

Henderson County Board of Public Education

MINUTES

December 12, 2022

The Henderson County Board of Public Education held a meeting on Monday, December 12, 2022, beginning at 4:00 pm, at 414 4th Avenue West, Hendersonville, NC. The meeting was accessible to the public via a livestream link at, <http://hcpsnc.org/live>.

Board Members Present:

Robert Bridges; Stacey Caskey; Blair Craven; Shelia Dale; Jay Egolf; Alyssa Norman; Kathy Revis

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

Superintendent Mark Garrett called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and requested that everyone take a moment of silence for the tragic accident that took the life of Madison Crawford and injured Kimisa Buchanan and Robert Lunsford. Mr. Garrett requested everyone present to stand as the West Henderson High School Army JROTC presented the colors. Mr. Garrett led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

STAFF RECOGNITION

Superintendent Mark Garrett recognized the following staff members:

Nicole Riddle at Etowah Elementary was recognized for the 2022 NCSTA District 8 Outstanding Elementary School Science Teacher Award. Mike Coombs was recognized for performing life-saving measures during an athletic event at East Henderson High School on November 10th.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Superintendent Mark Garrett recognized the following Fall Athletes with State achievements:

Hendersonville High School's Women's Tennis- State champions, Regional Champions and Conference Champions; Eliza Perry, Ramsey Ross, Reese Redden, Raleigh Prichard, Katherine Graham, Anna MacDowell. Hendersonville Eliza Perry and Ramsey Ross: Doubles Team State Champions, Regional Champions, and Conference Champions

North Henderson High School's Bailey Rowe, All-State Volleyball; Taylor Vorbrich, All-State Soccer
West Henderson High School's Noelle Houlihan, 2nd in 3A All-State Women's Cross County; Breanna Budzinski, 3rd in 3A All-State Women's Cross County; Hudson Rice, 6th in 3A All-State Men's Cross Country
Mr. Garrett mentioned the following additional Fall Athletics: East Henderson- Men's Soccer- State Playoffs; Hendersonville High School- Men's Soccer- Mountain Foothills Champions; North Henderson- Volleyball- Mountain 7 Co-Champions; North Henderson-Men's Soccer- State Playoffs; West Henderson-Volleyball- Mountain 7 Co-Champions; West Henderson-Football- Mountain 7 Champions; West Henderson-Cross Country- Mountain 7 Champions, Regional Champions, State Runner-Up; West Henderson- Tennis- State Playoffs ;West Henderson-Men's Soccer- State Playoffs; Rugby Middle- Girl's Cross Country- Blue Ridge Conference Champions. Mr. Garrett recognized the following Arts with State achievements: Hendersonville High School Orchestra: RoKem Bayne, NC Honors All-State Orchestra-14th chair Viola; Eli Westbrook, NC Honors All-State Orchestra- 7th chair Bass

West Henderson High Honors Theater Class: Superior Rating at the NCTC State Competition; Jonah Jakubielski,

Excellence in Design and Production-Sound Design; Ryder Pond, Excellence in Acting; Gracie Todd, Excellence in Acting; Presley Gonzales; Excellence in Acting; Excellence in Ensemble Theatre. East Henderson Orchestra under the direction of Jeannie Quinn, chosen to perform at the North Carolina Music Educators Association (NCMEA) Music Educators Inservice Conference. Additional Arts achievements mentioned: West Henderson Marching Band: Enka High Land of Sky- 1st Place Grand Champion Sweepstakes Award Class 1A-2A, Crowd Favorite Award, 1st Place Overall Class 2A, 1st Place Music, 1st Place Colorguard, 1st Place Drum Major, 1st Place Percussion. AC Reynolds HS's Cedar Cliffs Classic-1st Place Class 3A, 1st Place Music Class 3A, 1st Place Percussion Class 3A, 1st Place Drum Major Class 3A, 1st Place Colorguard Class 3A, Superior Rating North Henderson HS's Knight Tournament- 2nd Place Overall Class 3A, 2nd Place Music, 2nd Place Colorguard. Hendersonville High Band members who made the Henderson County All-District Band: Maddie Palmer, Rachel DeGuzman, Audrey Stevens, Wren Crook, Emily Phillips, Elijah Williamson, Noelle Benjamin, Anna McFarling, Lucy Kilpatrick, Ian Dhein, Luke Morris, Lincoln Knott, Tobin DeGuzman, Elek Lundgren, Sebastian Sanchez, Logan Hoover, Caroline Pope, Jonathon Ramsey. West Henderson High Chorus members who made the Henderson County All-County Honors Chorus: Allyce Alexander, Audrey Arilotta, Emma Barber, Huffman Galligan, Ella Horton, Anna Garner, Seth Harrelson, Lydia Lachance, Luke Atkins, Sophia Kurle, Emily King, Jada Howell, Shae Jones, Preston George.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

Per School Board Policy 2200: Election of Officers/Organization of Board; adopted on March 12, 2018, an election will be conducted each December for the Board Chair and Vice-Chair positions. Superintendent Mark Garrett turned the meeting over to Attorney Chris Campbell for the elections of officers. Mr. Campbell asked for the position of Chairperson. Mr. Jay Egolf nominated Mr. Blair Craven for Chairperson, Mrs. Stacey Caskey seconded. Mr. Craven accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Mr. Campbell asked those in favor of Mr. Blair Craven for Chairperson to say, aye. The vote was unanimously in favor of Mr. Craven. Mr. Campbell announces that Mr. Blair Craven was elected as Chairman of the Henderson County Board of Education. Mr. Campbell opened the floor to nominations for Vice Chairperson. Mr. Blair Craven nominated Mr. Jay Egolf, Mr. Robert Bridges seconded. Mr. Jay Egolf accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations for Vice Chairperson. Mr. Campbell asked all those in favor of Mr. Jay Egolf for the Vice Chairperson position to say, aye. The Board members voted unanimously for Mr. Jay Egolf for Vice Chairperson position. Mr. Campbell gave the floor to Chairperson Mr. Blair Craven.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Blair Craven 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 Mr. Robert Bridges.*(Unanimously approved.)*

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT- Holiday Music performed by East Henderson High School Acapella Ensemble
Mr. Blair Craven introduced the East Henderson High School Acapella Ensemble group who is under the direction of Ms. Christine Cullen, Choral Director. The acapella ensemble performed a variety of holiday songs. Ms. Cullen introduced the students who performed, and she thanked the board for the opportunity.

EQUITY UPDATE

Dr. Shannon Marlowe updated the Board on the various ways HCPS is working to remove barriers for students. Last year, with the help of ESSER funds, the Arts Education Program has been able to remove barriers for students who want to participate in extracurricular activities. During the 2021-2022 school year, Arts Fairs were held, which included performances and presentations to elementary school students from the middle school and high school arts program including band, stings and theater. During the band visits, elementary school students were given the opportunity to use mouthpiece kits to find which instrument they would be interested in playing. The Arts Fairs have continued in the 2022-2023 school year. In 2022, instruments were purchased for each middle school sixth grade band and orchestra students to play at no cost to the students. All instruments have been received by the schools. The total cost of purchasing instruments was \$154,441. Each middle school band

received 10 flutes, 20 clarinets, 5 saxophones, 12, trumpets, 7 trombones. Each middle school orchestra received 20 violins, 9 violas, 9 cellos, and 2 basses. The enrollment numbers for middle school arts programs have increased since the 2021-2022 school year. Chorus increased by 67 students, Orchestra increased by 100 students, and Band increased by 33 students this school year. Dr. Marlowe noted sustainability for the program is important. The yearly instrument refurbishment and basic repairs and parts replacement for the band totals \$27,500 and \$20,500 for orchestra. Dr. Marlowe stated that if students want to continue with band or orchestra after the sixth grade, there are options to rent the instruments. Mr. Craven stated the board has approved \$80,000 a year to purchase instruments, he questioned if this money could be used for the repair costs. Mr. Sochia stated that the funds were placed in the capital budget for purchasing instruments, the repairs would be an operational expense. Mr. Craven discussed the reasoning behind starting this program and the opportunity it gives students to participate in band and strings programs without placing a financial hardship on parents. The Board expressed how pleased they are with the growth of the Arts programs. Mr. Egolf asked where the funds for repairs would come from. Mr. Craven stated the funds would come from the local current expense budget. Mr. Craven stated the Board would discuss the repair costs during the budget meeting. Mr. Garrett discussed the importance of maintaining the instruments and is confident about budgeting for the repairs.

BOARD CHAIR OBSERVATIONS

Mr. Blair Craven has no observations at this time.

BOARD MEMBERS' OBSERVATION

Dr. Kathy Revis discussed the outstanding performances with the Athletics programs and Arts programs. Dr. Revis also recognized the staff members, teachers, coaches and arts teachers for the time and dedication they put into the programs along with the support from families and community members. Mrs. Stacey Caskey expressed how she enjoyed the performance from the East Henderson High School acapella group. Mrs. Caskey also discussed how important the Arts and Athletics program is to the students.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Katy Gash thanked the Board for their work and dedication to the school system. Mrs. Gash spoke about the need for mandatory professional development for all teachers in the areas of equity, implicit bias and culturally relevant pedagogy. Mrs. Gash stated that every child deserves an equitable education, regardless of race, religion, economic background, gender or disability. Mrs. Gash asked for the district to provide quality district-wide training in the areas of implicit bias and equitable educational practices.

Mr. Chris Walters congratulated the newly elected school board members. Mr. Walters spoke about religious freedom. Mr. Walters stated that there should be more open expression of the Christian religion within the schools. Mr. Walters doesn't believe religious freedom is threatened publicly in Henderson County.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Blair Craven 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, January 9, 2023 4:00 p.m., (Boardroom)*
(Closed Session at 3:00 pm) (1-A)]

B. Minutes

1. November 14, 2022 (*Regular Business Meeting*)

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

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

Mr. Jay Egolf moved that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. Mrs. Stacey Caskey seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved.*)

OLD BUSINESS

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

Mr. Garrett presented the Board with updated information for approval regarding the final plan for the five schools that have been designated as low performing schools. Low Performing Schools in North Carolina are defined by the NC General Assembly and are based on the School Performance Grade and EVAAS growth. “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)). One of the requirements of the law is the development of a school or district plan for improvement that specifically addresses the strategies the school or district will implement to improve both the School Performance Grade and School Growth designation. These final plans are shared with the public, including parents, guardians, and staff and are made available through the local district website and the NCDPI website. All plans are located in NCStar for the following schools designated as low performing schools; Apple Valley Middle School, Clear Creek Elementary School, Edneyville Elementary School, Sugarloaf Elementary School and Upward Elementary School. Summary of Requirements for low performing schools:

- Recommendation to retain the principals - Board approved at the November meeting
- Plan for Improvement - plans are in NCStar and available for public review at any time
- Parental Notice of Low Performing School Status - letters sent in November
- Share the Plan for Improvement with School Stakeholders - posted on district and school websites with no feedback received
- Approve Final Plan - requesting this action today
- Submit Approved Plan to DPI - within 5 days of Board approval

Mrs. Stacey Caskey made a motion to approve the final Improvement Plans for the schools designated as low performing; Apple Valley Middle School, Clear Creek Elementary School, Edneyville Elementary School, Sugarloaf Elementary School and Upward Elementary School. Dr. Kathy Revis seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved)*

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval – 2023-2024 Traditional School and Early College Calendar – *(First Reading) (Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer)*

Mr. Carl Taylor presented the proposed 2023-2024 Traditional School calendar that aligns with Blue Ridge Community College calendar. The first student day would be August 14, 2023 for traditional schools. Mr. Taylor noted the calendar does encompass the required 1025 instructional hours and 215 student days required, in addition to teacher workdays, annual leave and holidays. Mr. Taylor stated that with having the start date of August 14th, it will allow the first semester to conclude in December and exams to be taken before winter break. Second semester would begin in January along with the beginning of new classes at Blue Ridge Community College. Spring break is the last week in March and aligns with Blue Ridge Community College spring break. The last student day is May 24, 2024.

Mr. Blair Craven requested to vote on the Traditional School and Early College Calendars separately due to the Traditional calendar not being in compliance with the state calendar law. Mr. Jay Egolf brought up the discussion around election day being a student day. Mr. Mark Garrett addressed the issue with the County for their review with the possibility of moving polling sites from the schools to nearby locations. Mr. Garrett is awaiting feedback from Mr. John Mitchell, County Manager.

Mr. Blair Craven moved the Henderson County Board of Public Education to approve the 2023-2024 Early College College Calendar for first reading. Mr. Robert Bridges seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved)*

Mr. Blair Craven discussed the Traditional Calendar with a start date of August 14th instead of the August 28th start date that is mandated by law. Mrs. Caskey discussed the benefits of changing the start date for the students that have the option to graduate early. Dr. Kathy Revis agrees with the benefits of changing the date would have on students but does not agree with breaking the law. Mr. Blair Craven stated out of 115 school systems, 60 respondents were surveyed regarding the August 14th start date and 12 respondents stated they are going to move forward with the earlier start date calendar. Mrs. Shelia Dale questioned the repercussions for breaking the calendar law. Mr. Garrett stated that the State Superintendent has advocated for local school board control over the school calendar. Attorney Chris Campbell discussed the repercussions of breaking the calendar law, stating that several school districts did proceed with an earlier start date last school year and there were no repercussions or action taken against those school boards. Attorney Campbell stated that an injunction is a possibility to force public officials to take action, Board member consequence in the state of North Carolina the criminal statute, failure to fulfill the duties of your office, takes a determination by the district attorney that there was criminal activity which would result in removal from office. Attorney Chris Campbell stated there are no repercussions in the general statutes, state board policy manual, and no action was brought against the districts last year that began the school year earlier. Attorney Chris Campbell stated according to board policy, Board members must vote on action items unless there is a conflict of interest and the conflict of interest must be stated for the record.

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the 2023-2024 Traditional Calendar for first reading. Mr. Robert Bridges seconded the motion. Roll Call vote: Dale, no; Revis, no; Caskey, yes; Egolf, yes; Bridges, yes; Norman, no; Craven, yes. *(Passes 4 to 3)*

B. Approval – 2023-2024 Flex Calendar – *(First Reading) (Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer)*
Mr. Carl Taylor presented the proposed 2023-2024 Flex School calendar with a start date of July 13, 2023. The Flex calendar follows the calendar law definition of a year-round school. School is in session for 43 to 47 days and out for 14 to 18 days which meets the requirements. The district professional development days and Spring break align with the Traditional and Early College calendars. The last student day is May 30, 2024. Mr. Carl Taylor stated the last student day is different for Flex schools due to the 43 students days required for each quarter. Mr. Blair Craven asked that the Leadership team take the proposed Flex calendar back to the Flex schools to have principals and teachers review it. He would like to see the last student day align with the Traditional calendar.

Mr. Jay Egolf moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the 2023-2024 Flex Calendar for first reading. Dr. Kathy Revis seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved)*

C. Approval – Contract – *(Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer)*
Mr. Bernie Sochia stated that 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. Contract with Haynes Technologies to replace intercom systems at East Henderson High School, Dana Elementary School and Hendersonville Elementary School requires approval of execution. Purchase from McGraw Hill; math intervention kits, for the EC program to continue to provide services for those students requires approval of execution.

Mrs. Stacey Caskey moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the attached purchase and contract for execution. Dr. Kathy Revis seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved)*

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. CAPITAL UPDATE– *(Mr. Carl Talor, Chief Administrative Officer)*
Mr. Carl Taylor presented the Board with a capital update beginning with the Integrated Planning for School and Community Update. Institute for Transportation Research and Education (ITRE-NCSU) company will conduct an updated population study of Henderson County beginning Spring of 2023. The population study is broken down into four phases, once the study is complete, ITRE-NCSU will present the information to the Board in June. Mr. Carl Taylor presented an update on HCPS projects: Glenn Marlow school zone lights are being installed with an estimated completion date of January 2023; North Henderson Baseball and Softball lights,

materials are being acquired with an estimated completion date of February 2023; Elementary playgrounds are in the preliminary design phase with an estimated completion date of August 2023. Mr. Carl Taylor discussed the following projects being funded with MRTS (Maintenance, Repair, Technology and Safety) funds that have been approved: Upward Elementary Cafeteria Renovation and Secure Entry \$2,072,584 ;West Henderson Renovation and Addition \$5,000,000; Elementary Schools Security Camera Systems \$700,000; Technology Chromebooks \$300,000; Various Paving \$165,000. The Board discussed the rising cost of building materials and budgeting funds for the projects that are needed at schools once the population study is complete.

B. 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 November 30, 2022: Results of operations of the Local Current Expense and Other Restricted Funds for the 2022-23 fiscal year as of November 30, 2022: Combined revenues total \$16,187,291, which is up \$404,591 from last year. Expenditures total \$14,584,676. This is up \$1,494,638 from last year. Employees received \$3.1 million with the first half of the local supplement being paid in November. Total cost with benefits was \$4 million.

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

Mr. Garrett shared the following information with the Board:

December 19-30: Winter Break for All Staff and Students

- Flex Calendar Schools began Winter Break today

January 2: Optional Teacher Workday for Early College and Traditional Calendars

January 2: Flex calendar students return to school

January 3: Required Teacher Workday for Early College; Traditional calendar students return to school

January 4: HCBPE School Tours, 10:00 a.m. at Etowah Elementary School, Rugby Middle School, and North Henderson High School

January 9: HCBPE Regular Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Central Office Boardroom

We want to wish every HCPS student, family, staff member, and our entire community a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year! May this holiday season be the best one yet.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mrs. Shelia Dale moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Alyssa Norman *(Unanimously approved at 6:10pm.)*

Minutes approved: January 9, 2023