

Henderson County Board of Public Education

MINUTES

June 30, 2025

The Henderson County Board of Public Education held a meeting on Monday, June 30, 2025 beginning at 9:55 am, 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 Lynn Holt
Absent: 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: None

Board Clerk: Tawana Clayton

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dr. Kathy Revis called the meeting to order at approximately 9:55 a.m. Dr. Revis requested everyone present to stand as she 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 called for a motion to approve it as presented. Mr. Blair Craven moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

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 Administrator Visit *[(Monday, July 28, 2025, 12:00 p.m., (Blue Ridge Community College)]*
2. HCBPE Regular Business Meeting *[(Monday, August 4, 2025, 4:00 p.m., (Boardroom)(Closed Session 3:00 pm)]*

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

C. Budget Amendment

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

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Action – 2025-2026 Interim Budget Resolution – *(Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer)*

Chief Finance Officer Bernie Sochia presented the 2025-2026 Interim Budget Resolution for approval. Mr. Sochia stated that based on projections of the new 2025-26 State budget, it authorizes payment of salaries and benefits in addition to other reasonable and customary expenses associated with the start of a new fiscal year which begins on July 1, 2025. This is intended to be for the interim period until details for implementation of the State, Local and Federal budgets are finalized and a formal 2025-26 Initial Budget Resolution can be adopted.

Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the 2025-26 Interim Budget Resolution as presented. Mr. Blair Craven seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved.*)

B. Action – Micro-purchase Threshold – (*Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer*)

Chief Finance Officer Bernie Sochia presented the Micro-purchase Threshold for approval. The current micro-purchase procurement threshold under the Uniform Guidance for the purchase of goods and services with Federal funds is \$10,000. 2CFR § 200.320 provides school districts the ability to raise, via annual self-certification, the micro-purchase threshold to a “higher threshold consistent with State, local, tribal laws and regulations”. In North Carolina, the legal threshold is \$30,000 for the purchase of goods, and \$50,000 for service contracts. With the addition of ESSER I, II, and III to the Federal budget, and the increased number of purchases above the \$10,000 threshold, Henderson County Public Schools increased the micro-purchase threshold for the fiscal year 2021-22 to expedite the purchasing process for such purchases to be more consistent with other funding sources, especially as it relates to our response to Covid-19. Under the same conditions, Henderson County Public Schools’ administration would like to keep the increased threshold for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the resolution authorizing the increase of the micro-purchase threshold for the fiscal year 2025-2026 as presented. Mrs. Shelia Dale seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved.*)

C. Action – Sole Source (*Curriculum Associates: Ellevation*) – (*Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer*)

Chief Finance Officer Bernie Sochia presented the Sole Source for Curriculum Associates: Ellevation program for approval. 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 service. Procurement under this exception requires annual local Board approval. A local HCPS committee reviews all potential procurement waivers using established NC DPI and UG guidelines.

Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the noncompetitive procurement waiver as presented. Mrs. Shelia Dale seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved.*)

D. Discussion – Cell Phone Legislation – (*Mark R. Garrett, Superintendent*)

Superintendent Mark Garrett led the discussion regarding House Bill 959. This bill requires PSU’s to have a policy that, at a minimum prohibits students from using, displaying, or having a wireless communication device turned on during instructional time. Which includes cell phones, tablets, laptops, paging devices, two-way radios, and gaming devices. The following exceptions are: Authorized by a teacher for educational purposes or for use in the event of an emergency, required by the student's individualized education program or section 504 plan, required to manage a student’s health care.

Consequences for violations of the policy must be established under the Code of Student Conduct. A policy must be adopted by January 1, 2026. Mr. Garrett stated HCPS Board Policy 4318 - Use of Wireless Communication Device is in compliance with the requirements under House Bill 959.

HCPS Board Policy 4318 - Use of Wireless Communication Device states:

- Defines wireless devices to include cell phones, electronic devices with internet capability, paging devices, two-way radios, and similar devices.
- Devices are not to be activated, used, displayed, or visible during the instructional day or as otherwise directed by school rules or school personnel.
- Allows administrators and teachers to authorize student use during the day. Administrators or staff may confiscate devices that are on, used, displayed, or visible in violation of the policy.
- Policy and possible consequences are covered in the Student Code of Conduct.

The Board agreed to maintain the current policy while incorporating the revisions recommended by legal counsel in the fall.

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

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

2025-2026 Kindergarten Registration Open - Welcome HCPS Class of 2038!

- June 9-July 25: Summer Meal Program .
- July 7-9: Required Teacher/Staff Workdays for Flex Calendar
- July 10: First Day of School for students on Flex Calendar
- July 28: HCBPE Administrator In-Service, 12:00 p.m., Blue Ridge Community College
- August 4: HCBPE Regular Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Closed Session, 3:00 p.m.
Boardroom
- August 4-8: Required Teacher/Staff Workdays for Traditional and Early College Calendar
- August 11: First Day of School for students on Traditional and Early College Calendar

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Blair Craven moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Shelia Dale seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved at 10:35 a.m.)*

Minutes approved: August 4, 2025