

Henderson County Board of Public Education

MINUTES

August 14, 2023

The Henderson County Board of Public Education held a meeting on Monday, August 14, 2023, 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:

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: Chris Campbell

Board Clerk: Tawana Clayton

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Mr. Blair Craven called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. 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 the agenda as presented. Dr. Kathy Revis moved that the agenda be approved as presented. Mr. Robert Bridges seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT – Beginning of the Year Professional Development for HCPS Teachers – *(Dr. Shannon Marlowe, Assistant Superintendent)*

Dr. Shannon Marlowe, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services presented to the board information about the professional development that took place over the last two weeks. New teachers were welcomed to HCPS with a breakfast and orientation held at Highland Lake Inn & Resort, sponsored by the Henderson County Chamber of Commerce, Advent Health, Stuller Power Solutions, and Optimum this year. Beginning teachers participated in a professional development led by Amie Dean “The Behavior Queen” which focused on classroom management. Dr. Marlowe discussed the District Professional Development days which included emphasis on curriculum planning, literacy, and building teacher capacity. State required professional development for K-12 staff included; Mental Health Child Abuse & Human Trafficking training, Concussion Protocol training, Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Prevention, Diabetes Awareness, Title IX Compliance Overview, Internet Safety, School Safety- Say Something (Middle & High), Accountability training for testing. Along with the required training, teachers were given over 50 choices of professional developments they could attend. Dr. Marlowe expressed her gratitude to Apple Valley Middle School and North Henderson High School for hosting the professional development sessions. No Board action was taken.

BOARD CHAIR OBSERVATIONS

Chairman Blair Craven welcomed back Early College and traditional staff and students for the first day of school.

BOARD MEMBERS’ OBSERVATION

Mrs. Shelia Dale stated she was happy that school was back in session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

At 4:13 p.m. Mr. Craven opened the meeting for public comment. Three people addressed the Board. Public comments ended at 4:24 p.m. No Board action was taken.

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, September 11, 2023, 4:00 p.m., (Boardroom)*]
- B. Minutes
 - 1. June 12, 2023 (*Regular Business Meeting*)
 - 2. June 29, 2023 (*Special Called Meeting, End of Year Matters*)
- C. Personnel (*as presented in closed session*)
- D. Student Acceptances/Releases (*as presented in closed session*)
- E. 2023 Spring Policy Updates with Minor Changes
 - 1. Policy 4130 – Discretionary Admission
 - 2. Policy 4155 – Assignment to Classes
 - 3. Policy 5028/6130/7267 – Automated External Defibrillator
 - 4. Policy 6410 – Organization of the Purchasing Function
 - 5. Policy 7340 – Employee Dress and Appearance
 - 6. Policy 7650 – Employee Travel and Other Expense Reimbursement

Mr. Robert Bridges moved that the Consent Agenda be approved. Mrs. Stacey Caskey seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved.*)

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approval – 2023 Spring Policy Updates – (*Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer*)
Mr. Carl Taylor presented the Board with the following 2023 Spring Policy updates for Board consideration:

- 1. Approval – Policy 1610/7800 – Professional and Staff Development
- 2. Approval – Policy 3101 – Dual Enrollment
- 3. Approval – Policy 4023/7233 – Pregnant and Parenting Students and Employees
- 4. Approval – Policy 4310 – Integrity and Civility
- 5. Approval – Policy 5008 – Automated Phone and Text Messaging
- 6. Approval – Policy 5040 – News Media Relations
- 7. Approval – Policy 6315 – Drivers
- 8. Approval – Policy 6330 – Insurance for Student Transportation Services
- 9. Approval – Policy 6402 – Participation by Historically Underutilized Businesses
- 10. Approval – Policy 6430 – Purchasing Requirements for Equipment, Materials, and Supplies
- 11. Approval – Policy 7810 – Evaluation of Licensed Employees
- 12. Approval – Policy 7815 – Evaluation of Non-Licensed Employees

Board members presented questions to Mr. Taylor during his presentation. After Board discussion, Dr. Kathy Revis made a motion to approve the 2023 Spring policy updates as presented. Mr. Robert Bridges seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

B. Approval – Bus Driver Routes Bonus – *(Mr. Scott Rhodes, Assistant Superintendent)*

Mr. Scott Rhodes presented to the Board the Bus Driver Routes Bonus for approval. Mr. Rhodes proposed to continue the bus driver incentive bonus pay plan approved last year by the Board of Education in a continued effort to address the current bus driver workforce shortage. The monthly trip bonuses are as followed: 10-19 Trips = \$75; 20-29 Trips = \$150; 30+ Trips = \$300. Mr. Rhodes suggested offering the incentive bonus pay from available ESSER funds tied to the frequency of service. Mr. Rhodes stated upon approval of the incentive bonus plan, HCPS will implement a direct and targeted marketing campaign to promote and communicate the incentive bonus pay opportunities. Mrs. Alyssa Norman made a motion that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the Bus Driver Recruitment and Incentive Plan, as presented. Mrs. Stacey seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

C. Approval – NC Education Lottery Application – *(Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer)*

Mr. Bernie Sochia presented to the Board the NC Education Lottery application. Mr. Sochia stated the attached Public School Building Capital Fund/N.C. Education Lottery Application is to request funds currently available (\$401,988.11) 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. The current year principal and interest for this bond is \$1,934,102 and goes into FY26. Mrs. Stacey Caskey made a motion that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the North Carolina Education Lottery Application as presented. Dr. Kathy Revis seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

D. Community Eligibility Provision Program – *(Mr. Robert Rolfe, Director of Child Nutrition/ Mr. Scott Rhodes, Assistant Superintendent)*

Robert Rolfe, Director of Child Nutrition presented to the board information about the Community Eligibility Provision. This was developed as a means for severe need schools or districts to offer meals at no cost to all students. Qualification to offer CEP is based on the Identified Student Percentage (ISP) of a school district. ISP is composed of Directly Certified students either through food assistance programs or Medicaid. Homeless, Migrant and Runaway students are also in this category. 40% is the minimum to qualify for CEP. There is a “Multiplier” added when making the computation to determine what the reimbursement % will be. That multiplier is 1.6. A district that has an ISP of 40% x 1.6 would get 64% of meals reimbursed at the free rate (Currently \$4.35) and 36% at the full paid rate (\$.50). This would realize a loss of \$3.85 per meal for those meals determined full pay. The higher a district’s ISP determines the financial viability of this program. At 60% a district would receive 96% of their meals reimbursed at the free rate. As the ISP drops below 60, district’s need to be willing to absorb a loss of federal reimbursement dollars. Mr. Rolfe discussed other districts Identified Student Percentage (ISP)

- Buncombe County Schools 62.04%
- Asheville City Schools 43.59%
- Burke County Schools 56.66%
- Polk County Schools 50.30%
- Transylvania County Schools 50.96%
- Haywood County Schools 50.10%
- McDowell County Schools 57.44%
- Henderson County Schools 42.89%

Requalification can happen every year if the ISP increases. After Board discussion, Mr. Craven made a motion to split the difference between the School Board's general fund balance and the Child Nutrition

fund balance to provide free breakfast and lunch for all HCPS students. Mrs. Stacey Caskey seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved)*

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

Chief Administrative Officer Carl Taylor provided the board with status updates on the construction and facility projects currently underway or planned in the near future:

- HCPS Projects:
 - ADA Accessibility (Sidewalks/Greenhouses)- In Progress
 - East Henderson, North Henderson, West Henderson
 - Perimeter Fence-In Progress
 - East Henderson
 - Fire Panel Upgrades- Completed
 - Clear Creek, Etowah, Flat Rock, Hendersonville Elem.
 - Intercom Replacement & VoIP Installation- Completed
 - Dana, East Henderson, Hendersonville Elementary
 - Main Sewer Line Replacement- Completed
 - East Henderson
 - X-Building Sewer Line Repair- Completed
 - West Henderson
- 2022-2023 MRTS:
 - Security Cameras at the Elementary Students
 - Continuing Installation (10 of 13 Schools Completed)
 - Upward Elementary Cafeteria Renovation and Secure Entry
 - Schematic Design and Design Development- Phase Completed
 - Pre-Construction Deliverables- Next Phase

Mr. Taylor answered questions from the Board. No Board action was taken.

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

Mr. Bernie Sochia presented the financial statements to the Board. Results of operations of the Local Current Expense and Other Restricted Funds for the 2022-23 fiscal year as of June 30, 2023: Revenues received totaled \$24,509,699 expenditures made totaled \$33,851,056. Receivables and payables are yet to be posted. Expenditures increased \$3,332,307 over the prior fiscal year and come in at 96% of budgeted expenditures in the local current expense fund. At 100.1% of revenues received, this required \$41,546 of the re-appropriated fund balance so far. Results of operations of the Local Current Expense and Other Restricted Funds for the 2023-24 fiscal year as of July 31, 2023: Revenues received totaled \$3,385,892 expenditures made totaled \$2,552,191.

Results of operations of the Capital Outlay Fund for the 2022-23 fiscal year as of June 30, 2023: Revenues received for the year were \$63,364,331, and expenditures for the year totaled \$63,553,428. \$1,932,148 of this is for work on the regular Capital Outlay project list for FY23 and some carryover from FY22. The rest is the amount recorded for accounting purposes for Hendersonville High School. Additional amounts will be added to FY23 for completed MRTS projects when those figures are finalized by the county.

Results of operations of the Enterprise Fund for the 2022-23 fiscal year as of June 30, 2023:

a. Child Nutrition received \$8,755,896 in revenues and had \$9,151,463 in expenditures for the year. This was an adjustment year being the first since the middle of 2020 that the USDA was not providing full reimbursement for free breakfasts and lunches. Participation in meal sales brought in \$1.5 million more, but the USDA reimbursement went down \$2 million.

b. Child Care received \$2,050,849 in revenues and had \$1,662,089 in expenditures for the year. The NC Child Care Stabilization Grant receipts ended in spring 2023 and the funds will be spent by September 30. They have supplemented payroll, and will provide the funds for the playground upgrades. No Board action was taken.

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

Superintendent Garrett presented the following information to the Board.

Opening of the 2023-2024 School Year:

Flex Calendar - July 13

Traditional Calendar - August 14

Calendar of Events:

September: Attendance Awareness Month

September 6: HCBPE School Tours, 10:00 a.m. at North Henderson High,

Upward Elementary, Atkinson Elementary

September 6-7: Annual ‘Class of’ Kindergarten T-Shirt Distribution

September 11: HCBPE Regular Business Meeting, 4:00pm, Closed

Session, 3:00 p.m. Boardroom

September 15: National Hispanic Heritage Month begins

No Boardaction was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Dr. Kathy Revis moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Mrs. Stacey Caskey seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved at 5:48 pm.)*

Minutes approved: September 11, 2023