtual learning experience and alleviate some of the workload from our teachers. Mr. Caldwell said the leadership team is working hard to accomplish these goals while planning for the safe return of more students to the classroom. Dr. King stated that Middle and High school teachers will have the opportunity to respond to the same questions and their responses will be shared with Board of Education members.

The Return to Learn recommendation for October 13, 2020 is to remain on the current Plan B but to increase student numbers for 5 days a week, face to face instruction by adding Grade 3 students to in-person instruction. Grade 3 students would return to school 5 days a week beginning October 29, 2020. Board members emphasized that they want third grade students back in class as soon as possible. Dr. Bryant stated that additional bus routes will need to be arranged by pulling less used buses from the high school and middle schools, and that requires time. Dr. Bryant and Dr. King were comfortable with the October 29th date for bringing back third graders. The Leadership Team will meet with elementary school principals and report back to the Board. This information is intended to help the Board as they consider next steps. Mr. Caldwell and his leadership team will continue to monitor the status reports, updates and will provide updated information at the next BOE meeting on November 9, 2020. Since this is a continuation of Plan B, no Board vote was required.

Mr. Caldwell stated that any plan we chose will be a fluid model contingent on local health data; he added, we will continue to work in close coordination with the Henderson County Department of Public Health and local partner agencies. He reminded everyone that implementation of Plan A would eliminate social distancing within classroom environments and on school buses for elementary school students. He stated that a fully virtual option of instruction remains available for any student or parent who doesn't feel comfortable returning to school for face to face instruction. He reiterated that our goal is to continue meeting the instructional obligation to all students every day.

C. 20 DAY MEMBERSHIP REPORT – *(Mr. Scott Rhodes, Chief Human Resources Officer)*

Mr. Rhodes stated the Day 20 Average Daily Membership (ADM) for 2020-2021 was 12,934. The State ADM projection for Henderson County Schools for 2020-2021 is 13,463. We are at a deficit of 529 students as of Day 20. Mr. Rhodes stated that 13,017 students were enrolled on Day 20 and added that we are missing the largest number of students at the elementary level at 40, with middle schools missing 26 and high schools missing 23 students. Mr. Rhodes stated that our current district wide elementary class size average is 19.5, with 4th (23) and 5th (25) grades having the highest class sizes. Middle school class size average is 27.3. Mr. Rhodes said that due to the Covid-19 pandemic and school closures, the State is holding us harmless for ADM for the 2020-21 school year. Mr. Rhodes emphasized the importance of being held harmless because we could have lost 12 teaching positions across the county in a normal year due to lower ADM number.

D. CONSTRUCTION UPDATE – *(Dr. John Bryant, Associate Superintendent Administrative Services)*

Dr. Bryant stated the Hendersonville High School project is moving along nicely and is projected to be 'in the dry' within the next couple of months. The HVAC work at Rugby and Flat Rock Middle schools should be completed by mid-November. He said the one silver lining to the pandemic closures has been the number of construction projects we have been able to complete since March, 2020.

E. CHILD CARE SERVICES UPDATE – *(Dr. John Bryant, Associate Superintendent Administrative Services)*

Dr. Bryant shared the financial position of the Child Care Services Department for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020 as follows:

Revenues: \$1,136,914
Expenses: \$1,159,502
FY Operational Profit/(Loss): (\$22,588)
Unaudited Fund Balance: \$230,000

Dr. Bryant stated our Child Care employees have been doing tremendous work during this pandemic. He reminded the Board, we have provided childcare to front line first responders and school system employees at no cost during the school closures (March through June.) Dr. Bryant said that State dollars helped the program to ‘stay whole’ during this process. The Operational Loss listed above refers to the time of the school closures.

Since July, we have been operating at far reduced capacities while following the restrictions on the number of students we can serve. In regards to the projected operational loss, Dr. Bryant stated that since our move to Plan B on September 21, we’ve provided AM and PM services for students only on the two days they are scheduled to attend school which has greatly affected our numbers. We currently have two child care sites that offer all day care for students on their ‘off’ days. Dr. Bryant reiterated that we have provided child care from mid-August to mid-September at no cost to our teachers so they would be able to perform their teaching duties. Dr. Bryant emphasized that if we had charged for those services, we could have generated about \$50,000 in additional revenue during that time. That additional revenue would have made the operational loss a wash. Dr. Bryant said we cannot expect to be revenue neutral during the pandemic due to our lower numbers. He is aware that we cannot continue to run this program at a loss but given the challenges associated with the pandemic, we cannot achieve revenue neutral status this year. Mr. Sochia stated the current month is representative of a normal month’s expenditures and expects that with a normal month on the revenues side, whenever that might be, the bottom line should be more balanced.

Mrs. Holt believes that we will ‘run through’ the dedicated Child Care fund balance in about seven months if we continue on this track. Mr. Craven and Mr. Egolf feel it will be sooner. Mr. Sochia stated that the loss should shrink since students are back in school now. Dr. Bryant added that during a pandemic we cannot predict or expect that we could become revenue neutral. Mrs. Holt feels we need to monitor this program carefully. Mrs. Corn agreed it is not sustainable to run the program in this manner. Mr. Craven asked if we knew of any federal grants or monies for child care that would be available in the near future? Dr. Bryant knew of no monies offered at this time. Ms. Case asked how many teacher’s kids are in our child care at this time? Dr. Bryant replied, ‘near zero, since they are now allowed to come to school with their parents they are no longer in the child care grouping.’ Dr. Bryant will provide more exact numbers in November.

Mrs. Holt said that many members of the public have reached out and stated that it is unfair to allow teachers to bring their students to school for free childcare when the public is not given the same opportunity. Mrs. Holt explained that it is a workforce matter, we have to have our teachers in place to teach, our teachers need child care to be able to work. Dr. Bryant asked the Board attorney for clarification.

Attorney, John Henning explained that Henderson County Schools did not offer free childcare to its staff as a perk or out of benevolence. It became necessary to offer childcare to employees in March when Congress passed the *Families First Coronavirus Relief Act*. This act established a federal right for employees, who have had a loss of child care, to stay home (any day needed at 2/3 of their pay for up to 80 hours, or up to \$10,000 worth) to care for their child when school is closed to them. This federal act allows teachers to take leave as needed which could lead to massive amounts of teachers not attending work and performing their teaching duties. Mr. Henning acknowledged that is a necessary expenditure for workforce support in order to have adequate staff to safely teach and monitor students on a daily basis. Mr. Henning said, without providing free child care to its employees, Henderson County Schools could potentially need to close schools due to lack of available teachers and lack of supervision. Mr. Henning stated that you are preserving your workforce by providing the option for staff children to return to school for in school instruction with their parents.

Mr. Craven is still concerned about the fund balance of the program and said no matter what, we have to adjust accordingly. Mr. Egolf believes we don’t have the flexibility to view this as a special time and say we can’t run

the program at revenue neutral. Mr. Craven feels we need to figure this out quickly before the fund balance is spent and he feels we need to evaluate our staffing for future months. Mr. Craven added that we will need to make huge adjustments to this program, but acknowledged that right now we don't have the answers. Mr. Caldwell said we need to look at all options and we still have child care fund balance at this time. The fund balance remains at \$160,000. Mr. Caldwell believes the new superintendent can provide options for consideration, knowing that no local dollars will be added to this fund, per Board stipulations.

Dr. Bryant said to remember that the \$50,000 loss is not a programmatic problem. This loss happened because of an administrative decision to not charge staff members for childcare during the pandemic. Dr. Bryant stated that the program is carrying a loss for an administrative decision, 'The \$50,000 loss was not due to the program doing something wrong.' Mr. Wood agreed with Dr. Bryant that it's not the programs fault they are losing money. Mrs. Holt and Mr. Egolf stated it doesn't matter whose fault it is, we have to do something about it. Mr. Egolf stated 'you all have two months to figure this out.' Dr. Bryant reiterated that Child Care is booking a loss that wasn't a Child Care loss. Dr. Bryant said they would have more exact numbers to present to the board in November.

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

Mr. Bernie Sochia presented the following information. The attached financial statement presents the following:

1. Results of operations of the Local Current Expense and Other Restricted Funds for the 2020-21 fiscal year as of September 30, 2020: Revenues received total \$8,848,226. Expenditures made total \$5,161,044. This is down from \$6,051,886 at this point last year. This is due in part because HCPS is utilizing State funds which have a December 30 deadline prior to expending Local dollars. One area we see a difference is a decrease in equipment and software of \$328,176 (in 5100) compared to this point in the prior year. The change to the start of the school year can account for some as well in our Operational Services (6500). Maintenance supplies (\$45,144) as well as a decrease in areas like utilities (\$144,557) and repairs (\$55,037).
2. Results of operations of the Capital Outlay Fund for the 2020-21 fiscal year as of September 30, 2020: Normal appropriations for the year total \$586,234. Project expenditures total \$348,460 of the budgeted list of \$2,050,000. That is \$19,180 in safety, \$194,457 in roofing, \$88,685 for site improvements, \$3,240 for School Nutrition and \$42,898 in equipment.

G. MEETING SCHEDULE – HCBPE Regular Business Meeting *[Monday, November 9, 4:00 p.m., (Closed Session at 3:00 p.m.) (Boardroom)] – (Superintendent Bo Caldwell)*

Board members discussed re-opening board meetings for public attendance. Per Governor Roy Cooper's Executive Orders beginning March, 2020, board meetings have been held remotely or in person with limited numbers in attendance while adhering to required social distancing guidelines. Board members were in agreement that the public should be allowed to return for board meetings beginning November 9, 2020. The maximum number allowed in the audience will be 25 due to social distancing, masks will be required for all who attend and proper social distancing measures will remain in place. The Board of Education meeting time will remain at 3:00pm for Closed Session, moving to a one-hour time allotment for closed session and 4:00pm for the Regular Business Meeting. Public Comments will still be received digitally prior to the meeting and will be given to each Board member for review, however digital comments will not be read aloud during the meetings when live public comment is on the agenda.

Board Chair, Mr. Blair Craven reminded the group about technology updates to the Central Office board room that were mentioned at a previous meeting. Mr. Craven feels we need an updated video system allowing the livestream audience to view meeting documents as projected on the screen and offer better audio of each meeting. He believes that we will continue to livestream our meetings after the pandemic has passed and thinks this would be worthwhile investment. Ms. Case and Mr. Egolf were in favor of continuing the livestream. Mr. Craven asked Mr. Fender to begin researching the options.

Mr. Caldwell stated that Chief Technology Officer, Mr. Rick Fender, has already met with a vendor and has obtained information on a plan that Mr. Fender feels could be appropriate for Henderson County Schools. The

projected cost for a new video system could be up to \$75,000. Mr. Caldwell knows this is a large amount of money but he believes we need to look at this as a long-term solution and do the job right. Mr. Caldwell stated this is an unbudgeted expense and he would need Board consensus to proceed further. Attorney John Henning suggested that the Leadership Team could assemble price options and bid packages but added there are policy considerations that need to be studied, the selected platform will need to be addressed due ADA and 504 accessibility issues and there could be other issues to be settled before a final decision should be made.

Mr. Caldwell asked if he would need Board approval to proceed with a purchase up to \$75,000? Via board policy there is a \$90,000 limit for a formal bid, without Board approval. Mr. Henning recommended that the research continue and Mr. Caldwell bring back pricing or a bid package to the Board of Education at the November meeting. The Board could then decide if they want to take a formal vote on the matter.

Board Vice-Chair, Mr. Rick Wood feels strongly we shouldn't rush into this large expenditure. He believes it is wishful thinking that the high numbers watching the Board meetings will continue once pandemic is over. Mr. Wood said that people are tuning in now to see what changes will be made for their students' Return to Learn plans but he feels that won't be the case after the pandemic. Mr. Wood also suggested that the newly elected Board should have a say in this decision.

Mr. Caldwell stated that Mr. Fender will work with Mr. Henning regarding policy issues and compliance requirements. Mr. Fender will continue to research the options and will bring cost information or bid packages to the Board at the November 9, 2020 meeting for their consideration. .

H. General Operations – *(Superintendent Bo Caldwell)*

Mr. Caldwell thanked our teachers for the excellent job they continue to do under such strenuous circumstances. He believes our teachers are all heroes and he acknowledged how exhausted they are from the changes to their daily routines and current responsibilities.

Mr. Caldwell emphasized that October is National Principal's Month. He stated that our administrators are doing a wonderful job and he feels they deserve great recognition for the job they continue to do daily. Mr. Caldwell is so proud of our administrators and Principals for the leadership they have shown at each of their schools and he believes we have some tremendous leaders in Henderson County. Mr. Caldwell asked the board to reach out to the principals and let them know they are appreciated. #Leadershipmatters

Mr. Caldwell stated it is his honor to serve as Superintendent of Henderson County Public Schools.

Mr. Rick Wood encouraged everyone to get out and vote on November 3, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Michael Absher moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt. A Roll call vote was taken: Mr. Egolf, Yes; Mr. Absher, Yes; Mrs. Holt, Yes; Mrs. Corn, Yes; Ms. Case, Yes; Mr. Craven, Yes; Mr. Wood, Yes. The motion was approved unanimously. *(Unanimously approved at 7:07 pm.)*

Minutes approved: November 9, 2020