

Henderson County Board of Public Education

MINUTES

September 8, 2025

The Henderson County Board of Public Education held a meeting on Monday, September 8, 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; Beth Campbell; Stephanie Cantwell; Blair Craven; Shelia Dale; Amy Lynn Holt; 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: Scott Rhodes, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer

Attorney Present: Chris Campbell
Board Clerk: Tawana Clayton

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dr. Kathy Revis called the meeting to order at approximately 4:07 p.m. Dr. Revis requested everyone present to stand as the North Henderson High School Air Force 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 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)

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Dr. Kathy Revis opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairperson. Mr. Blair Craven nominated Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt, and the nomination was seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Cantwell. With no further nominations, Dr. Revis called for a vote. The Board unanimously elected Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt as Vice Chairperson. Mrs. Holt will serve in this role through December 2025 when new Board Officer elections will take place.

STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITIONS

Cody Merriman of Glenn C. Marlow Elementary has been named the Slater Family Honored Educator Scholar for 2025–2026 by the Development Foundation of the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT).

Hendersonville Elementary was officially recognized by the State Board of Education in Raleigh as a Model STEM School of Distinction, the highest designation a STEM school can achieve. The school is the first in North Carolina to complete the Redesignation process, marking nearly a decade of excellence in STEM teaching and learning.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT - HCPS Project GLAD- Regional Training Center

Ms. Simone Wertenberger presented to the board updates about HCPS Project GLAD (Guided - Language - Acquisition - Design). Henderson County Public Schools has partnered with OCDE Project GLAD and is a certified regional training center. Project GLAD is a rigorous professional development model that uses current brain research, cultural responsiveness and language acquisition processes to design learning opportunities to help ensure student success. The model is beneficial for all academic language learners, but is essential for multilingual learners. HCPS is 1 of 4 Regional Training Centers in the country and 1 of 2 training centers east of the Mississippi. *No action was taken.*

SCHOOL FEATURES: Hendersonville Elementary, Atkinson Elementary, East Henderson High School
Each month, this spotlight will give the opportunity to showcase unique programs, traditions, and successes happening across all 23 of our schools.

Upward Elementary – Project GLAD Strategies

- Language is a key driver in learning.
- Strategies are visible throughout the school, from hallway displays to classroom instruction.
- Brings core instruction to life for students.

Atkinson Elementary – Heritage Day

- A bi-annual event, first started in 1995.
- This year's event will take place on Monday, September 29.
- Features over 15 community partners, including Camp Pinnacle.
- Learn more on HCPSNC.org, where you'll find an article covering the 2023 event.

East Henderson High School – Apple Festival

- Eagle students are given multiple opportunities to serve and participate.
The Cross Country Team helped prepare downtown by painting numbers on Main Street for vendors.
- The East High Garage Band entertained festival-goers with live music.
- Highlight: Ryah McDonald, named the 2025 Apple Ambassador.

BOARD MEMBERS' OBSERVATIONS

Dr. Kathy Revis warmly welcomed new board member Stephanie Cantwell to the Board of Public Education.

Mrs. Beth Campbell shared her excitement about welcoming the Class of 2038 by handing out kindergarten t-shirts and noted what a strong start it has been to the school year.

Mrs. Shelia Dale highlighted the positive school culture she observed at Hendersonville High School, particularly praising the leadership of Ms. Laura Bruegger. She noted that the shop program was busy constructing benches for the courtyard. She also reflected on her visit to North Henderson High School, where she toured Ms. Frank's health science classroom and loved the visit.

Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt highlighted the Class of 2038 t-shirt distribution at Clear Creek Elementary, where current HCPS seniors were in attendance and the t-shirt distribution was explained to kindergarteners in a storytime format. She also gave a shout out to the kindergarten distribution at Edneyville Elementary, where one of her favorite moments was giving a shirt to a student in the EC classroom.

Mrs. Stephanie Cantwell shared about her school tour at Sugarloaf Elementary, where she was inspired by Ms. Morrow, who advanced from a teacher assistant to teacher through dedication and hard work. She also noted how much she enjoyed one of her favorite annual traditions, the kindergarten t-shirt distributions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 4:40 p.m. Dr. Kathy Revis opened the meeting for public comment. Seven people addressed the Board. Public comments ended at 5:05 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, October 13, 2025, 4:00 p.m., (Boardroom)*]
- B. Minutes
 - 1. August 4, 2025 (*Regular Business Meeting*)
- C. Personnel (*as presented in closed session*)
- D. Student Acceptances/Releases (*as presented in closed session*)
- E. Carolinas Academic Leadership Network

Mr. Blair Craven moved to remove item "E. Carolinas Academic Leadership Network" from the Consent Agenda and place it under New Business as item "C." The motion was seconded by Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt and unanimously approved. Dr. Revis then called for a motion to approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda. Mr. Blair Craven so moved, with a second from Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt, and the motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Instrument Funding – (*Dr. Shannon Marlowe, Assistant Superintendent*)

Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Dr. Shannon Marlowe shared a follow up with the board about musical instrument funding. Directives from the August board meeting regarding instruments were to begin building up classroom sets of 7th grade instruments for student use in both band and strings. When complete, begin 8th grade, develop a process by which teachers who need capital instruments may submit a request in February of each school year, provide a list to the Board of per instrument cleaning and per instrument repair costs for review. This could lead to additional discussions around funding or cleaning fees for instrument use. The Board's intent is for all instruments to be in the hands of students, and students should not need to share instruments. Dr. Marlowe shared considerations and feedback from teachers which included, available storage space for additional instruments in each school and plans for cleaning and repair of the increased number of instruments, classroom size to support increased numbers of participants and school scheduling to allow for numbers of participants. The Board also requested a purchase and replacement plan to guide future purchases and budget allocations.

Mr. Blair Craven moved to dedicate the remainder of the approved 2025-2026 Instrument Replacement funds toward the purchase of instruments for the middle school band and strings programs. Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved.*)

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Action – 2025- 2026 Initial Budget & Slides– (*Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer*)

Chief Finance Officer Bernie Sochia presented the 2025-2026 Initial Budget Resolution for approval. Mr. Sochia stated that this serves as the beginning budget for all funds for subsequent amendments. The total Local Current Expense and Capital Outlay Funds are consistent with the 2025-26 Preliminary Budget previously approved. The State Public School Fund reflects the most current dollar and position allotments as directed by the State. Likewise, the Federal Grants Fund reflects the budgets as approved by DPI to date. The Child Nutrition and Child Care Enterprise Funds reflect continuation budgets with adjustments for all legislative updates approved and anticipated and Board approved changes.

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the Initial Budget Resolution for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. Mrs. Shelia Dale seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

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

Chief Finance Officer Bernie Sochia presented contracts/purchases over \$90,000 for Board approval. 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 purchase was presented for approval: Carolina Thomas 2026 Thomas 72 passenger activity bus as presented in the 2025-26 capital outlay budget.

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the activity bus purchase as presented. Mrs. Alyssa Norman seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

C. Action – Carolinas Academic Leadership Network - *(Dr. Kathy Revis, Chairperson)*

During the August 4, 2025 Board meeting, Chairperson Dr. Kathy Revis shared information about Carolinas Academic Leadership Network (CALN) with the Board. CALN is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting K–12 public school board members in North Carolina and South Carolina. Dr. Revis shared per Board Policy 2123 - Board Member Opportunities for Development states unless otherwise approved by the board, such training must be provided by the following entities: the school system, the North Carolina School Boards Association, the Consortium of State School Boards Associations, the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, or the Department of Public Instruction. If a board member wishes to receive training credit or be reimbursed for attending training offered by another entity, he or she must obtain approval from the board prior to participation.

Dr. Revis asked for a motion to approve professional development courses offered by the Carolinas Academic Leadership Network. Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt moved that the Henderson County Board of Education approves that professional development courses offered by the Carolinas Academic Leadership Network will be accepted as training credits for Board of Education members for the 2025-2026 school year. Mrs. Shelia Dale seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. CAPITAL UPDATE – *(Mr. Mark R. Garrett, Superintendent)*

Superintendent Mark R. Garrett provided the board with status updates on the construction and facility projects currently underway or planned in the near future:

- HCPS Projects:

- Card Access Installation - Various Sites - In Progress
- Stadium Bleacher Replacement (Visitor Side) - East Henderson - Completed
- Gymnasium Bleacher Seat Replacement - Hendersonville Middle - Completed
- Fleet Vehicle (F-250 Crew Cab Truck) - Maintenance - Completed
- Fleet Vehicles (2 Nissan Versas) - Technology - In Progress

MRTS:

- New Construction - Bus Garage Architect RFQ Released September 3
- HVAC Controls Replacement - Sugarloaf, All Middle Schools, NHHS, WHHS - Under Contract Johnson Controls
- Paving - In Progress
 - Hendersonville Elementary (Main Circle, Parking Lot)
 - Flat Rock Middle (Back Drive Repair)

- Fletcher Elementary (Bus Lot Repair)
- Glenn Marlow Elementary (Bus Lot Repair)
- Hillandale Elementary (Seal and Restripe Main Parking Lot)
- Mills River Elementary (Seal and Restripe Main Parking Lot)
- Roofing - In Progress
 - East Henderson (Cafeteria)
 - West Henderson (Cafeteria and X-Building)

No action was taken.

B. ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT – (Dr. Shannon Marlowe, Assistant Superintendent)

Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Dr. Shannon Marlowe updated the board on the 2024-2025 state accountability results released last week. Dr. Marlowe stated that 17 of 23 schools met or exceeded growth targets (74% of HCPS), 5 Schools Exceeded Growth: Sugarloaf Elementary +2.19, Apple Valley Middle +3.19, East Henderson High +3.45, North Henderson High +9.37, HC Early College +3.88. 12 Schools Met Growth: Bruce Drysdale Elementary +1.70, Clear Creek Elementary +0.29, Etowah Elementary +0.13, Fletcher Elementary -2.00, Hendersonville Elementary -0.71, Hillandale Elementary -1.37, Glenn C. Marlow Elementary -1.54, Mills River Elementary +1.50, Upward Elementary -1.45, Hendersonville Middle -1.23, Rugby Middle +0.19, Hendersonville High +0.83. The General Assembly requires districts to assign grades to schools. The formula used to determine the school grade is 80% proficiency and 20% growth.

School Grades
(This began in 2013-2014 as required by General Assembly)



Formula:
80% = Proficiency
20% = Growth

HCPS	A	B	C	D	F
2024-2025	1	9	6	5	1
2023-2024	1	8	7	6	0

- Elementary School Grades:
 - B: Etowah, Hendersonville, Glenn C. Marlow, Mills River
 - C: Atkinson, Bruce Drysdale, Clear Creek, Fletcher
 - D: Edneyville, Hillandale, Sugarloaf, Upward
 - F: Dana
- Middle School Grades
 - B: Rugby
 - C: Apple Valley, Hendersonville Middle
 - D: Flat Rock
- High School Grades
 - A: Early College
 - B: East Henderson, Hendersonville High, North Henderson, West Henderson

Maintaining= The Career Academy

Dr. Marlowe shared the overall proficiency for Western North Carolina districts, Henderson County is ranked 5th in the Western region out of 18 districts. HCPS reached its highest graduation rate in district history, at 93.6%, ranking 9th among all North Carolina school districts.

State Designations:

- Low Performing (State designation): A low performing school has a School Performance grade of 'D' or 'F' and a growth status of 'Met' or 'Not Met'
- Continually Low Performing (State designation): A school identified as low performing in any two of the last three years.
 - Dana Elementary: Low -Performing, Continually Low-Performing
 - Edneyville Elementary: Low -Performing, Continually Low-Performing
 - Hillandale Elementary: Low -Performing, Continually Low-Performing
 - Upward Elementary: Low -Performing, Continually Low-Performing
 - Flat Rock Middle: Low -Performing, Continually Low-Performing
 - Apple Valley Middle: Continually Low-Performing (C school, exceeded growth 24-25)

Federal Designations:

Federal Designations

Comprehensive Support & Improvement School (CSI)
Lowest performing five percent of all Title I schools

Targeted Support & Improvement Schools (TSI)
Subgroups within a school that are consistently underperforming or in need of additional targeted support

Subgroups:
 SWD = Students with disabilities
 ELS = English learners
 BLACK = Black



Dana Elementary: CSI- Low-Performing

Edneyville Elementary: TSI, (SWD)

Sugarloaf Elementary: TSI, (SWD)

Apple Valley Middle: TSI, (ELS, SWD)

Flat Rock Middle: TSI, (ELS, SWD)

Hendersonville Middle: TSI, (BLACK, SWD)

Rugby Middle: TSI, (SWD)

East Henderson High: TSI, (ELS)

North Henderson High: TSI, (ELS)

No action taken.

C. 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 2025-26 fiscal year as of August 31, 2025: Revenues received totaled \$7,368,431 and expenditures made totaled \$6,442,667. *No action was taken.*

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

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

September: Attendance Awareness Month

September 11: Superintendent Teacher Advisory Council meeting, 3:30 p.m. & Superintendent Parent Advisory Council meeting, 5:30 p.m.

September 15- October 15: National Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15- October 3: Intersession break for Students on Flex calendar

October: National School Principal Month & National Physical Therapy Month

October 2: National Custodial Workers Recognition Day

October 9: HCBPE School Tours, 10:00 a.m. at Glenn Marlow Elementary, Hendersonville Elementary and Rugby Middle School

October 10: World Mental Health Day

October 13: Optional Teacher Workday, No school for students on Traditional & Early College Calendar

October 13: HCBPE Regular Business Meeting, 4:00 pm; Closed Session, 3:00pm

October 13-17: National School Lunch Week

October 14: Required Teacher Workday (District PD), No school for students on Traditional & Early College Calendar

October 20-26: NC Countdown to College! College Application Week

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Blair Craven moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved at 6:52 p.m.)*

Minutes approved: October 13, 2025