

# Henderson County Board of Public Education

## MINUTES

January 8, 2024

The Henderson County Board of Public Education held a meeting on Monday, January 8, 2024, 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:

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

### 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

Administrative Staff Absent: Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer

Attorney Present: Chris Campbell

Board Clerk: Tawana Clayton

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Mr. Jay Egolf called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Egolf requested everyone present to stand as the North Henderson High School JROTC presented the colors. Mr. Egolf led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

### MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

Chairperson Mr. Jay Egolf asked those present to remain standing and take a moment of silent reflection.

### AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Jay Egolf 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 Mrs. Stacey Caskey. *(Unanimously approved.)*

### STAFF/STUDENT RECOGNITION

#### Student Recognitions:

- **North Henderson All-State 3A Volleyball**
  - Bailey Rowe- 1st Team All-State
  - Peyton Taylor-2nd Team All-State
  - Coaches: Sue Moon, Kasey McDonald, and Ryan Champion
  - Athletic Director: Adam Maybin
- **West Henderson All-State 3A Football**
  - Truitt Manuel- Shrine Bowl Player and 2nd Team All-State Football
  - Coaches: Paul Whitaker, Jay Young, Daniel Holbert, Jason Livingston, Tyler Arrowood, Robbie Lowrance, Steve Geyer, Jim Griffin, Kevin Rhodes
  - Athletic Director: Justin Heatherly
- **West Henderson All-State 3A Volleyball**
  - Emma Bryson- 1st Team All-State Volleyball
  - Allyson Garcia- 2nd Team All-State Volleyball
  - Coaches: Tiffany Lowrance, Allyson Warren, Robbie Lowrance
  - Athletic Director: Justin Heatherly

- **West Henderson All-State 3A Cross Country**
  - Bre Budzinski- All-State Cross Country
  - Hudson Rice- All-State Cross Country
  - Eli Clonch- All-State Cross Country
  - Coaches: James Galloway, Alicia Greene, Abby Budzinski
  - Athletic Director: Justin Heatherly
- **West Henderson JV Cheerleading**
  - Placed 1st in their division at the NCHSAA Cheer State Championship
  - Coaches: Tiffany Owens, Bree Hodges, Kippan Mills
  - Athletic Director: Justin Heatherly

**Staff Recognitions:**

- **Coach Sue Moon at North Henderson High School**
  - WNC Mountain Athletic Amateur Athletic Club Adams-Ochsenreiter Award for Lifetime Achievement
  - NCHSAA Charlie Adams Distinguished Service Award for Region 8
- **Coach Paul Whittaker at West Henderson High School**
  - WNC Football Coach of the Year
  - The Falcons went 13-1 and reached the fourth round of the NCHSAA 3A playoffs. Coach Whittaker's offense averaged 42 points per game while the defense allowed only 11 points per game.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT - Establishing a Foundation for Literacy in HCPS – *(Dr. Shannon Marlowe, Assistant Superintendent)*

Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, Dr. Shannon Marlowe presented to the board details on literacy training in HCPS.

- Professional Development- LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading & Spelling)
  - Over 300 teachers completed LETRS
  - 168 hours of coursework
  - Two additional cohorts of teachers in process
  - Five HCPS LETRS facilitators
- LETRS Celebration
- Adopting a K-5 Reading Program Process:
  - Selection of pilot programs
  - Selection of pilot teachers
  - Representation of programs in schools
  - Professional development
- Details
  - Programs aligned with Science of Reading and current programming
  - Began with over 100 elementary teachers
  - Professional development, professional learning communities, visits & observations
  - January 2023- December 2023
  - December 12: Teachers representing Pilot Programs & Schools
- Teacher discussion points that were highlighted during results of the pilot programs:
  - Intervention aligned to students' mClass assessment performance
  - True decodable texts aligned to core instruction
  - Strong writing connections embedded in core instruction
  - Availability of ready-made lesson resources/materials
  - Higher order thinking question embedded throughout

- Intervention materials available on teacher portal aligned to core instruction
- Clear alignment to Learning Focused and Project GLAD strategies
- Next Steps
  - February 16, 2024: Professional Development
  - K-5 teachers, Exceptional Children’s teachers, ESL teachers, AIG teachers
  - Materials ordered to fully begin 2024-25 school year
  - Continuing professional development into the 2024-25 school year

**BOARD MEMBERS’ OBSERVATION**

Dr. Kathy Revis said was impressed with the students and staff during the tour of Hendersonville High School. She loved the feeling of family and the beauty of the school. She gave a big kudos to the Hendersonville staff and students

Mrs. Shelia Dale spoke about the wonderful Hendersonville High School tour and the relationships displayed between Ms. Bruegger and the students/staff.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

At 4:39 p.m. Mr. Egolf opened the meeting for public comment. Six people addressed the Board. Public comments ended at 5:01p.m. No action was taken.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Jay Egolf 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 12, 2024 4:00 p.m., (Boardroom) (Closed Session at 3:00 pm) (1-A)*]
- B. Minutes
  - 1. December 11, 2023(*Regular Business Meeting*)
- C. Personnel (*as presented in closed session*)
- D. Student Acceptances/Releases (*as presented in closed session*)
- E. Budget Amendment

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. Mrs. Robert Bridges seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved.*)

**OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Approval – (2024-2025) Flex Schedule Calendar – (*Second Reading*) (*Mr. Mark Garrett, Superintendent*)  
 Superintendent Mark Garrett presented the Board with a second reading of the 2024-2025 flex calendar. The calendar has a school start date of July 11, 2024 and the last day of school on May 30, 2025. The election day on November 5, 2024 is a required workday. Spring break would be the third week of March (17-21), which will also coincide with the traditional, early college, and Blue Ridge Community College calendars.  
 Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the 2024 – 2025 Flex Calendar for second reading. Mr. Robert Bridges seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Dale-Yes; Craven-Yes; Caskey-Yes; Egolf-Yes; Revis-Yes; Bridges-Yes; Norman-Yes (*Passes Unanimously*)
- B. Approval – (2024-2025)Traditional and Early College Calendar – (*Second Reading*) (*Mr. Mark Garrett, Superintendent*)

Superintendent Mark Garrett presented the Board with a second reading of the 2024-2025 traditional and early college calendars. The calendar has a school start date of August 12, 2023 and the last day of school on May 23, 2025. The election day on November 5, 2024 is a required workday. Spring break would be the third week of March (17-21), which will also coincide with the flex and Blue Ridge Community College calendars.

Mr. Robert Bridges moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the 2024-2025 Traditional and Early College Calendar for second reading. Mr. Blair Craven seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Dale-No; Craven:Yes; Caskey:Yes; Egolf: Yes; Revis:No; Bridges:Yes; Norman: No (*Passes 4 to 3*)

C. Approval – (2025-2026) Flex Schedule Calendar – (*Second Reading*) (*Mr. Mark Garrett, Superintendent*)

Superintendent Mark Garrett presented the Board with a second reading of the 2025-2026 Flex Calendar to help families to plan ahead. The calendar has a school start date of July 10, 2025 and the last day of school on May 29, 2026. Spring break would be the third week of March (16-20), which will also coincide with the traditional, early college, and Blue Ridge Community College calendars.

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the 2025 – 2026 Flex Calendar for second reading. Mrs. Stacey Caskey seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Dale-Yes; Craven-Yes; Caskey-Yes; Egolf-Yes; Revis-Yes; Bridges-Yes; Norman-Yes (*Passes Unanimously*)

D. Approval – (2025-2026) Traditional Schedule and Early College Calendar – (*Second Reading*) (*Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer*)

Superintendent Mark Garrett presented the Board with a second reading of the 2025-2026 traditional and early college calendars to allow families the ability to plan ahead and the HCPS schedule to align with Blue Ridge Community College. The calendar has a school start date of August 11, 2025 and the last day of school on May 22, 2026. Spring break would be the third week of March (16-20), which will also coincide with the flex and Blue Ridge Community College calendars.

Mrs. Stacey Caskey moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the 2025-2026 Traditional and Early College Calendar for second reading. Mr. Robert Bridges seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Dale-No; Craven:Yes; Caskey:Yes; Egolf: Yes; Revis:No; Bridges:Yes; Norman: No (*Passes 4 to 3*)

E. Update – Protecting Our Kids from Vaping and Nicotine Addiction

Superintendent Mark R. Garrett provided the board with updates on the research of vaping and nicotine addiction in our schools. Mr. Garrett shared data regarding the number of vaping related offenses in schools. 2022-2023 Vaping Related Offenses: Middle Schools -104; High Schools -156. 2023-2024 Vaping Related Offenses: Middle Schools - 32; High Schools - 62. The offenses documented for year 2023-2024 are specifically coded in PowerSchool as a vape related offense. Mr. Garrett shared the current HCPS policy 4320-Tobacco Products and discussed the North Carolina School Board Association code of conduct regarding drugs and alcohol violations. The board reviewed the current policies and discussed possible additions. No action was taken.

F. Approval – ESSER Gymnasiums HVAC Project – (*Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer*)

Mr. Bernie Sochia presented the ESSER Gymnasiums HVAC project to the Board for approval. At the November 13, 2023 Board of Education meeting the district's plan for the remaining ESSER funding was presented. One of the projects was to install HVAC systems in three high school gyms. Following that meeting, an RFQ for engineering and design services was posted and then closed on December 6. After

careful review of submitted proposals and presentations, Brittain Engineering, Inc. was identified as the firm to be recommended to the Board for selection. Board approval is needed to authorize staff to proceed with this selection, negotiation and execution of a contract.

Dr. Kathy Revis moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education select Brittain Engineering, Inc. as the engineering firm for the Gymnasium HVAC project and authorize staff to proceed with all required documents and negotiation and execution of contracts. Mr. Robert Bridges seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved)*

## NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approval – Contracts and purchases in excess of \$90,000 (Encore Technology Group) (Ilderton Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram Fiat) *(Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer)*  
Chief Finance Officer Bernie Sochia presented the Board for approval of contracts and purchases in excess of \$90,000. 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 vendor is presented for approval of the contract, Encore Technology Group, E-Rate purchases of cabling and switches to be fully reimbursed. This is an E-Rate Category Two project that will modernize the wiring in two of our elementary schools. The purpose of this project is to modernize the network wiring and switch infrastructure to match what our other schools have and reduce the number of switches that must be maintained and replaced moving forward. Currently these schools are set up to have a smaller switch in every classroom, this moves the layout to pulling all wiring to a central closet that will utilize one larger network switch. Through E-Rate by utilizing the state Mini-Bid process, E-Rate will pay 80% of this cost directly, and we will get a reimbursement for the remaining 20% from DPI since we utilized approved vendors in the Mini-Bid. This will result in no actual costs coming from HCPS once the reimbursement is distributed.  
The following vendor is presented for approval of a purchase in excess of \$90,000, Ilderton Chrysler for the purchase of 9 2024 Chrysler Pacifica Minivans. Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve execution of purchases with the listed vendors as presented. Mrs. Shelia Dale seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved)*
- B. Update – Helping Hand Contract – *(Mr. Mark Garrett, Superintendent)*  
Superintendent Mark Garrett provided the Board with an update on the contract with Helping Hand. Helping Hand, the agency HCPS contracts with to provide Developmental Day services for our preschool EC students, is closing as of January 26. HCPS contract with Helping Hand has been taken over by WNC Source, who will begin serving students at their Tebeau St. location on February 4. No action was taken.

## BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A.. CALENDAR FOR 2023-2024 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 2024-2025 budget overview process. January 17, 2024 will be the Board of Commissioners Budget Workshop Presentation. April 15, 2024 at 9:00 am will be the Board of Education Budget Workshop. April 22, 2023 at 9:00 am will be an additional date for the Board of Education Budget Workshop if needed. May 13, 2024 will be the Board of Education Budget Approval during the regular scheduled Board of Education meeting. May 15, 2024 will be the Board of Education transmittal to the Board of Commissioners.
- B. CAPITAL UPDATE – *(Mr. Mark Garrett, Superintendent)*  
Superintendent Mark Garrett provided the board with status updates on the construction and facility projects currently underway or planned in the near future:
- **HCPS Projects**

- Playground Upgrades - Elementary Schools - In Progress
- Carpet/Tile Replacement - Various Schools - In Progress
- **2023-2024 MRTS:**
  - HVAC Replacement - Atkinson - Engineering Phase
  - Roof Replacement - FRMS, NHHS, WHHS - In Progress
  - Gutter/Downspout Replacement - EHHS, FLE, HMS - In Progress
  - HVAC Controls Upgrade Various Bid Awarded (Daikin)
  - Secure Entry & Cafeteria Expansion
    - Upward Elementary Secure Entry - Completed
    - Cafeteria - GMP Approved
  - New Front Office & Building Connection - West Henderson - GMP Approved

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

Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer presented the financial report results of operation of the Local Current Expense and Other Restricted Funds for the 2023-24 fiscal year as of December 31, 2023: Revenues received totaled \$20,952,737 and expenditures made totaled \$17,938,152. Results of operations of the Capital Outlay Fund for the 2023-24 fiscal year as of December 31, 2023: Revenues received through the second quarter totaled \$1,158,657. Expenditures made totaled \$819,949. An additional \$611,863 is encumbered and in progress. No action was taken.

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

Superintendent Mark Garrett presented the following upcoming calendar of events:

January: School Board Appreciation Month

January 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday; No school for students. Optional Teacher Workday for all calendars

January 18: Superintendent Teacher Advisory Council, Central Office, 3:30 p.m. Superintendent Parent Advisory Council, Central Office, 5:30 p.m.

February: Black History Month; Love The Bus Month; Career and Technical Education Month

February 1: Kindergarten Registration opens for the 2024-2025 school year (Class of 2037)

February 5-9: National School Counseling Week February 7: HCBPE School Tours, 10:00 a.m. at Edneyville Elementary, East Henderson High School, Hendersonville Elementary

February 12: HCBPE Regular Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Boardroom; Closed Session 3:00 p.m. Conference Room 1A

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Blair Craven moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Mrs. Alyssa Norman.. *(Unanimously approved at 5:52pm.)*