

Henderson County Board of Public Education

MINUTES

February 10, 2025

The Henderson County Board of Public Education held a meeting on Monday, February 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. Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Mr. Robert Bridges. (*Unanimously approved.*)

STAFF/STUDENT RECOGNITION

Superintendent Mark R. Garrett and school principals recognized and presented certificates to the following students:

- Tessa Dowd, a fifth grader, from Bruce Drysdale Elementary won first place in the Joseph McDowell Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution essay contest. For this year's essay topic students wrote about the Edenton Tea Party. Tessa won at the regional level as well.
- Angela Navarro-Valdez, a student at North Henderson High School has been named a state nominee for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program by the NC Department of Public Instruction Presidential Scholars Nomination Committee. This prestigious recognition highlights Angela's exceptional scholarship qualities in the General Education category, representing the best of North Carolina's students. Established in 1964, the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program honors outstanding high school seniors nationwide, with final scholars announced in May 2025. Selected scholars receive the U.S. Presidential Scholars medallion and are celebrated at the State Board of Education and during the National Recognition Program.
- Citlally Diaz-Mar, a student at North Henderson High School has been named the 2025 Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year! This honor recognizes teens for leadership, service, academic excellence, and resilience. The program helps develop future leaders while promoting health, wellness, and personal growth.

- North Henderson High School received the NCASCD (North Carolina Association Supervision and Curriculum Development) Award for Lighthouse School: This prestigious award is presented to one or more schools leading the way in North Carolina for excellence in student achievement and innovative programs.

Assist. Superintendent for Instructional Services, Dr. Shannon Marlowe recognized 3 educators who've earned their National Board Certification from the National Board for Professional Standards.

- Caroline Galvan - West Henderson
- Jill Raab - Flat Rock Middle
- Jodie Searcy - Fletcher Elementary

Dr. Marlowe also recognized 16 educators who recertified their credentials in 2024:

- Carlee Smith- Hendersonville Middle
- Kara Lindsey- Hendersonville Elementary
- Tracey Mumford- Apple Valley & North
- Matt Witt- Henderson County Early College
- Elizabeth Ballard- Flat Rock Middle
- Sarah Justice- East Henderson High
- Wendy Fletcher - North Henderson High
- Scott Cowan - Central Office
- Nicole Riddle - Etowah Elementary
- Chad Guidash- Sugarloaf Elementary
- Amy Pace - Fletcher Elementary
- Dana Wells - Hendersonville Elementary
- Mandi Willingham - Henderson County Early College
- Sabrina Sweeney - Hendersonville High
- Geoffrey Kinsey - Glenn C. Marlow Elementary
- Velita Cochran - Rugby Middle

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Kindergarten Registration: Welcome Class of 2038! – *(Ms. Kimbrell Arrowood, Public Information Officer)*

Dr. Marsha Justice, Director of Elementary Education, and Public Information Officer Kimbrell Arrowood presented an engaging program on Kindergarten Registration. Ms. Arrowood highlighted the various ways HCPS is promoting registration and shared details about upcoming events designed to welcome and support incoming Kindergarten students.

BOARD MEMBERS' OBSERVATIONS

Beth Campbell shared excitement on the book vending machines now available in all 13 elementary schools, made possible by a generous donor and Kiwanis Club.

Amy Lynn Holt recognized Kara Lindsey, who was in attendance, for earning her National Board Certification. She shared a story of when her daughter was in Ms. Lindsey's kindergarten class.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 4:47 p.m. Dr. Kathy Revis opened the meeting for public comment. Five people addressed the Board. Public comments ended at 5:09 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 Regular Business Meeting [*Monday, March 10, 2025 4:00 p.m., (Closed Session at 3:00 pm Room 1A)(Boardroom)*]

B. Minutes - January 13, 2025 (*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. Alyssa Norman seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved.*)

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval – Reassignment Tuition for Out of County Acceptances – (*Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer*)

Chief Administrative Officer Carl Taylor presented the reassignment tuition for out of county acceptances for approval. Out of County tuition for students on reassignment from outside of Henderson County is based on Henderson County's Local Current Expense per student. Therefore, the tuition fee for the 2025-2026 school year should increase by \$170.00 from \$2,410 to \$2,580.

Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the increase of Out of County tuition to \$2,580.00 for the 2025–2026 school year. Mrs. Alyssa Norman 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 the Noncompetitive Procurement with Federal Funds or purchase/contract in excess of \$90,000 for Blue Ridge Health. 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.

Mr. Sochia stated that at the start of the 2024-25 school year, seven schools were without school-based therapy services. Thanks to the efforts of Blue Ridge Health, this number has been reduced to four—without any additional cost. To further address this gap, the district has secured \$92,000 in State-allocated hurricane relief and recovery funds designated specifically for mental health support. These funds will enable Blue Ridge Health to expand staffing and provide necessary training, ensuring that school-based therapy services are available at the remaining four schools. Beginning March 1, the combined services of Crossnore and Blue Ridge Health will ensure that all HCPS schools receive at least two days of school based therapy services per week. This expansion represents a one-time expenditure to enhance mental health support for our students.

Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve that staff proceed with expanding the contract with Blue Ridge Health as presented. Mrs. Alyssa Norman seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

C. Approval – Summer Program Testing Schedule – *(Dr. Shannon Marlowe, Assistant Superintendent)*
Assistant Superintendent Dr. Shannon Marlowe presented the 2024-2025 Summer Program Testing Plan for approval. Dr. Marlowe stated that the purpose of our summer instruction programming is to provide additional academic instruction and second chance assessments on eligible state EOGs/EOCs to invited students.

Mr. Robert Bridges moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the 2024-2025 Summer Program Testing Plan. Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. CAPITAL UPDATE – *(Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer)*

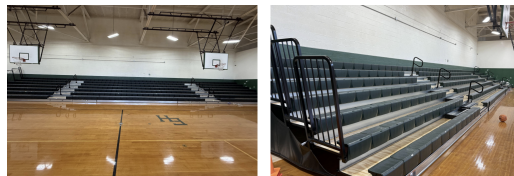
Chief Administrative Officer Carl Taylor provided the Board with status updates on the construction and facility projects currently underway or planned in the near future:

HCPS Project:

Bleacher Replacement - Aux Gym EHHS/WHHS - In Progress

MRTS Project:

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



Bleacher Replacement



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 January 31, 2025: Revenues received totaled \$26,558,318 and expenditures made totaled \$22,667,449. This is 53% of the budget for the year. Expenditures are \$2,629,873 more than last year at this point which includes almost \$400,000 of operating fund expenditures already made due to Helene. Results of operations of the Enterprise Fund for the 2024-25 fiscal year as of December 31, 2024: For Child Nutrition: through the second quarter, revenues of \$3,828,603 have been received and expenditures of \$4,322,464 have been made. For Child Care: through the second quarter, revenues of \$565,257 have been received and expenditures of \$720,575 have been made. The expenditures include \$52,000 in playground updates from the grant funds received in the prior fiscal year. No action taken.

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

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

February: Black History Month; Love The Bus Month; Career and Technical Education Month

February: Kindergarten Registration opens for the 2025-2026 school year (Class of 2038)

February 14: Required Teacher Workday for Traditional and Early College calendar (District Professional Development), No school for those students.
February 15: School Resource Officer Appreciation Day
February 20: Superintendent Teacher Advisory Council, Central Office, 3:30 p.m.
Superintendent Parent Advisory Council, Central Office, 5:30 p.m.
March: Arts in our Schools Month
March 2-6: Read Across America Week
March 2-8: School Social Worker Week
March 3-7: National School Breakfast Week
March 5: HCBPE School Tours, 10:00 a.m. at Rugby Middle School, Hillandale Elementary, Etowah Elementary
March 10: HCBPE Regular Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Boardroom; Closed Session 3:00 p.m. Conference Room 1A
March 10: Required Teacher Workday for Flex calendar (District Professional Development), Intersession begins; No school for students on Flex calendar.
March 11: Optional Teacher Workday for Flex Calendar
March 14: Optional Teacher Workday for Traditional calendar; No school for students
March 17-21: Spring Break for all Students and Staff
No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mrs. Alyssa Norman moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Shelia Dale seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved at 5:28 p.m.)*

Minutes approved: March 10, 2025