

Henderson County Board of Public Education

MINUTES

October 15, 2024

The Henderson County Board of Public Education held a meeting on Monday, October 15, 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; Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer

Administrative Staff Absent: Mr. Scott Rhodes, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and 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 approximately 4:00 p.m. Mr. Egolf requested everyone present to stand as he 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 the agenda as presented. Dr. Kathy Revis moved that the agenda be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Robert Bridges. *(Unanimously approved.)*

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT – HCPS Community Involvement – *(Ms. Kimbrell Arrowood, Public Information Officer)*

Public Information Officer Kimbrell Arrowood shared with Board ways that HCPS came together with incredible resilience and dedication, actively supporting recovery efforts in the wake of the recent hurricane.

BOARD MEMBERS' OBSERVATIONS

All board members shared how thankful they are for our community after the impacts of Hurricane Helene.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 4:37 p.m. Mr. Egolf opened the meeting for public comment. Three people addressed the Board. Public comments ended at 4:50 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, November 18, 2024, 4:00 p.m., (Boardroom)]*

B. Minutes

1. September 9, 2024 *(Regular Business Meeting)*

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Action – Contracts/Purchases over \$90,000 – *(Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer)*

Chief Finance Officer Bernie Sochia presented the Noncompetitive Procurement with Federal Funds and purchase/contract in excess of \$90,000. The Office of Budget and Management (OMB) issues Uniform Guidance Procurement Standards (UG) for local governments that receive and expend federal financial assistance. All purchases of goods that exceed \$30,000 and services that exceed \$50,000.00 and will include federal funds, require issuing a bid solicitation using the Uniform Guidance ‘micro-purchase’ procedures. 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 local Board approval. A local HCPS committee reviews all potential sole source vendors using established NC DPI and UG guidelines. Additionally, 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 are presented for approval of purchase and contract:

➤ Learning Environments, Inc.

- For functionality and safety reasons, the bleachers in the auxiliary gyms at East Henderson and West Henderson High Schools need to be replaced. Per the attached quote, two banks of 81ft bleachers will be installed. Each provides 684 seats. Budgeted Capital Outlay funds will be used for this project.

➤ Atkinson Elementary School

- In response to storm damage at Atkinson Elementary School, First Onsite, dba. Rolyn has been brought in to remediate the immediate water damage. Their services will also be needed to provide asbestos abatement. The original cleaning estimate was \$90,000. We have yet to receive a quote for the entire process. After the cleanup and abatement process Interface and Carpet One will be utilized to provide flooring and installation. The attached quotes are \$147,167.75 for the flooring and \$198,863.59 for installation. Both are under State or co-op contract pricing agreements. This has been submitted to insurance and will be included in a FEMA application for any expense not covered by the insurance claim.

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the purchase and contracts as presented. Mr. Robert Bridges seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

B. Low Performing Schools Requirements – *(Mr. Mark R. Garrett, Superintendent)*

Superintendent Mark Garrett presented the Low Performing Schools Requirements to the Board. Mr. Garrett stated 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 are made available through the local district website and the NCDPI website. All plans are located in NCStar.

Plan for Improvement of Low Performing Schools: If a school has been identified as low-performing as provided in this section and the school is not located in a local school administrative unit identified as low-performing under G.S. 115C-105.39A the following actions shall be taken:

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.

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

- a. Discussion – HCPS Low Performing School Improvement Plans – (*Dr. Shannon Marlowe, Assistant Superintendent*)

Shannon Marlowe, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services discussed the Schools Designated as Low Performing Schools and their School Improvement Plans for 2024-2025. Schools designated as Low Performing Schools (Dana Elementary, Edneyville Elementary, Hillandale Elementary, and Apple Valley Middle School) must submit plans for approval by the school board, and then post the plan publicly for input. Dr. Marlowe stated that Henderson County houses our school improvement plans within the NCSTAR/IndiStar platform. This platform is provided by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) at no-cost to districts. For continuous improvement, each School Improvement Team has assessed the required Key Indicators of NCSTAR, selected targeted goals for improvement, and mapped a plan for assessing and monitoring the school's progress. In order to show transparency, Board members may access and review School Improvement Plans online using information in the attached guiding document or as PDFs in the link provided. Following Board review, guest access for these school plans will be posted on the HCPS website. Updates to information are added after each School Improvement meeting. The Board reviewed and discussed the plans for the schools designated as low performing. Dr. Marlowe answered questions from the Board.

No action was taken.

C. Hurricane Impact & School Response Updates – *(Mr. Mark Garrett, Superintendent)*

Superintendent Mark R. Garrett provided hurricane impact and school response updates. Glenn C. Marlow Elementary is part of the Asheville water system, which is currently under a boil water advisory. While the water is safe for restroom and dishwasher use, HCPS is providing drinking water on campus each day. One yellow school bus was severely damaged during the storm. The State is responsible for replacing this bus. Mr. Garrett stated that the leadership team held daily meetings, including a meeting with school principals. Hendersonville High School was used as a facility for non-emergent medical needs, while Edneyville Elementary and East Henderson High School served as emergency shelters. Mr. Garrett discussed a few key factors for resuming school included power and water availability, road conditions, and the location of staff members. Mr. Garrett expressed how HCPS is grateful for the strong relationships with Henderson County Emergency Management, the Henderson County Sheriff's Office, neighboring communities, first responders, utility workers, and the entire Henderson County team.

Revised Calendar Update

Chief Administrative Officer Carl Taylor updated the board on calendar changes following Hurricane Helene. Certain missed days have been forgiven by the state and are now labeled as "Helene Days" on the calendar. Despite the adjustments, the semester will still conclude before Winter Break. Additionally, 10-month employee pay will remain unaffected, with the usual 10 equal payments still in place. HCPS is also working to identify ways to provide additional compensation for employees who worked during the days immediately following the hurricane. More information will be forthcoming.

Mr. Blair Craven moved that Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the revised 2024-2025 Traditional/Early College and Flex Calendars as presented. Mrs. Stacey Caskey seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

D. Board Member Resignation – *(Mr. Jay Egolf)*

During the meeting, Jay Egolf formally announced his resignation from the school board, stating, "I hereby resign effective immediately." He then passed the gavel to the board's vice chair, Dr. Kathy Revis. Mr. Egolf is preparing to begin his tenure as a county commissioner in December.

E. Board Vacancy

The board thanked Mr. Egolf for his service and shared memories of their time with each other. Attorney Chris Campbell then outlined the options available to the board for selecting a new member to fill Mr. Egolf's seat. The board has the discretion to either request applications, delay the decision for a meeting or two, or proceed with a nomination process, with the earliest motion possible starting on October 15th.

Mr. Robert Bridges brought forth a motion to nominate Mr. Blair Craven to fill the vacant seat. The motion was seconded by Stacey Caskey.

Attorney Chris Campbell clarified that Mr. Craven, whose term on the Board concludes in November, was permitted to fill the vacancy provided he resigned from his current seat before taking the oath for the vacated seat. Mr. Campbell also clarified that Mr. Craven was allowed and obligated to vote on the

motion as a sitting member. Following discussion on the motion, a roll call vote was held. Norman - No; Bridges - Yes; Revis - Yes; Caskey - Yes; Craven - Yes; Dale - No. The motion passed 4 to 2.

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:

- MRTS:
 - Chiller Replacement-Apple Valley
 - Pre-Bid Meeting: October 9
 - RFP Closing Date: October 23
 - HVAC Replacement (Phase 1) Atkinson
 - In Progress
 - New Front Office & Building Connection- West Henderson
 - In Progress
- HCPS Projects:
 - Gymnasium HVAC-EHHS
 - In Progress
 - Gymnasium HVAC-NHHS
 - Completed
 - Gymnasium HVAC-WHHS
 - In Progress
 - Flooring Replacement-Atkinson
 - In Progress
 - Generator-Mills River Academy
 - In Bidding Process

No action was taken.

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

Chief Finance Officer Bernie Sochia presented the financial statements and results of operations of the Local Current Expense and Other Restricted Funds for the 2024-25 fiscal year as of September 30, 2024: Revenues received totaled \$11,431,818 and expenditures made totaled \$8,150,230. Relative to last year, expenditures are \$755,214 higher through the first quarter. The results of the Capital Outlay Fund for the 2024-25 fiscal year as of September 30, 2024: Revenues totaling \$368,589 have been received, and expenditures totaling \$449,541 have been made. Most of the expenditures were for the Flat Rock flooring (\$192,473), and Marlowe chiller (\$222,130) projects. No action has been taken.

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

Upcoming dates and events shared by Superintendent Mark R. Garrett:

- October: National School Principal Month & National Physical Therapy Month
- October 14-18 National School Lunch Week
- October 21-27: NC Countdown to College! College Application Week
- November: National Native American Heritage Month & Veterans' History Appreciation Month in North Carolina
- November 5: Election Day, No school for students/Required workday for staff
- November 6: HCBPE School Tours, 10:00 a.m. at Sugarloaf Elementary, Glenn C. Marlow Elementary, Apple Valley Middle School
- November 11: Veterans' Day Holiday; No school for all students and staff

- November 11-15: National School Psychology Week
 - November 18: HCBPE Regular Business Meeting, 4:00 pm; Closed Session, 3:00 pm
 - November 22nd: National Substitute Educators' Day
- No action was taken.

At 6:46 p.m., just before the meeting adjourned, Mr. Blair Craven formally announced his resignation from his current position on the school board, stating, "I would like to resign my current position as a board member in order to accept the vacant seat on the board."

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mrs. Stacey Caskey moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Robert Bridges seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved at 6:47 p.m.*)

Minutes approved: November 18, 2024