

## Henderson County Board of Public Education

### MINUTES

November 14, 2022

The Henderson County Board of Public Education held a meeting on Monday, November 14, 2022, 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:

Blair Craven, Chairperson; Amy Lynn Holt, Vice Chairperson Robert Bridges; Dot Case; Jay Egolf; Kathy Revis. Stacey Caskey joined the meeting remotely.

#### Administrative Staff Present:

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

Attorney Present: Chris Campbell

Board Clerk: Tawana Clayton

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Blair Craven called the meeting to order at approximately 4:02pm and led all those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Craven acknowledged that Mrs. Stacey Caskey was joining the meeting remotely via phone.

#### AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Craven acknowledged receipt of the meeting agenda and asked for a motion to approve. Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt moved that the agenda be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Robert Bridges. *(Unanimously approved.)*

#### STUDENT RECOGNITION

The NCDOT presented plaques to the following contest winners for the Bridge Art Competition:

- Sofia Fernandez Rojas, Hendersonville High School, I-26 at Butler Bridge Road
- Berit Raines, Hendersonville High School, I-26 at US25
- Sophie Thomas, Hendersonville High School, I-26 at Airport Road
- Alexis Donald, Sugarloaf Elementary School, I-26 at US64 Four Seasons Blvd.
- Ryan Bartlett, West Henderson High School, I-26 at Naples Road
- Viesna Mao, West Henderson High School, I-26 at Clear Creek Road
- Sophia Beck, Hendersonville High School, I-26 at Brookside Camp Road
- Ashlyn Webb, Etowah Elementary School, I-26 at Fanning Bridge Road

The winners will have their art permanently displayed as medallions on bridges in Henderson County (locations listed above). Additionally, winners received a small replica of their bridge art on a plaque at the board meeting. We can expect to see the artwork displayed on Henderson County bridges in the Fall of 2023.

#### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Ms. Virginia Haynes presented the JAG National 5 of 5 award to Mrs. Shannon Auten and Mr. Arthur Kelly. Ms. Haynes discussed the Jobs for North Carolina's Graduates (JNCG) program. JNCG program began in Henderson County in 2017, and works with juniors and seniors who may have barriers that could prevent them from graduating. The graduation rate the past 5 years through the JNCG program is 100% and provides post graduation support for a year. Mrs. Auten spoke about the JAG program and the positive impact it has had on seniors with attendance, test scores, drop-out rate, and graduation rate. Ms. Haynes stated Henderson County has a 100% graduation rate through the program.

#### BOARD CHAIR OBSERVATIONS

Mr. Craven thanked the candidates that ran for school board and congratulated Mr. Egolf, Mrs. Norman and Mrs. Dale on being elected. Mr. Craven expressed his gratitude to Ms. Case for the work she has done being on the school board and her dedication to the students of Henderson County for over 43 years. Mr. Craven spoke about Mrs. Holt's accomplishments throughout her 12 years serving on the school board. The renovation of HHS, new school building for Edneyville, IHS, and the Safety Around Water program she started with the YMCA for 2nd graders in Henderson County. Mr. Craven thanked Mrs. Holt and Ms. Case for their service.

#### BOARD MEMBERS' OBSERVATION

Each Board member expressed gratitude and spoke kind words about Mrs. Holt and Ms. Case for their many years of service on the school board. Mrs. Caskey spoke about how grateful she was to be able to serve on the board with Ms. Case and she will be missed. Dr. Revis spoke about Ms. Case and how honored she was to know her and serve as an educator alongside Ms. Case. Dr. Revis addressed Mrs. Holt and thanked her for her leadership. Mr. Egolf expressed his gratitude to both Ms. Case and Mrs. Holt. Mr. Bridges thanked Mrs. Holt and Ms. Case for their commitment to the school board. Ms. Case spoke about how much she appreciated the opportunity to serve on the Board of Education and her love for children and education. Mrs. Holt spoke about her time serving on the board and what an honor and privilege it was, she gave thanks to Steve Wyatt, former county commissioner. Mrs. Holt thanked all of the employees of Henderson County Public Schools. Mr. Bridges spoke about his visit to Mills River Elementary and Edneyville Elementary schools for their Veterans Day program and how pleased he was with the recognition they gave to the Veterans.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Dennis Justice spoke about school athletic facilities and how he would like for the outside facilities to be accessible to the public.

Mr. Colby Coren expressed appreciation for Ms. Case and Mrs. Holt during their time serving on the Board.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Blair Craven cited the Board's receipt of the Consent Agenda presented for approval upon recommendation of the Superintendent, with the removal of item "E" (Budget Amendment) to be presented as item "D" under New Business. Prior to the meeting, Board members received documentation relative to the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A. Meeting Schedule
  1. HCBPE Regular Business Meeting [*Monday, December 12, 2022, 4:00 p.m., (Boardroom)*  
*(Closed Session at 3:00 pm) (1-A)*]
- B. Minutes
  1. October 10, 2022 [*Regular Business Meeting*]
- C. Personnel [*as presented in closed session*]
- D. Student Acceptances/Releases [*as presented in closed session*]

E. Budget Amendment *(as presented in closed session)*

Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt moved that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. Mrs. Stacey Caskey seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

OLD BUSINESS

A. Low Performing Schools – *(Mr. Mark R. Garrett, Superintendent)*

Mr. Garrett presented the Board with updated information regarding the plan for the five schools that have been designated as low performing schools. “Low-performing schools are those that receive a school performance grade of D or F and a school growth score of "met expected growth" or "not met expected growth" as defined by G.S. 115C-83.15.” (G.S.115C-105.37(a)). If a school has been identified as low-performing as provided in this section and the school is not located in a local school administrative unit identified as low-performing under G.S. 115C-105.39A the following actions shall be taken: The superintendent shall proceed under G.S. 115C-105.39, within 30 days of the initial identification the superintendent shall take on of the following actions:

- Recommend the local board the principal be retained in current position
- Recommend to the local board the principal be retained in current position and plan a remediation be developed.
- Recommend to the local board the principal be transferred, or
- Proceed under G.S. 115C-325.4 to dismiss or demote the principal

Mr. Garrett’s recommendation to the board is to retain the principals at all five schools based on where they are in their leadership journey and the school improvement planning that is in process. The requirements of low performing schools, within 30 days of the initial identification of a school as low-performing by the State Board, the superintendent shall submit to the local board of education a preliminary plan for improving both the school performance grade and school growth score, including how the superintendent and other central office administrators will work with the school and monitor the school’s progress. Mr. Garrett stated the school improvement plans are located in NCStar. Parental notices will be sent out with the link to NCStar to the following low performing schools; Apple Valley Middle School, Clear Creek Elementary School, Edneyville Elementary School, Sugarloaf Elementary School, and Upward Elementary School. This preliminary plan will be shared with school stakeholders, schools and parents. The final approval will be requested at the December Board of Education meeting. The final action will take place within five days, following the plan approval at the December Board of Education meeting. Mr. Craven acknowledged the work that goes into planning for low performing schools and stated the plans will be posted online for the public to view. The Board is aware that students are behind all throughout the nation due to the pandemic. Mr. Garrett discussed the increase statewide for schools that are designated as low performing. Mr. Garrett thanked HCPS educators for their work. The Board expressed their support for educators and commended them for continuing to work hard for their students. Dr. Revis asked what support does the central office or the state provide for low performing schools and the development of these plans. Mr. Garrett stated the state has very little involvement due to the number of schools identified for them to properly support or monitor. The Instructional Services team at the Central Office have been meeting to look at the data and a team member in each department of the Instructional Services team attends school improvement team meetings and are active in the plan at that designated school. Attorney Chris Campbell advised the Board to vote on retaining the Principals. Mr. Craven made a motion to retain the five principals; Katelyn Davis, Dena Wolfe, Andrew VunCannon, Ashley Newcomer, Michael Gates as recommended by Superintendent Garrett. Mr. Robert Bridges seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved)*

B. 2023-2024 Traditional School Calendar- *(Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer)*

Mr. Carl Taylor presented the Board with an update to the proposed 2023-2024 Traditional School Calendar that aligns with Blue Ridge Community College. Mr. Taylor discussed the adjustments made based on the feedback received from the Superintendent Teacher Advisory Council (STAC), Superintendent Parent Advisory Council (SPAC) and school leaders. The start date for school is August 14th, Blue Ridge Community College start date is August 17th. The feedback received from STAC takes place in the month of October, teachers would like to have a workday at the end of the nine weeks to finalize grades and prepare for the new quarter. October 16th would be an optional workday and October 17th is a district professional development day. The first semester will end prior to Christmas break, along with the community college, on December 19th. Mrs. Caskey discussed issues surrounding school being in session and used as polling places on election day. The Board discussed the possibility of a workday on November 7th for the election. Mr. Craven has discussed with the county about moving polling sites from the schools due to safety issues. Mr. Taylor addressed the change to the week of spring break, it has been moved to the week of March 25th which aligns with the community college spring break. Mr. Garrett discussed the positive feedback given from STAC and SPAC about the calendar, both councils liked the flexibility of being able to align the traditional school, flex school, and early college high school calendars. Teachers appreciated the added breaks in the calendar and that the school year would end in May, giving two full months of summer break. Mr. Garrett asked the Board to have the first reading of the calendar in December to have time to make adjustments and communicate with staff and families. The Board discussed the steps that had been taken to have the calendar law changed and the benefits and reasoning behind making the decision to go against the calendar law. The first reading for the 2023-2024 calendar will be at the December meeting.

#### NEW BUSINESS

A. School Improvement Plan– *(Dr. Shannon Marlowe, Assistant Superintendent)*

Dr. Shannon Marlowe presented the Board with School Improvement plans for approval. Dr. Marlowe stated as we did last year, Henderson County now houses our school improvement plans within the NCSTAR/IndiStar platform. This platform is provided by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) at no-cost to districts. For continuous process improvement, each School Improvement Team has assessed the required Key Indicators of NCSTAR, selected targeted goals for improvement, and mapped a plan for assessing and monitoring the school's progress. Board members may access and review School Improvement Plans online using information in the attached guiding document or as PDFs in the link provided. When approved by the Board, guest access for all school plans will be posted on school websites. Updates to information are added after each School Improvement meeting. Mr. Robert Bridges moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the 2022-23 School Improvement plans as presented. Dr. Kathy Revis seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved)*

B. North Henderson Lights Contract – *(Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer)*

Mr. Bernie Sochia presented the contract with Camp Electric Co., Inc for the baseball field lights at North Henderson High School.. 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. The following contract is for approval of execution: Camp Electric Co., Inc. Ms. Dot Case made a motion that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the contract for execution. Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved)*

C. Berkeley/Edwards Property Exchange – *(Mr. Mark Garrett, Superintendent)*

Superintendent Mark Garrett presented the Board with the Real Property Exchange Agreement of Edwards Park and Berkeley Mills. HCPS is exchanging Edwards Park for 16 acres at Berkeley Mills including the historic baseball field, and \$250,000 in the agreement with the City of Hendersonville. Attorney Chris Campbell discussed the city will retain a 20-foot easement plus 10-foot construction easement for the swear line and water

line. The City has agreed not to put additional easements. Along the 16 acres, there will be a 30-foot greenway easement that can be used for the school districts' cross-county teams and the public. An environmental report and title search for the property is being conducted. The Board discussed the language in the agreement. The Board will meet on November 28, 2022 for a final approval of the exchange. Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the form of agreement entitled Real Property Exchange Agreement. In addition, the Board Attorney shall prepare a Resolution approving the transfer and publish that Resolution in Henderson County for 10 days prior to final Board action approving the agreement and closing. Finally, on the same terms outlined in Paragraph 12 of the Agreement, the Board hereby grants to the City of Hendersonville a license and permission to begin asbestos abatement and demolition activities at Edwards Park. Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt seconded. *(Unanimously approved)*

D. Budget Amendment – *(Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer)*

Mr. Bernie Sochia presented the Board with the Budget Amendment for approval. This amendment is due to not receiving all of the allotments at the time the initial budget was presented last month. Allotments that were not received include, \$249,000 of CTE program support for credential funding and \$268,000 added to the state budget to provide bonuses for principals based on growth scores that were paid in October. Title 1, EC funding, IPC grant funds and ESSER carryover had not been received. Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt moved to approve the 2022-23 Henderson County Public Schools’ Amended Budget Resolution as presented. Mr. Robert Bridges seconded. *(Unanimously approved)*

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. CONSTRUCTION UPDATE– *(Mr. Carl Talor, Chief Administrative Officer)*

Mr. Carl Taylor presented the Board with a construction update. The following construction projects were funded by HCPS; The awning repair at Upward Elementary is complete, the post will be painted to match the awning. The elementary playground project update is as follows, the initial assessments by engineers is complete, site survey work is in progress along with preliminary designs. Following the Joint Facilities Committee meeting with the county. MRTS funded projects for 2022-23 include, Upward Elementary for cafeteria renovation and secure entry with a budget of \$2,072,584. West Henderson High School for renovation and addition with a budget of \$5,000,000. All elementary schools, security camera systems with a budget of \$700,000. Technology for Chromebook purchases with a budget of \$300,000. Various school locations, paving projects with a budget of \$165,000. The breakdown of funds for Upward elementary using MTRS funds:

Phase	Description	Estimated Cost
Construction	Cafeteria Expansion & Secure Entry	\$1,919,727.99
Paving	New Front Parking Lot and Courtyard	\$430,444.40
Paving	New Bus Lot and Staff Parking	\$142,215.00
	<b>Total Estimated Cost of Project</b>	<b>\$2,492,387.39</b>

Ms. Case asked if the bus garage project would be added to next year's budget. Mr. Craven discussed the rise in cost for the project at an amount of 13 million dollars. The increase in the cost of construction is due to the extensive excavation that will need to be completed. Mr. Taylor is in the process of finding other property that

could house the bus garage. Mr. Taylor discussed the renovations for West Henderson High School, including the expansion of the front office to create a two-point secure entry where visitors will be required to get buzzed into the building. In addition, buildings that are stand alone buildings will be connected to the office space. Last year's budgeted MRTS funds will be used to install video cameras at Bruce Drysdale Elementary School, Edneyville Elementary School, Etowah Elementary School, Hendersonville Elementary School once the high school and middle school project is completed. This year's \$700,000 budget will be used to install cameras in the remaining elementary schools. Mrs. Holt asked if the cameras will have the capability for law enforcement to remote in and view live footage. Mr. Taylor responded, not at this time but the feature is something that is being explored by the safety director, technology department and the county. Middle and High Schools camera installation is nearing completion. The Board discussed the 10 year joint facilities plan and the effects of elevated cost of building materials.

**B. EQUITY UPDATE – (Dr. Shannon Marlowe, Assistant Superintendent)**

Dr. Shannon Marlowe presented the Board with an equity update with a focus on removing barriers. NCStar through Indistar is a single platform used for school improvement planning. This school improvement planning process supports the work schools do meeting students' needs by focusing on key improvement strategies, data driven, ongoing review of actions and discussions with the ability to be responsive to student needs. Dr. Malowe discussed how to access NCStar data through indistar.org. NCStar gives schools the opportunity to discuss best practices all year, informs all stakeholders and community of progress, provides transitions for knowledge and to better serve students. The Board discussed the effectiveness of the program and how easy the community is able to view the data.

**C. CHILD CARE SERVICES UPDATE – (Mr. Scott Rhodes, Assistant Superintendent)**

Mr. Scott Rhodes presented the Board with an update on the Child Care Services.

Financial Projection for October 2022:

Revenues: \$104,734.00

Expenses: \$78,707.15

FY Operational Profit/(Loss): \$25,026.86

**D. FINANCIAL REPORT – (Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer)**

Mr. Bernie Sochia presented the financial report results of operations of the Local Current Expense and Other Restricted Funds for the 2022-23 fiscal year as of October 31, 2022: Results of operations of the Local Current Expense and Other Restricted Funds for the 2022-23 fiscal year as of October 31, 2022: Combined revenues total \$13,045,039, which is up \$533,972 from last year. Expenditures, up \$870,532 from last year total \$8,734,926.

Mr. Bernie Sochia presented the financial report results of operations of the Enterprise Fund for the 2022-23 fiscal year as of September 30, 2022: Child Nutrition: Revenues received were \$1,439,543 and expenditures made were \$1,448,187 resulting in a net loss of \$8,644 through the first quarter. This is the first period of normal operations since third quarter 2019-20.

b. Child Care: Revenues received were \$681,214 and expenditures made were \$319,426 resulting in a net gain of \$361,788 through the first quarter.

Expenditures for the playground upgrades will begin in the second quarter with design work. The Board discussed the importance of families to complete the free/reduced lunch program forms.

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

Mr. Garrett shared the following information with the Board:

- Hendersonville High's Women's tennis team earned their way to the NCHSAA 2A Dual Team Tennis State Championships on Saturday in Burlington where they took home their fourth straight N.C. state title
- Hendersonville High's Eliza Perry & Ramsey Ross captured their second straight state doubles

title at the 2A level

- West High's Mens & Womens teams qualified and competed in the NCHSAA 3A Cross Country State Championships on Saturday in Kernersville where they both earned Top 10 finishes (9th & 2nd respectively)
- Hendersonville High's Women's cross country team competed in the NCHSAA 2A Cross Country State Championships
- West High & Hendersonville High football both hosted 1st round playoff games on Friday night with both coming out victorious
- All four HCPS high school soccer teams made the playoffs this year with Hendersonville High making it to the 3rd round where they will host Newton-Conover on Monday evening at 6:00
- November 14-18: American Education Week
- November 17: Superintendent Parent Advisory Council, Central Office, 5:30 p.m.
- November 23-25: Thanksgiving Break for All Students and Staff
- December 7: Elected Board members swearing-in ceremony, Historic Courthouse, 9:00 a.m.
- December 7: All Board members Ethics training, Central Office, 10:00 a.m.
- December 8: Superintendent Teacher Advisory Council, Central Office, 3:30 p.m.
- December 12: HCBPE Regular Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Central Office Boardroom
- Winter Weather Information

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Ms. Dot Case (*Unanimously approved at 6:23pm.*)

Minutes approved: December 12, 2022