

Henderson County Board of Public Education

MINUTES

December 11, 2023

The Henderson County Board of Public Education held a meeting on Monday, December 11, 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: Robert Bridges; Blair Craven; Shelia Dale; Jay Egolf; Alyssa Norman; Kathy Revis

Board Member Absent: Stacey Caskey

Administrative Staff Present: Mark R. Garrett, Superintendent; Shannon Marlowe, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer and Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer

Administrative Staff Absent: Scott Rhodes, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Attorney Present: Cynthia Lopez

Board Clerk: Tawana Clayton

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Mr. Blair Craven called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. Mr. Craven led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

Per School Board Policy 2200: Election of Officers/Organization of Board; adopted on March 12, 2018, an election will be conducted each December for the Board Chair and Vice-Chair positions. Mr. Blair Craven turned the meeting over to Attorney Cynthia Lopez for the elections of officers. Ms. Lopez asked for nominations for the position of Chairperson. Mr. Blair Craven nominated Mr. Jay Egolf for Chairperson, Mr. Egolf accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Ms. Lopez asked those in favor of Mr. Jay Egolf for the Chairperson to raise their hand. The Board members present, voted unanimously in favor of Mr. Jay Egolf. Ms. Lopez announces that Mr. Jay Egolf was elected as Chairman of the Henderson County Board of Education. Ms. Lopez opened the floor to nominations for Vice Chairperson. Mr. Blair Craven nominated Dr. Kathy Revis, Dr. Kathy Revis accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations for Vice Chairperson. Ms. Lopez asked all those in favor of Dr. Kathy Revis for the Vice Chairperson position to raise their hand. The Board members present, voted unanimously in favor of Dr. Kathy Revis for Vice Chairperson position. Ms. Lopez gave the floor to Chairperson Mr. Jay Egolf.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Superintendent Mark R. Garrett recognized Citlally Diaz Mar, a student at North Henderson High School, who is an Optimum and TelevisaUnivision Hispanic Heritage Month Essay Grand Prize Winner. She received a \$3,000 cash scholarship for sharing in 500 words or less, a person, group of people, or cultural experience that has helped her connect to Hispanic culture and what it means to her. In this National Contest, Citlally competed against over 1,000 entries from across the country. Last year, Christopher Hernandez-Montero, a student at Apple Valley was a Grand Prize winner.

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 Mrs. Shelia Dale. (*Unanimously approved.*)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT- Holiday Music performed by North Henderson High School Orchestra. Mr. Jay Egolf introduced the North Henderson High School Orchestra, under the direction of Ms. Tracey Mumford. The orchestra performed a variety of holiday songs.

BOARD CHAIR OBSERVATIONS

Mr. Jay Egolf talked about how nice it will be to end the semester at winter break. He thanked the Board for electing him as Chair.

BOARD MEMBERS' OBSERVATION

Mr. Shelia Dale mentioned what a great time she had at the 2023 Hendersonville Christmas parade with HCPS. She also enjoyed the 2024 senior t-shirt distribution and a visit to Bruce Drysdale Elementary School.

Dr. Kathy Revis mentioned what an honor it is to be Vice Chair of the Board.

Mr. Robert Bridges would like to thank Dena Wolfe for a great visit at Clear Creek Elementary, mentioning that the staff was wonderful, and the school building was beautiful.

Mrs. Alyssa Norman mentioned what a pleasure it was to visit Hendersonville Middle School. She would also like for staff, students, and families to separate from school during the winter break and spend genuine time with family and friends.

Mr. Blair Craven spoke about his time as the chair of the school board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

At 4:31 p.m. Mr. Egolf opened the meeting for public comment. Three people addressed the Board. Public comments ended at 4:43 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, January 8, 2024 4:00 p.m., (Boardroom)*
(Closed Session at 3:00 pm) (1-A)]

B. Minutes

1. November 13, 2023 (*Regular Business Meeting*)

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

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

E. Budget Amendment

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

OLD BUSINESS

A. HCPS Low Performing Schools – (*Mr. Mark R. Garrett, Superintendent*)

Mr. Garrett presented the Board with updated information for approval regarding the final plan for the five schools that have been designated as low performing schools. Low Performing 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 for the following schools designated as low performing schools; Dana Elementary School; Edneyville Elementary School; Hillandale Elementary School; Upward Elementary School; Apple Valley Middle School; Flat Rock Middle School

- Summary of Requirements for low performing schools:
- Recommendation to retain the principals - Board approved at the November meeting
 - Plan for Improvement - plans are in NCStar and available for public review at any time
 - Parental Notice of Low Performing School Status - letters sent in November
 - Share the Plan for Improvement with School Stakeholders - posted on district and school websites with no feedback received
 - Approve Final Plan - requesting this action today
 - Submit Approved Plan to DPI - within 5 days of Board approval

Dr. Kathy Revis made a motion to approve the final Improvement Plans for the schools designated as low performing. Mrs. Shelia Dale seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved)*

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

Chief Administrative Officer Carl Taylor presented to the Board the following Parents’ Bill of Rights policy updates for approval.

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

Dr. Kathy Revis made a motion that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve policies 1-6: 1310/4002 – Parental Involvement; Policy 3210 – Parental Inspection of and Objection to Instructional Materials; Policy 3540 – Comprehensive Health Education Program; Policy 4335 – Criminal Behavior; Policy 4720 – Surveys of Students; Policy 6120 – Student Health Services for second reading. Seconded by Mrs. Shelia Dale. Mr. Blair Craven abstained from voting. *(Approved by remaining board members)*

After Board discussion regarding policy 7300 – Staff Responsibilities, Mr. Robert Bridges made a motion to approve Policy 7300 – Staff Responsibilities. Seconded by Dr. Kathy Revis. Mr. Blair Craven abstained from voting. *(Approved by remaining board members)*

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval – 2024-2025 Flex Calendar *(First Reading)* – *(Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer)*

Chief Administrative Officer Carl Taylor presented the board with a first 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. No action was taken.

B. Approval – 2024-2025 Traditional School and Early College Calendar *(First Reading)* – *(Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer)*

Chief Administrative Officer Carl Taylor presented the board with a first 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. No action was taken.

- C. Approval – 2025-2026 Flex Calendar (*First Reading*) – (*Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer*)
Chief Administrative Officer Carl Taylor presented the board with a first 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. No action was taken.
- D. Approval – 2025-2026 Tradition School and Early College Calendar (*First Reading*) – (*Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer*)
Chief Administrative Officer Carl Taylor presented the board with a first 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. No action was taken.
- E. Resolution – Protecting Our Kids From Vaping and Nicotine Addiction – (*Mr. Mark Garrett, Superintendent*)
Superintendent Mark Garrett brought a resolution to the board from a community partner, the Henderson County Health Department, about protecting kids from vaping and nicotine addiction. Alyssa Norman mentioned that the board needs to do more than a resolution. Mr. Garrett shared that district leadership has been working with schools to make sure policies are being applied consistently and collecting data. Dr. Kathy Revis made a motion to approve the resolution. Mrs. Shelia Dale seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved*)

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. CAPITAL UPDATE– (*Mr. Carl Talor, 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:

- **HCPS Projects**
 - Elementary Playground upgrades at all 13 Schools- expected to be completed by winter break
- **MRTS:**
 - HVAC Replacement- Atkinson- Engineering Phase
 - Roof Replacement- FRMS, NHHS, WHHS- Bid Awarded (Bonitz, Inc)
 - Gutter/Downspout Replacement- EHHS, FLE, HMS - Bid Awarded (Bonitz, Inc)
 - HVAC Controls Upgrade Various Bid Opening - December 6, 2023
 - Secure Entry & Cafeteria Expansion Upward Elementary
 - Secure Entry - Completed
 - Cafeteria - Awaiting GMP
 - New Front Office & Building Connection- West Henderson- Awaiting GMP

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

Mr. Bernie Sochia presented the financial report results of operations of the Local Current Expense and Other Restricted Funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year as of November 30, 2023: Results of operations of the Local Current Expense and Revenues received totaled \$17,411,819 and expenditures made totaled \$15,713,644. \$2,960,852 of the expenditures were the first payment of the local supplement paid in November.

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

Mr. Garrett shared the following information with the Board:

- December 13: Early Dismissal at 12:00 p.m. for Flex Calendar Schools
- December 13-19: High School Testing Dates
- December 14: Optional Teacher Workday for Flex Calendar Schools; No school for students
- December 15-January 2: Winter Break for Flex Calendar Schools
- December 19: End of First Semester
- December 19: Early Dismissal at 12:00 p.m. for Early College and Traditional Calendar Schools
- December 20-January 1: Winter Break for All Staff and Students
- January: School Board Appreciation Month
- January 2: Required Teacher Workday for All Staff; No school for students
- January 3: Second Semester Begins, all students return to school
- January 3: HCBPE School Tours, 10:00 a.m. at Hendersonville High School, Dana Elementary School, Rugby Middle School
- January 8: HCBPE Regular Business Meeting, 4:00 p.m.; Closed Session, 3:00 p.m.

We want to wish every HCPS student, family, staff member, and our entire community a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year! May this holiday season be the best one yet.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Blair Craven moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Alyssa Norman *(Unanimously approved at 5:47pm.)*

Minutes approved: January 8, 2024