

# Henderson County Board of Public Education

## MINUTES

January 9, 2023

The Henderson County Board of Public Education held a meeting on Monday, January 9, 2023, 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; Jay Egolf, Vice Chairperson; Robert Bridges; Stacey Caskey; Shelia Dale; 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: Cynthia Lopez

Board Clerk: Tawana Clayton

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Mr. Blair Craven called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. Mr. Craven requested everyone present to stand as the West Henderson High School Army JROTC presented the colors. Mr. Craven led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

### 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. Jay Egolf. *(Unanimously approved.)*

### STAFF RECOGNITION

Ms. Joni Allison, Principal of Hendersonville Middle School, recognized two staff members:

Anne Boyette, AIG Specialist at Hendersonville Middle School, was selected by The U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board to receive a Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms Program award. Each year, the TGC program selects 45-50 teachers from across the U.S. to develop their leadership and professional skills, ensuring that their students are knowledgeable about the world and prepared for careers in an increasingly competitive global economy. After completing a graduate-level online course, creating a global learning teaching unit and developing a public capstone project, Mrs. Boyette traveled to Finland in November for her International Field Experience. As one of the first fifteen TGC teachers hosted by Finland, she spent two weeks visiting schools, presenting at a university conference, and sharing best educational practices with university faculty, teachers and students in Helsinki, Vantaa (VAHN-tah), and Joensuu (yo-IN-sue) as well as within her cohort.

Courtney Najdek, eighth grade social studies teacher at Hendersonville Middle School was named one of 25 2022-23 Kenan Fellows for Teacher Leadership. The Kenan Fellows Program for Teacher Leadership at NC State empowers K-12 educators through summer internships with industry, high-value professional development and membership into a prestigious network of teacher leaders. Sponsored by Meta, Ms. Najdek interned at Asheville GreenWorks and throughout the year has attended multiple professional development sessions on leadership. For her Kenan Fellowship, she is creating a guide for Asheville Greenworks and other non-profit organizations on how to implement inclusive practices for working with individuals with disabilities.

### STUDENT RECOGNITION

Principals at Hendersonville Elementary, Bruce Drysdale Elementary, Rugby Middle School, East Henderson High School and Hendersonville High School recognized the following student recognitions. HCPS represented 7

out of 9 winners for the Thomas Wolfe Memorial “ Telling Our Tales” writing competition. Nayelli Hoelscher (1st place for Elementary), Hendersonville Elementary; Ella Charlotte Oblinsky (2nd place for Elementary), Bruce Drysdale Elementary School; River Ruiz (3rd place for Elementary), Hendersonville Elementary; Lillie Thompson (2nd place for Middle), Rugby Middle School; Samuel Steed (3rd place for Middle), Rugby Middle School; Cheyenne Sherman (1st place for High), East Henderson High School; Lola Houston (3rd place for High), Hendersonville High School.

Superintendent Mark Garrett recognized Christopher Hernandez-Montero for being a Grand Prize Winner of the 2022 Optimum and TelevisaUnivision Hispanic Heritage Month Essay Contest. Christopher received a \$3,000 cash scholarship for writing an essay about a person (or group) of Hispanic heritage who have kept their community connected to one another, to their culture or to those outside their community. This is a National Contest where Christopher competed against students from all over the country.

#### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT- Opportunities to Grow Students Beyond the Classroom

Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, Dr. Shannon Marlowe presented the board details on the importance of writing with the help of Mandy Gibson, Executive Director of Historic Johnson Farm. Dr. Shannon Marlowe explained that writing is a high yield strategy that impacts education and learning. January 17, 2023, teachers will attend professional development with an emphasis on writing. Dr. Shannon Marlowe stated giving students an experience to write about is where field trips to Historic Johnson Farm helps to give students an experience. Mrs. Mandy Gibson discussed along with learning the history, writing opportunities are available at Historic Johnson Farm. When a teacher books a field trip with the farm, they are sent a teacher packet that includes a cursive practice packet, history on the first lessons in penmanship, primary source introductions, suggestions for a writing activity as a follow-up after the field trip, archive room at the farmhouse for student research. While visiting the farm, students are able to view documents written in cursive to read and practice writing in cursive. Mrs. Gibson stated once students return back to school teachers provide time to write a “Thank you” letter with details about their trip to Johnson Farm. Mrs. Gibson shared her published children's book that she wrote, titled Winston The Farm Dog, A History of Historic Johnson Farm. The book was illustrated by Sarah Gaitskill, a Senior at East Henderson High School. Each elementary school library will receive a copy of the book. Mrs. Gibson discussed the middle school volunteer program and intern program at the farm, volunteers attend events at the farm, help with the animals, and help with tours. Along with field trips, Historic Johnson Farm hosts numerous public events markets, craft shows and fairs, and day camps for students. The farm has 45 volunteers and several donors. Mr. Jay Egolf thanked Mrs. Gibson for working on cursive writing with students.

#### BOARD CHAIR OBSERVATIONS

Mr. Blair Craven has no observations at this time.

#### BOARD MEMBERS’ OBSERVATION

Mrs. Stacey Caskey stated how impressed she was with the writing skills shown at Etowah Elementary during her recent school tour.

Dr. Kathy Revis stated that she learned a lot about the Leader in Me program while visiting North Henderson High. Dr. Revis was impressed that North Henderson High is one of two high schools in the nation to be a Leader in Me Lighthouse School.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Sophia Croese spoke about Christopher Columbus Day and that she would like for this day to be called Indigenous People’s Day. Ms. Croese stated that she did not agree with celebrating Columbus Day due to the injustice of a minority group that suffered.

Mr. Chris Walters spoke about religious liberty, specifically the separation of church and state. Mr. Walters

shared the history of the Bible and Christian religion.

Ms. Mary Ellen Kustin spoke to the Board about how wonderful the dual language classes at Bruce Drysdale Elementary are. Ms. Kustin stated the benefits of the dual language program and expressed her appreciation for the teachers and staff that facilitate the program and how popular it is at Bruce Drysdale Elementary. Ms. Kustin stated the dual language program is in high demand and would like to see the program expanded throughout the community.

Mr. Tae Brown congratulated the newly elected Board members. Mr. Brown spoke about the procedures that are in place to make a public comment at the Board meeting. Mr. Brown asked the Board to allow for public comments without filling out the public comment sign-up sheet. Mr. Brown asked that the Board incorporate more student public opinions to the 2045 Comprehensive plan with the County Commissioners.

Mr. Joe Elliott spoke to the Board about building more transparency into the meeting process. Mr. Elliott asked for the Board to report on issues that come up for resolution. He shared his support for Katie Gash and her request for more inclusive training and would like to see training for teachers, administrators and support staff. Mr. Elliott spoke about the calendar and suggested reaching out to legislators.

#### 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, February 13, 2023 4:00 p.m., (Boardroom)*  
*(Closed Session at 3:00 pm) (1-A)*]
- B. Minutes
  - 1. December 12, 2023(*Regular Business Meeting*)
- C. Personnel (*as presented in closed session*)
- D. Student Acceptances/Releases (*as presented in closed session*)
- E. Budget Amendment
- F. Resolution-African-American History Month

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

#### OLD BUSINESS

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

Mr. Carl Taylor shared the proposed draft of the 2023-2024 Early College Calendar for second reading. The first student day is August 14, 2023, first semester ends December 19, 2023. The second semester begins January 3, 2024, Spring break is March 25-29, 2024 and aligns with Blue Ridge Community College. The final student day is May 24, 2024.

Mrs. Stacey Caskey moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the 2023 – 2024 Early College Calendar for second reading. Mr. Jay Egolf seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved*)

- B. Approval – (2023-2024) Flexible Schedule Calendar – (*Second Reading*) (*Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer*)

Mr. Carl Taylor shared the proposed draft of the 2023-2024 Flexible Schedule Calendar for second reading. The flexible schedule calendar is built with 43-47 student days in each quarter. Each intercession has to be 14-17 days. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Garrett met with the staff at the two schools that will follow this calendar, Hendersonville Elementary and Bruce Drysdale Elementary, to receive feedback regarding this calendar going past Memorial Day with the last student day being May 30, 2024. Mr. Taylor stated that the feedback received

from each school was to keep the calendar going past Memorial Day and have the last student be May 31, 2024 moving the teacher workday to April 1, 2024. Mr. Taylor stated that the staff at each school preferred to have the last student day falling after Memorial Day in order to have Spring break align with the Traditional and Early College calendars. Mr. Blair Craven discussed the hardship on parents to find childcare for the April 1st teacher workday after the students have been out of school for intercession and Spring break. After Board discussion, the Board directed Superintendent Mark Garrett to develop a calendar committee moving forward.

Mr. Blair Craven made a motion to approve the previous calendar presented in December for first reading with April 1, 2023 being a student day, the last student day being May 30, 2024 and the required teacher workday remaining on May 31, 2024 for second reading. Mr. Jay Egolf seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved)*

C. Approval – (2023-2024) Traditional Schedule Calendar – *(Second Reading) (Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer)*

Mr. Carl Taylor shared the early start date proposed draft of the 2023-2024 Traditional Schedule Calendar for second reading. The first student day is August 14, 2023, first semester ends December 19, 2023. The second semester begins January 3, 2024, Spring break is March 25-29, 2024 and aligns with Blue Ridge Community College. The last student day is May 24, 2024. During Board discussion, Mr. Jay Egolf addressed the comments that have been made regarding breaking the calendar law, he gave examples of laws that have been established and broken. Mrs. Alyssa Norman stated breaking the calendar law isn't an appropriate decision and more work could be done through the appropriate channels.

Mr. Robert Bridges moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the 2023-2024 Traditional Calendar for second reading. Mr. Jay Egolf seconded the motion. Roll Call vote: Mrs. Alyssa Norman-No; Mr. Robert Bridges-Yes; Mr. Jay Egolf-Yes; Mrs. Stacey Caskey-Yes; Dr. Kathy Revis-No; Mrs. Shelia Dale-No; Mr. Blair Craven-Yes. *(Passes 4 to 3)*

## NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval – North Carolina Lottery Application – *(Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer)*

Mr. Bernie Sochia presented the Public School Building Capital Fund/North Carolina Education Lottery Application to request funds currently available (\$167,827.39) to pay debt service on the 2008 Installment Financing Contract debt issue for the Hillandale and Mills River Elementary School construction projects. All funds received from the N. C. Education Lottery funds are currently being used for debt service on these school building projects.

Dr. Kathy Revis moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the Public School Building Capital Fund/North Carolina Education Lottery Application. Mr. Jay Egolf seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved)*

## BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. CALENDAR FOR 2022-2023 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PER BOARD POLICY: 8100, BUDGET PLANNING AND ADOPTION– *(Mr. Mark Garrett, Superintendent)*

Superintendent Mark Garrett provided the Board with the following dates for the 2023-2024 budget overview process. January 18, 2023 will be the Board of Commissioners Budget Workshop Presentation. April 12, 2023 at 9:00 am will be the Board of Education Budget Workshop. April 19, 2023 at 9:00 am will be an additional date for the Board of Education Budget Workshop if needed. May 8, 2023 will be the Board of Education Budget Approval during the regular scheduled Board of Education meeting. May 15, 2023 will be the Board of Education transmittal to the Board of Commissioners.

B. CAPITAL UPDATE – *(Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer)*

Mr. Carl Taylor presented the Board with status updates on the capital projects currently underway or planned in the near future. Mr. Taylor discussed the projects that are Board approved and funded through the capital budget. Atkinson Elementary had the generator switchgear replaced due to the switch having to be manually turned on in order to use the generator. School zone lights have been installed at Glenn Marlow Elementary, Duke Energy is

expected to install meters into the flashing lights and the DOT will program the lights by the end of the week. North Henderson High School baseball and softball light update from Camp Electric is as follows, building of the platforms have begun, the poles will be delivered this week and a date will be set for the installation work to begin. Mr. Carl Taylor updated the Board on projects that are funded with the approved MTRS County funds. The renovation project at West Henderson High School includes an addition to the office space to provide a front entrance to the school and securing the campus while students move from each building. A preliminary design discussion with LS3P was held on December 16, 2022 with the County Commissioners, Mr. Mark Garrett, Mr. Martin Ballard and Mr. Carl Taylor. On January 4, 2023 a meeting was held at West Henderson High School with contractors for a pre-proposal meeting, the contractor proposal documents are due to the County by January 11, 2023. Mr. Taylor will update the Board next month on this project. Mr. Carl Taylor stated he is still awaiting on the architect negotiations to be completed regarding the Upward Elementary renovations, which is held between the County and the architect. After negotiations are complete, they will be presented to the Commissioners. Mr. Blair Craven expressed his frustrations regarding the length of time it is taking the County to move forward on the Upward Elementary renovations. Mr. Blair Craven stated that he would like for the approved projects that are funded with allocated MTRS funds be handled through the school district. Dr. Kathy Revis suggested talking with the Joint Facilities Committee to discuss allowing MTRS funded projects to be budgeted and overseen by the school district. Mr. Blair Craven requested to schedule a Joint Facilities Committee meeting within the near future.

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

Mr. Bernie Sochia presented the Financial Statements. The Results of operations of the Local Current Expense and Other Restricted Funds for the 2022-23 fiscal year as of December 31, 2022: Revenues received total \$19,495,050 and expenditures made total \$17,081,835. This is halfway through the fiscal year, and expenditures are at 49% of the current budget. The Results of operations of the Capital Outlay Fund as of December 31, 2022: Revenues received total \$1,045,576 and expenditures made total \$829,659. The projects essentially completed in this total are the ADA seating at East, auditorium sound and lighting at East and West, awning replacement at Upward, and the awning repair at Dana. Also, 63% of the instrument and classroom furniture replacement budget has been paid or encumbered.

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

Superintendent Mark Garrett shared the following dates and information with the Board. Winter Weather Procedures; January is School Board Appreciation Month; January 12: Superintendent Teacher Advisory Council, Central Office, 3:30 p.m.; January 16: Martin Luther King Day Holiday (Optional Teacher Workday for all calendars); January 17: Required Teacher Workday for Traditional Calendar; January 19: Superintendent Parent Advisory Council, Central Office, 5:30 p.m.; February: Black History Month and Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month; February 6-10: School Counselors Week; February 8: HCBPE School Tours, 10:00 a.m. at Hendersonville Middle School, East Henderson High School, and Dana Elementary; February 13: HCBPE Regular Meeting, 4:00 p.m, Boardroom; Closed Session 3:00 p.m. Conference Room 1A.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Dr. Kathy Revis moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Mr. Jay Egolf. *(Unanimously approved at 5:51pm.)*

Minutes approved: February 13, 2023