

Henderson County Board of Public Education

MINUTES

March 10, 2025

The Henderson County Board of Public Education held a meeting on Monday, March 10, 2025 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: Dr. Kathy Revis, Chairperson; Robert Bridges, Vice Chairperson; Beth Campbell; Blair Craven; Shelia Dale; Amy Holt; Alyssa Norman

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

Attorney Present: Cynthia Lopez

Board Clerk: Tawana Clayton

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dr. Kathy Revis called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. Dr. Revis requested everyone present to stand as the West Henderson High School Army JROTC presented the colors. Dr. Revis led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

Dr. Kathy Revis asked those present to remain standing and take a moment of silent reflection.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Dr. Kathy Revis acknowledged receipt of the meeting agenda and asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Blair Craven made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt. (*Unanimously approved.*)

STAFF/STUDENT RECOGNITION

East Henderson High School Principal Brandon Scott recognized two Eagles:

Karina Konko

Orchestra Teacher: Ms. Jennie Quinn

Karina Konko showcased her exceptional talent by performing with the North Carolina Music Educators Association All-State Orchestra. After a rigorous audition process, she earned a spot in the prestigious 2024 North Carolina Honors All-State Orchestra—the highest ensemble placement for a high school orchestra student in the state. Over three days in Winston-Salem, Karina participated in intensive rehearsals, collaborating with top student musicians to perform masterworks-level music. The experience culminated in a public concert, highlighting the dedication and artistry of North Carolina's finest young musicians.

Caiden Brewer

Coach: Marquintus Jones

On Friday, January 31, during East Henderson's game against Tuscola, Caiden Brewer broke the district record for total points scored in a basketball career. He finished with a total of 2,286 career points, setting a new milestone in HCPS athletics.

Hendersonville High School Principal Laura Brueger recognized a Bearcat:

Rochely Chagala Gallardo

Orchestra Teacher: Ms. Amanda Tant

Rochely showcased her exceptional talent by performing with the North Carolina Music Educators Association All-State Orchestra. After a rigorous audition process, she earned a spot in the prestigious 2024 North Carolina Honors All-State Orchestra—the highest ensemble placement for a high school orchestra student in the state. Over three days in Winston-Salem, Rochely participated in intensive rehearsals, collaborating with top student musicians to perform masterworks-level music. The experience culminated in a public concert, highlighting the dedication and artistry of North Carolina’s finest young musicians. Rochely placed as one of just 14 violists who were invited into this orchestra.

North Henderson High School Principal Dr. John Shepard recognized a Knight:

Coach Sue Moon

North Henderson High School’s Coach Sue Moon has been recognized as both the Atlantic Region & National Chick-fil-A Leader Academy Teacher of the Year for her incredible leadership and dedication to students—especially in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. Chick-fil-A surprised her with the award on February 28, joined by her leadership students and the Chick-fil-A Cow!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

The Four C’s of CTE- Highlighting Credentials, CTSO’s, Competition, and Career Exploration in Henderson County Public Schools – (*Mr. Scott Moore, Director of High Schools & CTE, Ms. Jennifer Taylor, EHHS CTE Special Populations Support, Ms. Gina Bradley, WHHS Career Development Coordinator and HCPS Students*)

Mr. Scott Moore, Director of High Schools & CTE, along with Ms. Jennifer Taylor, Career Development Coordinator, Ms. Gina Bradley, Career Development Coordinator, and HCPS students, presented to the board on the 4 C’s of CTE.

Credential Data: In 2023-24, 64% of HCPS graduates had at least 1 post secondary credential.

Career and Technical Student Organizations: CT State Officers, Sara Kim-FCCLA, Taylor Ledbetter-FCCLA, Aubrey Garrett-DECA answered questions from the board and shared information on each of their CTE courses.

Competitions: DECA; HOSA; Skills USA; FCCLA

Career Exploration:

- Career Events
- Career Cafe
- Internships
- Partnerships
- Teacher PD
- Internships

Emma Bryson-Speech Therapy(Mills River Elementary) and Lane Melton-Automotive shared their experiences with the internship opportunities.

BOARD MEMBERS’ OBSERVATIONS

Mrs. Beth Campbell shared her experience reading at Atkinson Elementary for Read Across America Week, highlighting how enjoyable it was to explore a school she wasn’t as familiar with.

Mrs. Shelia Dale reflected on reading The Wonky Donkey as part of Read Across America Week.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 4:48 p.m. Dr. Kathy Revis opened the meeting for public comment. Two people addressed the Board. Public comments ended at 4:55 p.m. No action was taken.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Kathy Revis 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 Budget Workshop [Monday, April 14, 2025, 12:00 p.m. (Boardroom)]
2. HCBPE Regular Business Meeting [Monday, April 14, 2025, 4:00 p.m., (Closed Session at 3:00 pm) (Boardroom)]

B. Minutes - February 10, 2025 (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. Alyssa Norman seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved.*)

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

A. New North Carolina Diploma Endorsements – (Dr. Shannon Marlowe, Assistant Superintendent)

Dr. Shannon Marlowe presented the New North Carolina Diploma Endorsements. Based on State Board of Education policy (GRAD-007), the implementation of diploma endorsements is required for all Local Education Agency high schools. The High School Diploma Endorsements document is to apprise the board of the current endorsements available for high school students. The new Arts proficiency Endorsement allows students to document 40 hours of arts-related extra curricular, non-credit-earning activities, subsequently earning an Arts Proficiency Diploma Endorsement. The endorsement requirements state that the arts-related extracurricular activities must be approved by the local board of education. A list of these types of activities could include, but are not limited to:

- All County Band
- Marching Band w/out credit
- Berrian All-County Orchestra
- School plays w/out credit
- Art Clubs
- Art Show
- Private options, such as dance, piano, or other private lessons.

To avoid creating time barriers for students eligible for the Arts Proficiency endorsement, we are seeking the approval of the Board for development of a regulation granting HCPS Instructional Services the authority to evaluate and approve appropriate arts-related extracurricular activities when submitted under the requirements of the state.

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education grant approval for the Instructional Services Department to establish a structured process for evaluating and approving extracurricular activities that qualify students for the Arts Proficiency Endorsement. Mrs. Shelia Dale seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved*)

B. Pre-K – (Mr. Mark Garrett, Superintendent)

Superintendent Mark Garrett provided an update on the NC Pre-K program and discussed how it fits into the HCPS strategic plan. Mr. Garrett shared current Pre-K statistics to the board and opened the topic for discussion.

Currently, HCPS houses 5 WNC Source Pre-K Classrooms at Bruce Drysdale Elementary; Clear Creek Elementary; Dana Elementary; Edneyville Elementary; Hillandale Elementary. HCPS has 3 Exceptional Children Pre-K Classrooms at Fletcher Elementary; Hillandale Elementary; Sugarloaf Elementary. Superintendent Garrett stated HCPS and Smart Start share the cost of a Kindergarten Transition Coordinator, which acts as the liaison for all private childcare providers and Pre-K programs to help with Kindergarten transition. HCPS holds district wide Kindergarten rallies connecting Pre-K students with their zoned elementary school. The state currently allocates Henderson County with 234 Pre-K slots. WNC Source houses 108 slots, Head Start houses 90 slots and The Little Red School houses 14 slots. There are currently 22 unused and available slots. NC Pre-K classroom cost and preparation is estimated at \$20,000 to \$25,000, the majority of which is a one time cost for fitting and furnishing the space. Staffing cost is estimated at \$111,000 per Pre-K classroom per year. The Board expressed interest in partnering with NC Pre-K and WNC Source pending availability of space at elementary schools. No action was taken.

C. Action - Joint Facility Committee

Chairperson Dr. Kathy Revis provided an update on the Board's Joint Facility Committee. During the review of Policy 2230, Dr. Revis noted that the appointments of Mr. Bridges, Mr. Craven, and Mrs. Holt to the committee had been made without formal board approval.

To rectify this, Dr. Revis moved to approve Mr. Robert Bridges, Mr. Blair Craven, and Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt as members of the Joint Facility Committee for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year, designating it as an ad hoc committee. Mr. Robert Bridges seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved)*

D. Joint Facility Committee Meeting

Mr. Robert Bridges provided an update on the County Commissioners Joint Schools Facility Committee meeting held earlier today. He reported that key priorities discussed included the bus garage, East Henderson High School, MRTS funds, and a request for a new 10-year facility study. Mr. Bridges noted that the county commissioners were open to the proposed projects and planned to meet again in April. Mr. Blair Craven emphasized that the bus garage remains the top priority. Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt requested an increase in MRTS funds, while Mr. Craven also highlighted the incomplete HVAC project at Atkinson Elementary, stressing the need to ensure MRTS funds remain available for its completion. Mr. Craven discussed the advantages of both boards meeting twice a year. The Board engaged in discussion regarding the potential purchase of a 10-year facility study.

Mr. Blair Craven moved to direct the administrative staff to develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a comprehensive 10-year facility study encompassing all HCPS capital needs. Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved)*

E. Discussion – Board Committees – *(Board Members)*

Chairperson Dr. Kathy Revis led the discussion surrounding policy 2230: Board Committees. The policy states, as time and situations demand, ad hoc committees may be appointed by the chairperson with the approval of the board. Ad hoc committees have no final authority and are subordinate and advisory to the board. Dr. Revis initiated a discussion on the potential creation of standing committees. The Board directed the administrative staff to gather information on school districts that utilize standing committees. The Board will revisit the possibility of adopting a policy to establish standing committees based on the findings. No action taken.

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:

HCPS Projects:

- Bleacher Replacement - Aux Gym EHHS/WHHS - Completed

MRTS:

- New Front Office & Building Connection - West Henderson - In Progress



West Henderson



No action 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 February 28, 2025: Revenues received totaled \$30,490,894 and expenditures made totaled \$24,940,028. Through eight months, this reflects 71% of budgeted revenues and 58% of budgeted expenditures and is an increase of \$2,583,883 in expenditures compared to the prior year. No action taken.

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

Superintendent Mark Garrett shared the following important dates with the Board.

2025-2026 Kindergarten Registration - Class of 2038!

- Registrations as of March 10: 490
- March: Arts in our Schools Month
- March 10: Intersession begins; No school for students on Flex calendar.
- March 11: Optional Teacher Workday for Flex Calendar
- March 17-21: Spring Break for all Students and Staff
- April: School Library Month & Occupational Therapy Month
- April 5: HCPS Job Fair, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at North Henderson High
(Hiring for all positions within the HCPS Family)
- April 9: HCBPE School Tours, 10:00 a.m. at Clear Creek Elementary, Fletcher Elementary, Hendersonville High School
- April 10: Superintendent Teacher Advisory Council, Central Office, 3:30 p.m.
Superintendent Parent Advisory Council, Central Office, 5:30 p.m.
- April 14: BOE Budget Workshop, 12:00 p.m., Central Office;
HCBPE Regular Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Closed Session, 3:00 p.m.
- April 17: NC Scholars Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Blue Ridge Conference Hall

- April 25: Special Olympics of Henderson County Spring Games, 9:30 a.m.
at East Henderson High School (rain date May 2nd)
 - April 29: 2025 HCEF Education Celebration, 5:30 p.m., Point Lookout Vineyards
- No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Dr. Kathy Revis moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Blair Craven seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved at 6:40 p.m.)*

Minutes approved: April 14, 2025