

Henderson County Board of Public Education

MINUTES

September 12, 2022

The Henderson County Board of Public Education held a meeting on Monday, September 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: Blair Craven, Chairperson; Amy Lynn Holt, Vice Chairperson Robert Bridges; Dot Case; Stacey Caskey; Jay Egolf and 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

Mr. Blair Craven called the meeting to order at approximately 4:01 pm and led all those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Craven acknowledged receipt of the meeting agenda with adding a new business item discussion, East Henderson Youth Football Gun Raffle. Mr. Blair Craven moved that the agenda be approved as presented, with the added new business item “D”. Seconded by Mrs. Stacey Caskey. *(Unanimously approved.)*

STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Mark Garrett presented two students with Certificates of Achievement based on their recent awards. Layla Hildenbrand, a student at Rugby Middle School, placed 2nd in the National Braille Challenge over the summer. The competition was held at the University of Southern California where she competed against "the best of the best" braille readers. She was awarded a trophy, a chameleon braille display, and \$500 cash prize. Layla started her competition years at the WNC Regional Braille Challenge in 2nd grade and has earned a spot at the National Braille Challenge every year since 2018.

West Henderson High School's senior, Clay Beal, earned third place in cabinetmaking during the recent SkillsUSA National Championships 58th annual leadership and skills conference. Placing at nationals earned Clay \$600 and some cabinet-making tools. His success at the national level came after Beal earned first place in both regional and state competitions earlier in the year.

Both students were in attendance at the meeting and accepted the certificates.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Mrs. Simone Wertenberger, Director of ESL & Migrant Education, shared details involved in the HCPS Migrant Education Program. This is a Federally funded program that began in the 1960's, that seeks to help migrant students and youth meet challenging academic standards, and graduate from high school by overcoming barriers created by frequent moves, educational disruption, cultural and language differences, and health related problems. Mrs. Wertenberger defined Migrant in educational context as children between the ages of 3 and 21 years old that have moved with a “worker” across school district lines for the purpose of finding temporary work in agriculture. Henderson County greatly depends on migrant workers, each growing season, Henderson County welcomes 3,000 to 5,000 temporary residents. Some of them are children. During the 2021-2022 school year, approximately 325 migrant students were in Henderson County, and around 129 migrant students attended HCPS during the first week of school this year. The Migrant Education program supports three main groups of

children; preschool ages 3-5 with emphasis on kindergarten transition, in school youth where each school has a migrant liaison to help with transitions, language barrier, and feeling welcomed at school. Lastly, in school, youth-high school and beyond, ensuring students are enrolled in the classes they need to graduate. Mrs. Wertenberger stated that our staff enjoys working with migrant families and migrant families chose to come to Henderson County because the school system values them. The Migrant Education program partners with the Boys and Girls Club for after school care, which provides help with homework and transportation back home for students. Most of the migrant students from Henderson County move to Immokalee, Florida and because of the personal connection made through the Migrant Education program, Henderson County schools are able to help with transition by contacting the schools in Immokalee.

A Board member asked if the program is able to use volunteers, Mrs. Wertenberger welcomed volunteers and explained the qualifications needed for the program.

A Board member asked about the migrant bus tours for Board members that took place in earlier years, and if that was something that was still available. Mrs. Wertenberger explained due to the sensitive nature of living conditions and respect for families, that the tours were no longer taking place.

A Board member asked if there would be an increase in the population of migrant workers in the near future. Mrs. Wertenberger because of housing availability and affordability the number of migrant families have decreased.

BOARD CHAIR OBSERVATIONS

Mr. Blair Craven has no observations at this time.

BOARD MEMBERS' OBSERVATION

No Board member observations at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Joe Elliott spoke about the gun raffle held by the East Henderson Youth Football and Cheerleading organization. Mr. Elliott stated he doesn't have an issue with adults owning guns nor does he want to stop children from playing youth sports. Mr. Elliott expressed his displeasure about the raffle of an assault rifle on school grounds through the youth football organization that is meant to teach kids life skills. Mr. Elliott stated it was time for the school to erase an implied association with East Henderson football and cheer as long as the raffle for a gun is being used as the centerpiece of the football season.

Ms. Peri David acknowledged the work the Board does and dedication to the teaching profession. Ms. David stated her concerns with children selling inappropriate products such as firearms, and other items that are not age appropriate. She recognized the raffle was not directly connected to Henderson County Schools.

Ms. Virginia Tegal spoke about the gun raffle held by the East Henderson Youth Football and Cheerleading organization. Ms. Tegal referenced the facility use agreement. Ms. Tegal asked that the policy be revised and any groups using school facilities must be subject to review to determine alignment with the school district mission, vision and code of conduct.

Ms. Kathy Yurista from Awake and Bold organization spoke about collaborating with teachers and parents to bring awareness about child trafficking.

Mr. Eric Parlow stated he is running for school board this year. Mr. Parlow asked that the Board allow time at the next meeting for candidates running for school board to be able to address the Board.

Ms. Marlene Corbin spoke about social awareness and the indoctrination of children. Ms. Corbin thanked the Board for their service.

Mr. John Owens is a volunteer for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in Western North Carolinas and a gun

violence survivor. Mr. Owens spoke about local families that have lost loved ones due to gun violence. Mr. Owens doesn't agree with children selling raffle tickets for a semi-automatic rifle and doesn't believe the raffle aligns with the mission and values of Henderson County Schools. Mr. Owens suggests the usage agreement be re-examined by the Board. Mr. Owens thanked the Board for their service to the schools.

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, October 10,, 2022, 4:00 p.m., (Boardroom)*]

B. Minutes

1. August 8, 2022 (*Regular Business Meeting*)

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

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

A. Bus Driver Bonus- (*Mr. Scott Rhodes, Assistant Superintendent*)

Mr. Scott Rhodes stated, in an effort to address the current bus driver workforce shortage, a 50% increase in the bus driver/rider incentive bonus pay is being proposed from available ESSER funds. The incentive plan outlines monthly bonuses based on frequency of service. Additionally, if the incentive bonus plan is approved, a direct and targeted marketing campaign will be implemented to broadly advertise and communicate the incentive bonus pay opportunities.

The current monthly bonus is as follows:

- 10-19 Trips = \$50
- 20-29 Trips = \$100
- 30+ Trips = \$200

The updated monthly bonus for Board approval is as follows:

- 10-19 Trips = \$75
- 20-29 Trips = \$150
- 30+ Trips = \$300

Mr. Craven inquired about the amount of ESSER funds spent last year for the bus driver bonus incentive. \$265,000 has been allotted for the bus driver incentive plan and \$129,000 was spent last year. Mr. Craven spoke about the shortage of new bus drivers and asked how this incentive would help bring in new bus drivers. Mr. Rhodes pointed out that the steps it takes to get a bus driver trained through the DMV is causing the delay with getting new bus drivers, the requirements have become more strenuous to obtain a bus license. The backlog at the DMV is about 3 to 4 months to be trained. Mr. Rhodes stated that every staff member that has a CDL license has been asked to drive due to the bus driver shortage. The purpose of this incentive plan is to give people with a CDL more of a reason to drive. Mr. Craven suggested that letters be written to Raleigh addressing the strenuous requirements surrounding obtaining a CDL. Mrs. Holt agrees letters should be sent to Raleigh and the entire General Assembly. Mr. Craven requested that a letter be drafted and brought back to the October 10, 2022 board meeting. Mr. Egolf suggests reaching out to other counties to have them write letters as well. Mr. Garrett stated the bus driver shortage has been and will continue to be discussed at superintendent meetings. The superintendents association would like to see the regulations be less restrictive. Mr. Craven acknowledged that staff members with other duties, driving buses each day, will eventually lead to overworked employees. Mr. Bridges asked if staff members that drive buses also receive the bonus. Mr. Rhodes assured the Board that everyone who drives a bus receives the bonus. Mr. Craven requested that a letter be drafted to send to state and local representatives. Mr. Craven discussed a sign-on bonus for new bus drivers. Mr. Rhodes pointed out the

length of time it takes to be trained versus the longevity for the bonus. Mr. Rhodes requested time to discuss the sign on bonus in more detail with the leadership team and present the information to the Board. Mrs. Holt received information from a County Commissioner that suggested to petition the DMV to certify or allow an experienced driver to be a trainer as well, and pay the experienced driver full time pay.

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the Bus Driver Recruitment and Incentive Plan, as presented. Mrs. Stacey Caskey seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

NEW BUSINESS

A. Procurement Waiver – *(Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer)*

Mr. Berne Sochia presented the Sole Source Procurement Waiver. Mr. Sochia stated that the Office of Budget and Management (OMB) issued new Uniform Guidance Procurement Standards (UG) for local governments that receive and expend federal financial assistance. These new guidelines were effective July 1, 2018. All purchases of goods that exceed \$30,000 and services that exceed \$50,000.00 require issuing a bid solicitation using the Uniform Guidance ‘micro-purchase’ procedures. Mr. Sochia added that one exception to these new guidelines is for ‘noncompetitive procurement’ which means that the item is only available from a single source provider or that a specific item is necessary for continuity of equipment. Procurement under this exception requires annual NCDPI and local Board approval. The letter of DPI approval is attached for the following vendor: Newsela.

Mrs. Stacey Caskey moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve Newsela as a vendor under the sole source exemption guidelines. Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved)*

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

Mr. Bernie Sochia presented the North Carolina Education Lottery application.. Mr. Sochia stated that the attached Public School Building Capital Fund/N. C. Education Lottery Application is to request funds currently available (\$172,712.12) 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 are currently being used for debt service on these school building projects. Mr. Craven asked what percentage of these funds HCPS receives. Mr. Sochia stated that HCPS receives slightly less than forty percent.

After discussion, Mr. Robert Bridges moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the Public School Building Capital Fund/North Carolina Education Lottery Application. Mrs. Stacey Caskey seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

C. Calendar Discussion *(Mr. Mark Garrett, Superintendent)*

Superintendent Mr. Mark Garrett explained current NC school calendar laws, which includes 185 days or 1,025 hours of instruction covering at least nine calendar months. The start date and end date for schools are legislatively in statute, schools cannot start sooner than the Monday closest to August 26th and school must be out no later than the Friday closest to June 10th. Mr. Garrett spoke about challenges with the late start date for traditional schools. Mr. Garrett shared a draft of the 2023-2024 calendar based on current calendar regulations. The draft shows a start date of August 28, 2023 and end date of June 07, 2024 for traditional calendar schools. Mr. Garrett stated the challenges with the current later start date include, not being able to align with local community colleges to increase the dual enrollment opportunities, certifications for the CTE department, ending the semester before Christmas break. Mr. Egolf pointed out, students that are eligible to graduate early would be

able to attend college after Christmas break instead of waiting until the fall semester. Mr. Egolf discussed how starting school on August 15th and ending the first semester before Christmas would be beneficial to students. Mrs. Holt addressed the issue of one legislator that has the control over the calendar law. The Board discussed changing the start date of school would be breaking the calendar laws. Mr. Craven reiterated the Board does not want to extend the school year or take away from summer break. The Board would like the school calendar to align with community colleges and for high school students to finish the semester before Christmas break beginning the second semester in January, and ending the school year around Memorial Day. Mr. Craven discussed the three schools that broke the calendar law this past year by starting school on August 15th. Charlotte Mecklenburg schools have advised DPI they will be starting school on August 14th or 15th in 2023 to align with their local community colleges. Attorney Cynthia Lopez discussed the possible repercussions of breaking the calendar law. Ms. Lopez stated currently there is nothing in the law that provides a penalty or enforcement by any agency if the law is violated. DPI nor the State Board have authority to take action against the district. Ms. Lopez pointed out the legislature has placed in the law that districts have to report their start and end dates, potentially the legislature could enact a penalty next year, there is a possibility of being sued by individuals because of the law violation. Ms. Lopez advised to her knowledge, there has not been action taken against districts that have violated the calendar law. Mr. Garrett discussed the positive impacts of starting the school year earlier. Dr. Revis stated she is not willing to break the calendar law and would like to take the steps to bring the calendar start date back to a local issue instead of a state issue.

With a six to one Board discussion, the Board directed Superintendent Mark Garrett to draft a calendar that aligns with the community college with the potential of the Board's intention of voting on the new start and end date that aligns with the community college in February, the Board's intention to vote on the calendar in February 2023.

D. Community Facilities Uses Policy (*Mr. Blair Craven, Chairperson*)

Mr. Craven spoke about the gun raffle fundraiser that was held by the East Henderson Youth Football. EHYF uses East Henderson High School facilities for games. The Board was not aware nor approve of the raffle being held. The raffle was not affiliated with HCPS. Mr. Craven explained the use of the school mascot by EHYF has caused confusion with HCPS affiliation. Mr. Craven discussed the language in the policy and how to direct Superintendent Garrett with modifications to procedures within the policy. Mr. Garrett referenced policy 5030 item C. Rules Governing Use of School Facilities, it states the regulations shall include an application process and provisions regarding the supervision of groups using facilities, the care of facilities, prohibited conduct and other issues deemed appropriate by the Superintendent. Mr. Garrett read section 3 of policy 5030 which states users must comply with board policy and legal requirements forbidding the use of tobacco products in school facilities and on school grounds. Section 4 states users must not possess weapons or explosives while on school grounds, except in the limited circumstances permitted by state law and policy 5027/7275, Weapons and Explosives Prohibited. Mr. Garrett suggests reviewing the procedures to the policy. Mr. Craven suggests adding an addendum to the policy with transparent expectation to the community when using school facilities. Mr. Craven directed Mr. Rhodes to communicate with the EHYF, stating the winner of the gun raffle cannot be announced on school grounds. The Board discussed the importance of the community partnership with EHYF and the children that are positively impacted by the organization. The Board has directed Mr. Garrett to work with the Board attorney to make a change to the policy procedures to reflect the prohibited items; firearms, tobacco, drugs, and alcohol promoted on school grounds. Mr. Rhodes reached out to the athletic director and principal at East Henderson High School to communicate with EHYF that the announcement of the gun raffle winner cannot be announced on school grounds, the administrators have been directed to follow up with Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Taylor once communication has been made with EHYF.

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. ESSER UPDATE– (*Mr. Scott Rhodes, Assistant Superintendent*)

Mr. Scott Rhodes presented the Board with an ESSER update. Congress set aside approximately \$13.2 billion of the \$30.75 billion allotted to the Education Stabilization Fund through the CARES Act for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund). The Department will award these grants to State educational agencies (SEAs) for the purpose of providing local educational agencies (LEAs), including charter schools that are LEAs, with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the Nation.

ESSER Fund awards to SEAs are in the same proportion as each State received funds under Part A of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, in fiscal year 2019. Mr. Rhodes stated at least 20% of funds must be used to address learning loss through evidence-based interventions that respond to students' academic, social and emotional needs.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL RELIEF FUND (II)

ESSER II funds expire September 30, 2023. These funds also can be used for in the same way as ESSER I including:

- Coordinating with public health departments;
- Conducting activities to address the needs of students from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth;
- Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software and connectivity as well as assistive technology or adaptive equipment);
- Summer learning, and supplemental after-school programs;
- Mental health services;
- Addressing learning loss;
- School facility repairs to reduce risk of virus transmission and support student health; and implementing public health protocols including policies in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for school-reopening;
- Implementing activities to maintain the operation and continuity of services and to employ existing staff.

ESSER III funds expire September 30, 2024. Mr. Rhodes stated, based on the grant guidelines, at least 20% of funds must be used to address learning loss through evidence-based interventions that respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs. The funds also can be used for in the same way as ESSER I/II including:

- Coordinating with public health departments;
- Conducting activities to address the needs of students from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth;
- Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software and connectivity as well as assistive technology or adaptive equipment);
- Summer learning, and supplemental after-school programs;
- Mental health services;
- Addressing learning loss;
- School facility repairs to reduce risk of virus transmission and support student health; and implementing public health protocols including policies in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for school-reopening;
- Implementing activities to maintain the operation and continuity of services and to employ existing staff.

ESSER III targeted and strategic ways to be used are:

- Learning Loss (Recovery)
- Acceleration & Advancement
- Summer Learning
- Unassigned
- Infrastructure/Facility Improvements

The following has been allocated to date:

- HB82 Legislated Summer Learning
- 2021-2022 Retention Bonus to All HCPS Employees to be paid in February 2022 [\$2000/\$1000]
- Additional School Nurse Positions [5]
- MTSS Teacher Assistants (formerly quarantine TAs) [23]
- Bus Driver Overtime Pay
- Substitute teacher and bus driver incentive pay
- Phase 1 of 3 for Chromebook replacement

ESSER I Details (CARES):

- At the beginning of FY23, we had a balance of \$146,775.55.
- \$64,524.35 of the balance is encumbered for the second round of water bottle fill stations to be installed on school water fountains.
- Current discussion of how to spend the remaining funds, likely to be spent on cleaning wipes for the prevention of Covid in our buildings and a portion of phase 1 of chromebook order.
- These funds expire September 2022

ESSER III funds are set to be used for learning loss (recovery), acceleration and advancement, summer learning, unassigned costs, and infrastructure/ facility improvements.

ESSER II allocations to date which include:

- Summer Learning (2021) (*completed*)
- 2021-2022 Retention Bonus to all HCPS employees to be paid in February 2022 (*completed*)
- Bus Driver Recruitment Bonus
- Substitute Teacher Recruitment (*completed*)
- Substitutes for LETRS Training (2 year Commitment)

Mr. Rhodes stated at the beginning of FY23, ESSER I (CARES) had a balance of \$146,775.55. \$64,525.00 of the balance was spent on the second round of water bottle filling stations at various school locations. \$60,271.05 was spent on an order of sanitizing wipes for classrooms. \$5,331.96 was spent on a portion of the phase 1 Chromebook replacement order completed at the beginning of September. The HCPS portion of ESSER I has been completely spent. Mr. Rhodes explained that there will likely be remaining funds in ESSER I at its expiration date due to private school proportionate shares not being spent by participating private schools. Mrs. Holt asked if HCPS could spend the funds not spent by participating private schools. Mr. Rhodes stated that because those funds are allocated to the local private schools, HCPS is not able to spend the private schools remaining funds.

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

Mr. Carl Taylor presented the Board with a Capital Projects update. With the use of MTRS county funds, Elementary schools are set to have video cameras installed. The first pre-bid meeting was held on September 7, 2022 but the required number of vendors did not attend the meeting, a second pre-bid meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2022 and opening bid meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2022. Middle and high schools cameras have arrived and installation begun on September 7, 2022, Mr. Taylor will give an update on the installation progress at the October board meeting. The ADA project at East Henderson High School stadium is being funded by grant money from the state. Ramp access on the homeside bleachers, ADA accessible seating have been installed. A sidewalk going behind the bleachers with a ramp access in the middle section of the bleachers for

ADA accessibility. There are two ADA accessible areas in the bleachers. Mr. Taylor stated the project for EHHS is almost complete, a few adjustments to spacing have to be made first. Mr. Taylor gave an update on the Upward Elementary project, secure entry and cafeteria expansion. There is a meeting with the county and architects from Clark Nexsen on September 13, 2022 to revisit the Upward project. Mr. Craven asked when the planning for the Upward project stopped. Mr. Taylor stated when Covid started in March, the contract was ready to be signed but the county directed the project to be put on hold to evaluate what funds would be available during the pandemic. Mr. Taylor expanded on the replacement of the awning, due to supply issues replacement of the awning has not begun. Ms. Case spoke about a letter the Board received titled “What about Upward.” Dr. Revis asked Mr. Garrett about meeting with the staff at Upward Elementary to give them an update. Mr. Garrett and Mr. Taylor will meet with the Upward staff September 14, 2022. Mrs. Holt spoke about the facilities meeting and the urgency expressed for the Upward Elementary project. Mr. Taylor presented the project for West Henderson High School, new main entry and connected buildings for safety and security. A meeting with LS3P architects, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Garrett, the County and Martian Ballard is scheduled for September 13, 2022. HCPS Warehouse project, waiting on the roll-up doors for the warehouse. Projected to be complete in October. East Henderson and West Henderson sound and light installation is complete. A circuit issue was detected at West Henderson, and an electrician is scheduled to be on site next week to address that concern. Mr. Taylor gave an update, as requested from the Board, on the ADA accessible stadium restrooms at each high school.

School	Total Stalls	ADA Stalls	Sinks
East Henderson			
Women’s	11	1	6
Men's	4	1	7
Hendersonville			
Women’s	7	2	5
Men's	2	2	4
North Henderson			
Women’s	15	2	12
Men's	10	2	9
West Henderson			
Women’s	8	0	5
Men's	4	0	5

Mr. Craven discussed the need for the Board to meet to prioritize facility needs to share with the joint facility committee and to discuss the growth population of the county leading to redistricting of schools. Mr. Craven spoke about Hendersonville Elementary and Bruce Drysdale Elementary student enrollment process.

C. ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT – *(Dr. Shannon Marlowe, Assistant Superintendent)*

Dr. Shannon Marlowe presented the Board with the accountability report for 2021-2022. This past school year 13 out of 23 schools met or exceeded their growth target. The schools that exceeded

growth were Early College High School and Hendersonville High School. The General Assembly requires districts to assign grades to schools. The formula used to determine the school grade is 80% proficiency and 20% growth. This past school year's grades for HCPS:

A = Early College

B = Hendersonville Elementary
Glenn C. Marlow Elementary
Mills River Elementary
Rugby Middle
Hendersonville High
West Henderson High

C = Atkinson Elementary
Bruce Drysdale Elementary
Dana Elementary
Etowah Elementary
Fletcher Elementary
Hillandale Elementary
Flat Rock Middle
Hendersonville Middle
East Henderson High
North Henderson High

D = Clear Creek Elementary
Edneyville Elementary
Sugarloaf Elementary
Upward Elementary
Apple Valley Middle

Progressing = The Career Academy

Dr. Marlowe shared the overall proficiency for Western North Carolina districts, Henderson County is the largest district with 12,000 students. HCPS is 23rd in the state based on proficiency and the 4 year cohort graduation rate is 90.8%. The Career Academy is no longer a CSI (Comprehensive Improvement School) because of the growth made. TSI (Targeted School Improvement) schools are down to 8 from 13 schools. Mrs. Holt and Dr. Revis expressed gratitude for the hard work teachers have been doing since the pandemic.

D. EQUITY UPDATE – *(Dr. Shannon Marlowe, Assistant Superintendent)*

Dr. Shannon Marlowe presented the board with the equity update. Highlighting addressing barriers for learning in the classroom and increasing the capacity of teachers to address the needs of students. Dr. Marlowe spoke about the district wide professional development days on August 23rd and 24th which emphasized on student re-engagement, high-yield strategies and standards focused instruction. There is legislated professional development for all staff. Beginning teachers and new teachers participated in training prior to the week of workdays, which included Learning Focused Framework training which focuses on high yield strategies and lesson planning and Amie Dean “The Behavior Queen” training for classroom management. Dr. Marlowe discussed content specific training for specific grade levels and specific teachers, EC, ESL, AIG, CTE. All kindergarten through fifth grade teachers are participating in LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) training. The higher grade levels focused on building classrooms of engagement and success, which was developed by secondary instructional coaches. Dr. Marlowe explained that high yield strategies are evidenced based strategies that boast high effect sizes on student outcomes when used consistently and with fidelity. Summer learning data shows the results of high yield strategies being effective.

- E. CHILD CARE SERVICES UPDATE – *(Mr. Scott Rhodes, Assistant Superintendent)*
Mr. Scott Rhodes presented the Child Care Service update focusing on the Summer Plus Child Care program. The revenue was \$87,995.00 and expense was \$93,376.83 with an operational loss of \$5,381.83. Mr. Rhodes explained that the money is covered out of the DHHS grant and will not be any cost for the district. The expense is a reflection of a \$5.00 pay increase for child care employees over the summer. Mr. Rhodes gave an update on the playground project, RVE company provided recommendations and will be meeting with the child care directors and principals at each school. The Board asked for YTD funds and grants for the Child Care program moving forward.
- F. FINANCIAL REPORT – *(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 August 31, 2022: Revenues total \$6,399,828 and expenditures total \$4,413,602. The increases compared to last year are \$268,455 and \$309,196 respectively. With the passing of the State budget, we were able to implement new salaries for 22-23 in the August payroll for 10 month certified, and all 12 month positions. 10 month classified positions receive their first check in September.
- G. GENERAL OPERATIONS – *(Mr. Mark R. Garrett, Superintendent)*
Mr. Garrett thanked everyone for a smooth start to the school year. Mr. Garrett noted the following upcoming dates; September 15, 2022, Superintendent Teacher Advisory Council, Central Office, 3:30pm; September 22, 2022 Superintendent Parent Advisory Council, Central Office, 5:30pm; October 5, 2022 HCBPE School Tours, 10am at Fletcher Elementary, Mills River Elementary and Upward Elementary; October 10, 2022 HCBPE Regular Meeting, 4:00pm, Central Office Boardroom; October 17, 2022 Annual HCEF Golf Classic, Champion Hills; October 10, 2022-October 28, 2022 open enrollment for employee benefits.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Mr. Jay Egolf. *(Unanimously approved at 6:33pm.)*

Minutes approved: October 10, 2022