

Henderson County Board of Public Education

MINUTES

March 11, 2024

The Henderson County Board of Public Education held a meeting on Monday, March 11, 2024, 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:

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; Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer; Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer

Attorney Present: Cynthia Lopez

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 West 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. Mr. Blair Craven moved that the agenda be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Robert Bridges. *(Unanimously approved.)*

STAFF/STUDENT RECOGNITION

Hendersonville Middle School Principal Joni Allison recognized a sixth-grade student for winning a recent regional competition. Teacher: Anne Boyette

Susannah Dannals won first place in the Sixth Grade category of the annual Daughters of the American Revolution Regional Essay Contest. This year's topic asked writers to imagine that they were reporters present at the first public performance of John Philip Sousa's famous march "The Stars and Stripes Forever." Students also had to provide background information about Sousa's career and his inspiration for writing the patriotic march while he was overseas. 91 students entered the regional contest.

Bruce Drysdale Elementary Principal Jason Joyce recognized a fifth-grade student who won the Daughters of the American Revolution Essay contest at both regional and state levels. Teacher: April Summey

Lia Martinonis won first place in the Fifth Grade category of the annual Daughters of the American Revolution Regional essay contest. She then went on to win the state contest!

West Henderson High School Principal Luke Manuel recognized five students from West DECA. The DECA chapter competed alongside over 5,000 students from across the state at the State Career Development Conference. West Marketing Education Teacher/DECA Advisor: Mrs. Alison Garrett

- Erwin Thomas (Automotive Services Marketing)
 - Top test score medal
 - 5th place state finalist
- Brady McGee (Hotel & Lodging Management)
 - Top role play I & II medals
 - 8th place state finalist
- Naomi Cannon (Hospitality Services Team Decision Making Event)
 - 2nd place state finalist
 - Top role play medal
 - Top test score medal
- Amerie Delfin (Hospitality Services Team Decision Making Event)
 - 2nd place state finalist
 - Top role play medal
 - Top test score medal
- Aubrey Garrett (Marketing Communications)
 - 7th place state finalist
 - 2024-2025 NC DECA Blue Ridge VP

The five students will travel to Anaheim, CA in April to compete at DECA's International Career Development Conference alongside over 23,000 students from across the globe.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT – Kindergarten Registration & Readiness – *(Dr. Marsha Justice, Director of Elementary Education and Title I)*

Director of Elementary Education Dr. Marsha Justice presented to the board updates on Kindergarten Registration & Readiness. Kindergarten registration has been highly advertised with Google Ads- Spanish and English, Facebook/Instagram Ads- Spanish and English, Billboard on Four Seasons and LED Billboard with WHKP, Social Media- District social media and individual school social media, Press release to media contacts, Handouts with a QR code and kindergarten rallies flyers were delivered to 100+ doctor offices, businesses, early childhood centers and community partners around town. HCPS offers registration online at the HCPS website. Dr. Justice shared several registration support options that were available. HCPS provided Kindergarten Q&A sessions that were offered at two locations for parents to get questions answered from a panel of principals, kindergarten teachers, school counselors, and more. Each HCPS elementary school held school specific readiness rallies in March. Incoming kindergarteners and their families can get to know their new school community, learn about kindergarten readiness skills they can practice at home this summer, meet teachers and administrators, and ask questions about the important first year of school. No action was taken.

BOARD MEMBERS' OBSERVATION

Mr. Blair Craven shared that he enjoyed reading at Atkinson Elementary School during Read Across America Week.

Mrs. Alyssa Norman mentioned the Light the Night event that is taking place on Monday, March 18th for high school students from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Blue Ridge Community College.

Mrs. Stacey Caskey talked about the incredible EC department at Hillandale Elementary School during a recent school tour.

PUBLIC COMMENT

At 4:25 p.m. Mr. Egolf opened the meeting for public comment. Nine people addressed the Board. Public comments ended at 4:56 p.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, April 8, 2024, 4:00 p.m., (Closed Session at 3:00 pm) (Boardroom)*]
2. HCBPE Budget Workshop [*Monday, April 15, 2024, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Boardroom)*]
3. HCBPE Budget Workshop [*Monday, April 22, 2024, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. (Boardroom)*](if needed)

B. Minutes - February 12, 2024 (*Regular Business Meeting*)

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

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

E. Budget Amendment

F. Technical correction for Sole Source exemption

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

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

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

Chief Finance Officer Bernie Sochia presented the Public School Building Capital Fund/North Carolina Education Lottery Application for approval. Public School Building Capital Fund/N.C. Education Lottery Application is to request funds currently available (\$235,585.00) 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.

Mr. Robert Bridges moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the North Carolina Education Lottery Application as presented. Mrs. Stacey Caskey seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved*)

B. Approval – Contracts/purchases in excess of \$90,000 – (*Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer*)

Chief Finance Officer Bernie Sochia presented a contract in excess of \$90,000 with current vendor Consolidated Waste Services, for approval. 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. Henderson County solicited for waste removal services including Henderson County Public School locations. Consolidated Waste Services, LLC was awarded the lowest bidder. The contract has been continuously renewed since awarded in 2012.

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve execution of the contract with Consolidated Waste Services as presented. Mrs. Alyssa Norman seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved*)

C. Approval – Teaching Fellows MOU – (*Mr. Scott Rhodes, Assistant Superintendent*)

Scott Rhodes, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, presented to the board information about a recent grant the district received. Mr. Rhodes stated in an effort to create a pipeline of teaching applicants, Henderson County Public Schools applied and received a grant from the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program. Henderson County Public Schools will partner with the North Carolina

Teaching Fellows Program to recruit, prepare, and support students attending North Carolina Educator prep programs, who agree to return to work in Henderson County Public Schools.

Mrs. Stacey Caskey moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program and Henderson County Public Schools. Mrs. Shelia Dale seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved)*

- D. 2022-2023 Audit Report – *(Gould Killian CPA Group, P.A.)(Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer)*
Mr. Terry Andersen with Gould Killian CPA Group, P.A. presented the 2022-2023 Audit Report. The financial statements, which include the Independent Auditors’ Report (required by the Local Government Commission for all LEAs), present the results of operations and financial position of the Henderson County Board of Public Education as of June 30, 2023, and for the fiscal year then ended. The audit report contains an unqualified opinion on the Board’s financial statements, and there were no questioned costs or reportable conditions. No Board action was taken.

- E. Approval – Policy Updates – *(Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer)*

1. Policy 101 – Gender-Neutral Language
2. Policy 301 – School Advisory Councils
3. Policy 411 – Pupil Assignment from Non-Public Schools or Charter Schools
4. Policy 525 – Control of Data Processing Materials
5. Policy 620 – Special Programs
6. Policy 700 – Disclaimer
7. Policy 727 – Injury and Loss Prevention
8. Policy 825 – Volunteer Capital Projects
9. Policy 912 – School Bus Safety Belts
10. Policy 950 – Child Nutrition Program

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education rescind Policy 101, 301, 411, 525, 620, 700, 727, 825, 912, 950. Mrs. Alyssa Norman seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved)*

- F. 2024 NCSBA Legislative Committee Service – *(Board Members)*

The NC School Boards Association’s Board of Directors (BOD) invites each local school board to nominate one of its members to serve on NCSBA’s Legislative Committee. This individual should be nominated through a vote of the full board taken in open session and submitted by March 22, 2024. The Henderson County Board of Public Education voted to nominate Mrs. Shelia Dale to serve on NCSBA’s Legislative Committee. Mrs. Dale has served on the board since December 7, 2022 and has the required training hours necessary to be nominated. Dr. Kathy Revis moved that Henderson County Board of Public Education nominate Mrs. Shelia Dale to serve on NCSBA’s Legislative Committee. 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:

- **2023-2024 MRTS:**
 - HVAC Replacement - Atkinson - RFP Open
 - Roof Replacement - FRMS, NHHS, WHHS
 - FRMS - Completed

- WHHS - In progress
 - Gutter/Downspout Replacement
 - EHHS, FLE, HMS FLE - Completed
 - HVAC Controls Upgrade - Various - In Progress
 - Secure Entry & Cafeteria Expansion- Upward Elementary
 - Secure Entry - Completed
 - Cafeteria - In progress
- New Front Office & Building Connection- West Henderson
 - In progress
 No action was taken.

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

Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer presented the financial report results of operations of the Local Current Expense and Other Restricted Funds for the 2023-24 fiscal year as of February 29, 2024: Revenues received totaled \$28,434,071 and expenditures made totaled \$22,356,145 which is 57% of the currently budgeted expenditures. Each budget category of the Local Current Expense Fund remains on track to finish the year within the initial budget. No action was taken.

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

Superintendent Mark Garrett shared the following dates with the Board.

2024-2025 Kindergarten Registration - Class of 2037 -Registrations as of March 11: 503.

March: Arts in our Schools Month; Social Work Month; March 11-15: Week of Hope: In partnership with Hope Coalition, students in Henderson County Public Schools’ four middle and six high schools are taking a public stand against substance misuse during the week-long “Week of Hope” campaign.

March 11-29: Spring Break for Flex Calendar Schools; March 25-29: Spring Break for all Students and Staff ; April: School Library Month & Occupational Therapy Month; April 3: HCBPE School Tours, 10:00 a.m. at North Henderson High School, Fletcher Elementary, Flat Rock Middle School; April 6: HCPS Job Fair, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at North Henderson High Hiring for all positions within the HCPS Family; April 8: HCBPE Regular Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Closed Session, 3:00 p.m. Boardroom; April 15: BOE Budget Workshop, 9:00 a.m., Central Office; April 25: Special Olympics of Henderson County Spring Games, 9:30 a.m. at East Henderson High School (rain date May 3rd); April 30: 2024 Education Celebration, 5:30 p.m., Jeter Mountain Farm. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Minutes approved: April 9, 2024