

# **Henderson County Board of Public Education**

## **MINUTES**

November 10, 2025

The Henderson County Board of Public Education held a meeting on Monday, November 10, 2025 beginning at 4:00 pm, at 414 4<sup>th</sup> 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; Amy Lynn Holt, Vice Chairperson; Beth Campbell; Stephanie Cantwell; Blair Craven; Shelia Dale; Alyssa Norman

Administrative Staff Present: Mark R. Garrett, Superintendent; Shannon Marlowe, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Scott Rhodes, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer; 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 4:00 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 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)*

### **RESOLUTION HONORING MR. ROBERT BRIDGES**

Dr. Kathy Revis read a resolution honoring Mr. Robert Bridges, and Superintendent Mark Garrett presented his family with a framed resolution and a gift of appreciation for his years of service to Henderson County Public Schools.

Resolution in Honor of Mr. Robert Bridges

WHEREAS, Mr. Robert Bridges faithfully dedicated his life to public education in Henderson County, beginning his career in 1968 as an elementary teacher at Dana Elementary School, and throughout his service always demonstrated a passion for teaching and guiding young people; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bridges served the students and families of Henderson County in many roles, including teacher at Rugby Junior High, assistant principal at Flat Rock Middle School, and as a high school guidance counselor at East Henderson High School, where he concluded his distinguished career as a beloved advocate for students; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, Mr. Bridges was elected by the citizens of Henderson County to the Henderson County Board of Public Education, where he continued his lifelong commitment to service; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, Mr. Bridges was re-elected to the Board of Public Education, and his peers entrusted him with the role of Vice Chairman, where he provided thoughtful leadership and worked tirelessly to advance educational opportunities for all students; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bridges' legacy is one of integrity, dedication, and service, impacting generations of students, educators, and families across Henderson County; and  
WHEREAS, the Henderson County Board of Public Education recognizes the profound loss felt by the entire educational community and wishes to honor Mr. Bridges' life, service, and contributions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Henderson County Board of Public Education does hereby express its deepest appreciation for the life and service of Mr. Robert Bridges, and extends heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be entered into the permanent minutes of the Henderson County Board of Public Education on this \_10th\_day of \_November\_, 2025, as a lasting tribute to his memory and his enduring impact on public education.

#### STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITIONS

Superintendent Mark Garrett recognized the staff members of the HCPS family who have served our country in the military by reading their names displayed on the HCPS Wall of Honor.

Superintendent Mark Garrett recognized the following science teachers who were recognized at the North Carolina Science Teachers Association's Professional Development Institute on November 6 at the Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem for their excellence in science instruction and dedication to students across North Carolina. The NCSTA is the state's largest organization of science educators, committed to advancing and improving science teaching at all grade levels. The annual Professional Development Institute offers more than 120 sessions, hands-on learning experiences, and networking opportunities for educators statewide.

- Ms. Tara Hammond, Hillandale Elementary – 2025 NCSTA District 8 Elementary School Outstanding Science Teaching Award
- Mr. Tony Campbell, Flat Rock Middle – 2025 NCSTA District 8 Middle School Outstanding Science Teaching Award
- Ms. Amy Zalevskiy, West Henderson High – 2025 NCSTA District 8 High School Outstanding Science Teaching Award

#### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT – Boys & Girls Club Class2Club Initiative – *(Jessica Reilly & Carlos Vega)*

Ms. Reilly and Mr. Vega highlighted the Henderson County Boys & Girls Club Class2Club Initiative. Their mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens. The Boys & Girls Club strives to provide our members with safer childhoods, life enhancing programs, and caring mentors. The Boys & Girls Club provides academic support to the students of Henderson County Public Schools with programs like Power Hour and Homework Club. They have access to HCPS Pacing Guides to properly align PowerHour with what is being taught in the classroom, meetings with school principals at least once a year, correspondence with Instructional Coaches to discuss best practices in ways to support students outside of the classroom, tutoring referrals from teachers, member report card monitoring, with parental permissions as determined by HCPS. The Class2Club Initiative provides a consistent adult that students see at school and after school at the Boys & Girls Club. *No action was taken.*

#### SCHOOL FEATURES – Dana Elementary, Edneyville Elementary, Etowah Elementary

Dana Elementary School - Class2Club Initiative: Principal Amy Cleveland shared how grateful Dana Elementary is for its strong partnership with the Boys & Girls Club. She highlighted the Class2Club initiative and the positive impact it's had on students. Manny Davilla-Reyes, a former Wildcat now serving with the Club, works closely with students in small academic groups, demonstrating a gentle spirit and genuine care for each child. His bilingual skills have been especially valuable in connecting with Dana's Spanish-speaking students and families.

Ms. Cleveland emphasized that his influence and dedication will have a lasting impact for years to come and that he truly embodies Wildcat pride, wearing his purple proudly.

Edneyville Elementary School - Community Farmers Market: Principal Andrew VunCannon and Ms. Capps showcased the school's Community Farmers Market, an event Ms. Capps launched in 2023. The idea behind the event was to help students "see themselves" in the people who work within the agriculture industry. The market features around 20 local vendors, farmers, and community members, with participation from North Henderson FFA, HOSA, and student leadership groups. As a Title I family engagement event, the market also includes classroom activities that bring together parents, students, and teachers for meaningful, hands-on learning experiences.

Etowah Elementary School - Etowah Horseshoe Fire Department Fire Prevention Program: Principal Dr. Amanda Childers and Ms. Freeman shared about the school's long-standing and meaningful partnership with the Etowah Horseshoe Fire Department. Ms. Freeman highlighted her husband's 46 years of volunteer service with the department and the fire department's dedication to organizing the annual Fire Prevention Program. Planning begins each summer, and the program runs Wednesday through Friday in October, offering students hands-on lessons in safety, preparedness, and responsibility. Local businesses and the fire department contribute raffle baskets for teachers, and each year, three students win a bicycle and helmet as part of the event's safety promotion efforts. *No action was taken.*

#### BOARD MEMBERS' OBSERVATIONS

Beth Campbell spoke about the incredible support shown by community partners, local churches, and the wider community in caring for HCPS students.

Shelia Dale gave a shoutout to Dana Elementary, praising Principal Amy Cleveland and sharing a touching story from a recent school tour. When a student's science activity didn't go as planned, Ms. Cleveland knelt down to comfort him, and her calm presence immediately reassured the child.

Amy Lynn Holt highlighted the senior t-shirt distribution event, noting the meaningful connection between seniors and kindergarteners as a reminder to the youngest students of how much they'll grow and achieve one day.

Stephanie Cantwell recognized the outstanding athletic achievements across the district, celebrating the 16 sports teams from Henderson County Public Schools that advanced to state playoffs. She spotlighted each team and their current standings or season outcomes.

Alyssa Norman expressed her gratitude to local veterans and shared how much she appreciated the Veterans Day program at her son's school.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 4:55 p.m. Dr. Kathy Revis opened the meeting for public comment. Nine people addressed the Board. Public comments ended at 5:30 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, December 8, 2025, 4:00 p.m., (Boardroom)]

##### B. Minutes

1. October 13, 2025 (*Regular Business Meeting*)
  - C. Personnel (*as presented in closed session*)
  - D. Student Acceptances/Releases (*as presented in closed session*)
  - E. Budget Amendment

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

#### OLD BUSINESS

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

Superintendent Mark Garrett provided an update to the designated low performing schools. Dana Elementary School (F, Not Met); Edneyville Elementary School (D, Not Met); Flat Rock Middle School (D, Not Met); Hillandale Elementary School (D, Met); Upward Elementary School (D, Met)

Step 1: The superintendent shall proceed under G.S. 115C-105.39

Within 30 days of the initial identification the superintendent shall take one of the following actions:

Step 1: Superintendent must recommend status of school principals

Step 2: School Improvement Plan- Within 30 days of the initial identification of a school as low-performing by the State Board, the superintendent shall submit to the local board of education a preliminary plan for improving both the school performance grade and school growth score, including how the superintendent and other central office administrators will work with the school and monitor the school's progress.

Step 3: Parental Notice of Low-performing School Status at the five schools

Step 4: Preliminary plan is shared with school board

Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the plan to support the designated low performing school. Mrs. Shelia Dale seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved.*)

#### NEW BUSINESS

- A. Action – School Improvement Plans – (*Dr. Shannon Marlowe, Assistant Superintendent*)

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Shannon Marlowe presented the school improvement plans for board approval. Henderson County houses their school improvement plans within the NCSTAR/IndiStar platform. This platform is provided by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) at no-cost to districts. Each School Improvement Team has assessed the required Key Indicators of NCSTAR, selected targeted goals for improvement, and mapped a plan for assessing and monitoring the school's progress. Dr. Marlowe stated that Board members may access and review School Improvement Plans online using information in the attached guiding document or as PDFs in the link provided. Guest access for all school plans are posted on school websites. Updates to information are added after each School Improvement meeting.

Mrs. Beth Campbell moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the 2025-26 School Improvement plans as presented. Mrs. Shelia Dale seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved.*)

- B. Action – Temporary Construction Easement – (*Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer*)

Chief Administrative Officer Carl Taylor presented the temporary construction easement for Board approval. Enbridge Gas is requesting approval for a temporary construction easement of approximately 0.156 acres on the West Henderson High School campus. The proposed easement area is located in a back corner of the property adjacent to the Sweetwater Hills development. This easement will allow

Enbridge Gas to repair gas lines that were damaged during Hurricane Helene. The company anticipates beginning work in April 2026 and is requesting use of the easement through December 31, 2026.

After discussion, the Board requested the addition of language stating that all areas must be “repaired to a like condition,” including the replacement or replanting of any trees and measures to restrict cut-through access on school property.

Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the West Henderson High School Temporary Construction Easement. Mrs. Alyssa Norman 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 Projects
  - Classroom HVAC Unit Replacement - Upward - Completed
  - Phone System Transition - District - In Progress
  - Softball Field Sinkhole - Hendersonville Middle - In Progress
- MRTS Projects
  - New Construction - Bus Garage - Awaiting Contract, Approval for LS3P
  - HVAC System - Atkinson - Awaiting DPI approval on design
  - HVAC Controls Replacement - Sugarloaf, All Middle Schools, NHHS, WHHS - In Progress
  - Roofing - Completed
    - East Henderson (Cafeteria)
    - West Henderson (Cafeteria and X-Building)

*No action was 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 2025-26 fiscal year as of October 31, 2025: Revenues received totaled \$15,063,801 and expenditures made totaled \$10,996,501. For the year, expenditures are \$523,918 more than last year at this point. This is almost the exact same increase as at this month last year. Total revenues are down \$323,729. Offsetting the increase in the Count appropriation is the loss of ESSER indirect costs and delay in Federal funded indirect costs and Medicaid payments. 2. Results operations of the Enterprise Fund for the 2025-26 fiscal year as of September 30, 2025: For Child Nutrition, first quarter revenues received of \$1,799,053 and expenditures made of \$1,745,865 resulted in a net positive of \$53,188. This is a change of \$46,604 from the first quarter last year. For Child Care, first quarter revenues of \$273,326 and expenditures of \$312,003 resulted in a net negative of \$38,678. This is a change of \$33,797 from the first quarter last year. *No action was taken.*

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

November: National Native American Heritage Month & NC Veterans’ History Appreciation Month

November 11: Veterans’ Day Holiday - No school for all students & staff

November 21: National Substitute Teacher Day

November 26-28: Thanksgiving Break - No school for all students and staff

December 3: HCBPE School Tours, 10:00 a.m. at Atkinson Elementary, Mills River Elementary, West Henderson High School

December 8: HCBPE Regular Business Meeting, 4:00 pm; Closed Session, 3:00 p.m.

December 12: Early Dismissal at 12:00 p.m. for Flex Calendar Schools

December 15: Optional Teacher Workday for Flex Calendar Schools; No school for Flex students

December 15-19: High School Testing Dates

December 19: Early Dismissal at 12:00 p.m. Traditional/Early College Calendar

December 22-January 1: Winter Break for All Staff and Students

January 2: Optional Teacher Workday for all staff; No school for students

January 5: Start of Second Semester, all students return to school

*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 6:05 p.m.)*

Minutes approved: December 8, 2025