

# **Henderson County Board of Public Education**

## **MINUTES**

December 8, 2025

The Henderson County Board of Public Education held a meeting on Monday, December 8, 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: John Henning

Board Clerk: Tawana Clayton

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Dr. Kathy Revis called the meeting to order at approximately 4:10 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.

### **ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICER**

Per School Board Policy 2200: Election of Officers/Organization of Board; adopted on March 12, 2018, an election will be conducted each December for the Board Chair and Vice-Chair positions. Dr. Kathy Revis turned the meeting over to Attorney John Henning for the elections of officers. Mr. Henning asked for the position of Chairperson. Dr. Kathy Revis nominated Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt for Chairperson, Mrs. Holt accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Mr. Henning asked those in favor of Mrs. Holt for the Chairperson to show hands. The vote passed 7-1 in favor of Mrs. Holt. Mr. Henning announced that Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt was elected as Chairperson of the Henderson County Board of Education. Mr. Henning opened the floor to nominations for Vice Chairperson. Mrs. Beth Campbell nominated Dr. Kathy Revis, Dr. Kathy Revis accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations for Vice Chairperson. Mr. Henning asked all those in favor of Dr. Revis for the Vice Chairperson position to show hands. The Board members voted unanimously for Dr. Kathy Revis for Vice Chairperson position. Mr. Henning gave the floor to Chairperson Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt.

### **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt 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. Dr. Kathy Revis seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved)*

### **STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITIONS**

#### **North Henderson High School**

Following Hurricane Helene, six North Henderson High School AFJROTC cadets—Carmen Carver, Elaina Elliott, Evan Fortin, Jackson Guffey, Micah Hartline, and Colbi Paris—demonstrated exceptional leadership and service to our community. Their efforts in food distribution, organizing essential supplies, supporting first responders, and participating in recovery operations were recognized by Headquarters Air Force JROTC with the Cadet Humanitarian Award, the third-highest honor a cadet can receive. Their dedication and compassion reflect

great credit on themselves, North Henderson High School, and the United States Air Force, truly exemplifying the spirit of the AFJROTC mission.

### **Henderson County Early College**

Henderson County Early College has been named a North Carolina Blue Ribbon School, one of only four schools in the state and the only high school to receive this prestigious recognition. This honor celebrates the dedication of Early College's educators, students, families, and community partners in creating a thriving learning environment.

### **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT**

Mrs. Holt introduced the West Henderson High School band, under the direction of Mr. Jerrold Klaes Jr. The ensemble performed a variety of holiday songs.

### **SCHOOL FEATURES – Sugarloaf Elementary, Apple Valley Middle School, Hendersonville High School**

#### **Sugarloaf Elementary - Winter Musical & Book Fair**

Two student leaders shared with the board details about the upcoming annual Winter Musical and Book Fair on Tuesday, December 9, which will take place in the evening for families. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade will sing and play instruments in a variety of festive musical performances. This event brings the school community together to enjoy the book fair, listen to musical selections, and take photos with Santa.

#### **Apple Valley Middle School - Knight of the Round Table Luncheon**

Dr. Katelyn Davis highlighted the Knights of the Round Table Luncheon at Apple Valley Middle School. Apple Valley is now in its eighth year as a Leader in Me school and this luncheon was created to celebrate leadership and student growth. Parents are invited into the school for lunch and recognition activities. Students receive shirts, and each quarter focuses on a different "Habit" from the Leader in Me framework.

#### **Hendersonville High School - Medieval Banquet**

The Medieval Banquet serves as a culminating experience for seniors studying literature in their English classes. This long-standing senior event includes pig roasting, medieval attire worn throughout the school day and event, and the creation of shields and family crests. Parents play a key role by helping with decorations, food preparation, chess activities, and even arm wrestling contests. The event is filled with food, celebration, and authentic medieval-themed fun.

### **BOARD MEMBERS' OBSERVATIONS**

Mr. Blair Craven recognized Scott Masington and shared that our schools are safer because of his dedication. Scott will be retiring later this month.

Mrs. Beth Campbell shared what a joy it always is to visit Mills River Elementary and offered a big shout out to Principal Chad Auten.

Dr. Kathy Revis spoke about her recent tour of West Henderson and expressed how impressed she was by the instruction and culture. She shared appreciation to Principal Luke Manuel and his team for their hard work.

Mrs. Alyssa Norman remarked that West Henderson has never disappointed during school tours and noted that she did not see a single cell phone during her visit.

Mrs. Stephanie Cantwell reflected on her visit to Atkinson Elementary, praising Principal Mark Page for his leadership and sharing how much she enjoyed the school tour.

Mrs. Shelia Dale shared highlights from her visit to Mills River Elementary, praising how well-rounded the school is. She also extended a heartfelt thank you and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year wishes to many across the HCPS Family.

Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt offered a huge shout out to our Child Nutrition Staff for their work on Thanksgiving Day. She visited Henderson Elementary and Hendersonville Middle School as a parent volunteer and expressed her appreciation for their efforts.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 4:50 p.m. Amy Lynn Holt 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

Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt 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, January 12, 2026, 4:00 p.m., (Closed Session at 3:00 pm)(Boardroom)*]
- B. Minutes
  - 1. November 10, 2025 (*Regular Business Meeting*)
- C. Personnel (*as presented in closed session*)
- D. Student Acceptances/Releases (*as presented in closed session*)
- E. Budget Amendment
- F. Policy Updates with Minor Changes

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. Action – 2025 Fall Policy Updates – (*Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer*)

- 1. Policy 1740/4010 – Student and Parent Grievance Procedure
- 2. Policy 1750/7220 – Grievance Procedure for Employees
- 3. Policy 2125/7315 – Confidential Information
- 4. Policy 3101 – Dual Enrollment
- 5. Policy 3220 – Technology in the Educational Program
- 6. Policy 3225/4312/7320 – Technology Responsible Use
- 7. Policy 3226/4205 – Internet Safety
- 8. Policy 3227/7322 – Web Page Development
- 9. Policy 3400 – Evaluation of Student Progress
- 10. Policy 3460 – Graduation Requirements
- 11. Policy 4050 – Children of Military Families
- 12. Policy 4120 – Domicile or Residence Requirements
- 13. Policy 4240/7312 – Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety
- 14. Policy 4270/6145 – Concussion and Head Injury
- 15. Policy 6310 – Organization of Student Transportation Services

## 16. Policy 7910 – Retirement

Chief Administrative Officer Carl Taylor presented the 2025 Fall Policy Updates for approval. Attorney John Henning provided additional clarification regarding policy 7910 – Retirement and policy 2125/7315 – Confidential Information.

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the 2025 Fall Policy Updates 1-16 as presented. Mrs. Alyssa Norman seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved.*)

### B. Action – 2026-2027 Flex Calendar (First Reading) – (*Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer*)

Chief Administrative Officer Carl Taylor presented for first reading the proposed 2026–2027 Flex Calendar for approval, noting a student start date of July 6, 2026. The calendar includes a total of 215 days, consisting of 10 annual leave days, 11 holidays, and 194 combined student attendance and teacher workdays. Mr. Taylor explained that the state requires a minimum of 1,025 instructional hours, typically equivalent to 175–180 school days. The proposed Flex Calendar meets the statutory definition of a year-round school, with instructional periods of 43–47 days followed by breaks of 14–18 days. The final student day is scheduled for May 28, 2027. Mr. Taylor concluded his presentation by answering questions from the Board.

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the 2026 – 2027 FlexCalendar for first reading. Dr. Kathy Revis seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved.*)

### C. Action – 2026-2027 Traditional & Early College Calendar (First Reading) – (*Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer*)

Chief Administrative Officer Carl Taylor presented for first reading the proposed 2026-2027 Traditional & Early College Calendar for approval. The first student day would be August 12, 2026 for traditional schools. Mr. Taylor noted the calendar does encompass the required 1025 instructional hours and 215 student days required, in addition to teacher workdays, annual leave and holidays. Mr. Taylor stated that with the early start date of August 12th, it will allow the first semester to conclude in December and exams to be taken before winter break and align with Blue Ridge Community College calendar. Second semester would begin January 5, 2027, Spring break is the last week in March and aligns with the flex calendar. The last student day is May 21, 2027.

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the 2026 – 2027 Traditional/HCEC Calendar for first reading. Mrs. Stephanie Cantwell seconded the motion.

Before the vote, Board members expressed views both in support of and in opposition to the proposed calendar. Dr. Revis, Mrs. Dale and Mrs. Campbell was opposed and cited concerns about potential violations of the calendar law and the precedent such action might set. Mrs. Holt, Mrs. Cantwell, Mr. Craven and Mrs. Norman was in support and emphasized the importance of consistency and prioritizing what is best for students and families when considering an early start date.

After lengthy discussion, the motion passed 4-3 in favor of the 2026-2027 Traditional/HCEC Calendar for first reading.

D. Action – 2027-2028 Flex Calendar (First Reading) – (*Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer*)  
Chief Administrative Officer Carl Taylor presented for first reading the proposed 2027-2028 Flex Calendar for approval, noting a student start date of July 8, 2027. The calendar includes a total of 215 days, consisting of 10 annual leave days, 11 holidays, and 194 combined student attendance and teacher workdays. Mr. Taylor explained that the state requires a minimum of 1,025 instructional hours, typically equivalent to 175–180 school days. The proposed Flex Calendar meets the statutory definition of a year-round school, with instructional periods of 43–47 days followed by breaks of 14–18 days. The final student day is scheduled for May 26, 2028. Mr. Taylor concluded his presentation by answering questions from the Board.

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the 2027 – 2028 Flex Calendar for first reading. Dr. Kathy Revis seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved.*)

E. Action – 2027-2028 Traditional & Early College Calendar (First Reading) – (*Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer*)

Chief Administrative Officer Carl Taylor presented for first reading the proposed 2027-2028 Traditional & Early College Calendar for approval. The first student day would be August 12, 2027 for traditional schools. Mr. Taylor noted the calendar does encompass the required 1025 instructional hours and 215 student days required, in addition to teacher workdays, annual leave and holidays. Mr. Taylor stated that with the early start date of August 12th, it will allow the first semester to conclude in December and exams to be taken before winter break and align with Blue Ridge Community College calendar. Second semester would begin January 4, 2028, Spring Break is the second week in March and aligns with the flex calendar. The last student day is May 26, 2028.

After Board discussion, Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the 2027-2028 Traditional/ HCEC Calendar for first reading. Mrs. Stephanie Cantwell seconded the motion. The motion passes 4-3.

## 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
  - Corridor Lighting Upgrade - AVMS, NHHS, UPW, WHHS - In Progress
  - Phone System Transition - District - In Progress
  - Softball Field Sinkhole - Hendersonville Middle - In Progress
- MRTS Projects
  - New Construction - Bus Garage - LS3P Contract Approved
  - HVAC System - Atkinson - Awaiting DPI approval
  - HVAC Controls Replacement - Sugarloaf, All Middle Schools, NHHS, WHHS - In Progress

*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 November 30, 2025: Revenues received totaled \$19,066,220 and expenditures made totaled \$17,407,217. For the year, expenditures are \$449,445 more revenues are \$52,885 more than last year at this point. Through five months (42% of the fiscal year) expenditures are at 42% of the budgeted amount. \$3,212,821 was paid to employees in November for the local supplement.

Results operations of the Enterprise Fund for the 2025-26 fiscal year as of October 31, 2025:

- a. For Child Nutrition, revenues received of \$2,900,661 and expenditures made of \$2,790,797 resulted in a net positive of \$109,865. This is a change of \$187,909 from this point last year.
- b. For Child Care, revenues received of \$389,226 and expenditures made of \$416,802 resulted in a net negative of \$27,576. This is a change of \$56,732 from this point last year.

*No action was taken.*

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

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 Calender

December 22- Winter Break for All Staff and Students

January 1:

January: School Board Recognition Month

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

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

January 7: HCBPE School Tours, 10:00 a.m. at Apple Valley Middle, Innovative High Schools, Clear Creek Elementary

January 12: HCBPE Regular Business Meeting, 4:00 p.m.; Closed Session, 3:00 p.m.

We extend our warmest wishes to every HCPS student, family, staff member, and our entire community for a joyful holiday season and a bright, prosperous New Year. May this time of year bring happiness, peace, and cherished memories to all! *No action was taken.*

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Blair Craven moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Alyssa Norman seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved at 7:05 p.m.*)

Minutes approved: January 12, 2026