

Henderson County Board of Public Education

MINUTES

October 9, 2023

The Henderson County Board of Public Education held a meeting on Monday, October 9, 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; Robert Bridges; Stacey Caskey; Shelia Dale; Alyssa Norman; Kathy Revis

Board Members Absent: Jay Egolf, Vice Chairperson

Administrative Staff Present: Mark R. Garrett, Superintendent; Scott Rhodes, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer

Administrative Staff Absent: Shannon Marlowe, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Attorney Present: Chris Campbell

Board Clerk: Tawana Clayton

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Mr. Blair Craven called the meeting to order at 4:04 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 made a motion to amend the agenda to remove Item B: Parents' Bill of Rights Policy Updates for second reading under Old Business. Mrs. Stacey Caskey seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION – Sharing the Good News – *(Mr. Mark Garrett, Superintendent)*

Superintendent Mark R. Garrett and School Principals recognized and presented certificates to the following staff members:

- HCPS Teacher of the Year: Dylan King
- HCPS Beginning Teacher of the Year: Lauren Schneider
- HCPS Exceptional Children's "Educator of Excellence": Jennifer Langdon
- HCPS CTE Teacher of the Year: Christine Coren
- HCPS Outstanding Secondary Mathematics Teacher of the Year: Maggie McDade
- HCPS Media Coordinator of the Year: Carrie Cheek
- HCPS School Nurse of the Year: Rebekah Barker
- HCPS Principal of the Year: Dr. John McDaris

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT – Hope Coalition Vape Presentation – *(Dr. Michelle Geiser)*

Dr. Michelle Geiser with Hope Coalition presented information about vapes to the Board. Dr. Geiser stated 9 out of 10 people with Substance Use Disorders (SUD) started using before the age of 18, statistics show that 30-34% of high school students use nicotine vapes, 28% alcohol use and 20% cannabis use. Hendersonville has more than 15 tobacco retail stores and over 17 gas stations sell tobacco products. More than 3 million youth reported e-cigarette use in 2022 and one third of high school e-cigarette users report using their vape for recreational marijuana. Other vaping substances include opioids, methamphetamine, GHB, ketamine, THC. Dr. Geiser discussed steps schools can take to prevent and reduce teen vaping which included, starting tobacco education classes, implementing an anonymous system to report vaping on campus and provide access to smoking/vaping

cessation programs. According to the CDC: Most young people who vape want to quit. Suspending students who violate a school's tobacco-free policy is unlikely to help them quit tobacco use, and could alter their academic and future goals. Dr. Geiser also encouraged creating safe, positive, supportive environments in schools. No action was taken.

BOARD CHAIR OBSERVATIONS

Chairperson Blair Craven did not have any observations at this time.

BOARD MEMBERS' OBSERVATION

Ms. Stacey Caskey spoke to how much she enjoyed the board visit to Sugarloaf Elementary School and the "sunshine" throughout the school.

Dr. Kathy Revis mentioned how much she loved the Flat Rock Middle School board tour, Mr. Brent Stepp, and the teachers.

Ms. Shelia Dale gave a shout out to Mr. Brent Stepp's energy at FRMS during the board tour.

Ms. Alyssa Norman also loved her visit to Sugarloaf Elementary and mentioned the two See You At The Pole events that she attended.

PUBLIC COMMENT

At 4:46 p.m. Mr. Craven opened the meeting for public comment. Seven people addressed the Board. Public comments ended at 5:06 p.m. No 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, November 13, 2023 4:00 p.m., (Boardroom)*]
- B. Minutes
 - 1. September 11, 2023 (*Regular Business Meeting*)
- C. Personnel (*as presented in closed session*)
- D. Student Acceptances/Releases (*as presented in closed session*)

Dr. Kathy Revis moved that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. Mr. Robert Bridges seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved.*)

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Discussion – Vape Detectors – (*Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer*)

Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer, presented follow-up information to the board about vapes in our schools. Mr. Taylor referenced Board Policy 4320, Smoking or Use of Tobacco or Tobacco Products- A student shall not be permitted to smoke, possess, or use tobacco or tobacco products on the school grounds or in any facility. Henderson County Public Schools and grounds are "tobacco free." Violation of this policy will result in the student being assigned ISS or suspended OSS depending on the mitigating circumstances. Along with Board Policy 4325, Drugs and Alcohol- No student shall possess, use, transmit or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, or other drug defined as a controlled substance, or alcohol, or drug paraphernalia while in any school building, on any school premises, at any school function or event before, during or after school hours, or during any period of time when the student is subject to the authority of school personnel. Any student who commits the above violation, shall be suspended (OSS) by the principal for 5-10 days. It may be recommended to the Superintendent that the student be removed to an alternative educational setting, or given a long-term suspension. Possession of any amount of an illegal drug is a

criminal offense in North Carolina. Mr. Taylor updated the Board with the number of vape related offenses during the 2022-2023 school year; 104 middle school students and 156 high school students. The current 2023-2024 school year has seen 5 middle school students and 15 high school students. Mr. Taylor discussed the new discipline codes in PowerSchool and the safe disposal program for the devices in middle and high schools. No action was taken.

B. Parents Bill of Rights Policy Updates – *(Second Reading) – (Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer)*

1. Approval – Policy 1310-4002 – Parental Involvement
2. Approval – Policy 3210 – Parental Inspection of and Objection to Instructional Materials
3. Approval – Policy 3540 – Comprehensive Health Education Program
4. Approval – Policy 4335 – Criminal Behavior
5. Approval – Policy 4720 – Surveys of Students
6. Approval – Policy 6120 – Student Health Services
7. Approval – Policy 7300 – Staff Responsibilities

This item has been removed from the agenda. The November 13, 2023 Board of Education meeting will hold a public comment designated to the Parents’ Bill of Rights Policies. No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

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

Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer, presented the Board with status updates with the construction and facilities projects currently underway or planned in the near future.

HCPS Funded Projects:

- Roof Replacement Maintenance Building- Completed
- Plumbing Repair West Henderson Locker Room- Completed
- HVAC Unit Replacement Bruce Drysdale Office- In Progress
- Replace Intercom & Classroom Phones Fletcher- In Progress
- Perimeter Fence East Henderson- In Progress
- Playground Upgrades Elementary- In Progress

MRTS Funded Projects:

- HVAC Replacement Atkinson- Engineering Phase
- Roof Replacement FRMS, NHHS, WHHS Bid Opening - October 11
- Gutter/Downspout Replacement EHHS and HMS Bid Opening - October 11
- Security Cameras All Elementary Schools 13 of 13 Schools- Completed
- Secure Entry & Cafeteria Expansion Upward Elementary Secure Entry - GMP Approved Cafeteria - Construction Documents Phase
- New Front Office & Building Connection West Henderson- Construction Documents Phase

No action taken.

B. LOW PERFORMING SCHOOLS REQUIREMENTS – *(Mr. Mark R. Garrett, Superintendent)*

Superintendent Mark Garrett presented the Board with low performing schools requirements. Low Performing Districts and 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.

Step 1

The superintendent shall proceed under G.S. 115C-105.39

Within 30 days of the initial identification the superintendent shall take one of the following actions:

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

Step 2

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.

Parent Notification G.S. 115C-105.37

Parental Notice of Low-performing School Status

Each school that the State Board identifies as low performing shall provide written notification to the parents and guardians of students attending that school within 30 days of the identification that includes the following information:

- 1) A statement that the State Board of Education has found that the school has earned a school performance grade of D or F and a school growth score of "met expected growth" or "not met expected growth" and has been identified as a low-performing school as defined by G.S. 115C-105.37. The statement shall include an explanation of the school performance grades and growth scores.
- 2) The school performance grade and growth score received.
- 3) Information about the preliminary plan developed under subsection (a1) of this section and the availability of the final plan on the local school administrative unit's website.
- 4) The meeting date for when the preliminary plan will be considered by the local board of education.
- 5) A description of any additional steps the school is taking to improve student performance.

Step 3

Within 30 days of its receipt of the preliminary plan, the local board shall vote to approve, modify, or reject this plan. Before the local board votes on the preliminary plan, it shall make the plan available to the public, including the personnel assigned to that school and the parents and guardians of the students who are assigned to the school, and shall allow for written comments.

Step 4

The local board shall submit a final plan to the State Board within five days of the local board's approval of the plan. The State Board shall review the plan expeditiously and, if appropriate, may offer recommendations to modify the plan.

Submitting the Plan

All Low Performing school plans will be submitted through NCStar access. The following resources should help the school improvement teams with completing the plan:

Register for NCStar training

Resource Documents in NCStar Weebly

Schools Designated as Low Performing:

- Apple Valley Middle School-D, Met
- Dana Elementary School- D, Not Met
- Edneyville Elementary School- D, Not Met

- Flat Rock Middle School-D, Met
- Hillandale Elementary School-D, Not Met
- Upward Elementary School- D, Met

The preliminary plan will be presented to the Board in November for approval. The finalized plan will be approved in December. No action taken.

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

Mr. Bernie Sochia presented the Board with the results of operations for the results of operations of the Local Current Expense and Other Restricted Funds for the 2023-24 fiscal year as of September 30, 2023: Revenues received totaled \$10,169,691 and expenditures made totaled \$7,395,016. The State budget bill, HB 259, became law as Session Law 2023-134 last week. NC DPI is working now to get us salary schedules and initial allotments so that we can establish our local budget lines. Results of operations of the Capital Outlay Fund for the 2023-24 fiscal year as of September 30, 2023: Revenues received for the first quarter totaled \$450,250. Expenditures made during the first quarter totaled \$626,791. This includes the \$350,000 to complete the property exchange with the City of Hendersonville. No action was taken.

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

Superintendent Mark Garrett presented the following important dates to the Board; October 9-13: National School Lunch Week; October 10: World Mental Health Day; October 16: Annual HCEF Golf Classic, Champion Hills; October 16: Optional Teacher Workday, No school for students on Traditional & Early College Calendar; October 17: Required Teacher Workday (District PD), No school for students on Traditional & Early College Calendar; October 16-20: NC Countdown to College! College Application Week; October 19: Superintendent Teacher Advisory Council meeting, 3:30 p.m. & Superintendent Parent Advisory Council meeting, 5:30 p.m.; November: Veterans' History Appreciation Month in North Carolina; November 6-10: National School Psychology Week; November 8: HCBPE School Tours, 10:00 a.m. at West Henderson High, Bruce Drysdale Elementary, Apple Valley Middle School; November 11: Veterans' Day Holiday; No school for all students and staff; November 13: HCBPE Regular Business Meeting, 4:00 pm; Closed Session, 3:00 pm; November 14: Substitute Educators' Day. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Dr. Kathy Revis moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Mrs. Alyssa Norman seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved at 5:46 pm.)*

Minutes approved: November 13, 2023