

Henderson County Board of Public Education

MINUTES

January 12, 2026

The Henderson County Board of Public Education held a meeting on Monday, January 12, 2026 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, *Vice Chairperson*; Beth Campbell; Stephanie Cantwell; Blair Craven; Alyssa Norman, Amy Lynn Holt, *Chairperson* briefly joined the meeting via remote access.

Absent: Shelia Dale

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

Vice Chairperson Dr. Kathy Revis called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 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. Stephanie Cantwell seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved)*

STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Karen Sumner, NCCAT Deputy Executive Director, and Julie von Henner, NCCAT Board of Trustees member, recognized Ms. Sarah Schwartz as a 2026 NCCAT NC Beginning Teacher of the Year finalist.

Sarah Schwartz, a teacher at Mills River Elementary School, was selected as one of just 27 finalists statewide for the NCCAT Burroughs Wellcome Fund Beginning Teacher of the Year Award. This prestigious honor recognizes her outstanding contributions to the teaching profession and her deep commitment to the students and community of Henderson County Public Schools.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Dr. Shannon Marlowe, Assistant Superintendent, introduced Amy Cleveland, Principal of Dana Elementary School, along with Michelle Miller and Tracy Queen, Assistant Principals at North Henderson High School, and Christen Rogers, School Improvement Team Chair and teacher, to present a program highlight titled School Improvement Planning in Action. Principal Amy Cleveland shared the steps that Dana Elementary was taking to improve student achievement. Ms. Cleveland stated that every student will grow in math and reading fluency and every student will be a leader. Ms. Cleveland emphasized that student success is celebrated throughout the school year. Assistant Principal Michelle Miller and Tracy Queen shared that the goals for North Henderson High School aim to foster academic excellence and community engagement. The first goal focuses on academic proficiency, aiming for a 5% increase in Math 1, Math 3, Biology, and English II while also striving to meet or

exceed expected growth in all End-of-Course (EOC) areas. This demonstrates a commitment to improving student outcomes across core subjects. The second goal addresses standardized testing, emphasizing the development and implementation of strategies to boost proficiency on the ACT and ACT WorkKeys exams, which are crucial for college and career readiness. The third goal highlights the importance of inclusivity and cultural awareness by planning multicultural outreach events. This initiative seeks to strengthen the connection between the school and its diverse community, fostering a more inclusive environment for students and faculty alike.

SCHOOL FEATURES – West Henderson High School, Hillendale Elementary, Innovative High School

West Henderson High School – Mr. WHHS Fundraiser

Aubrey Garrett and Cole Reasoner highlighted the annual all-male pageant, Mr. WHHS fundraiser, which celebrates school spirit and service. This year the pageant raised \$33,000 to support three HCPS families from East Henderson, Central Office and West Henderson. All proceeds go directly to the selected families.

Hillendale Elementary – GEM (Girls EMpowered)

Fifth grade students from Hillendale Elementary shared with the board about the impact of the GEM program. GEM is a 10-week program focused on student empowerment and confidence along with helping students prepare for the transition to middle school. The meetings consist of guest speakers and activities geared toward empowering students.

Innovative High School – Clubs

Students shared details about clubs at Innovative High School. The Key Club highlighted its impact on service and leadership. The Young Scientists Club shared its pen pal partnership with HCPS fifth graders and elementary activities. Students also spoke about their involvement in Mock Trial, Student Government, Key Club, and other clubs.

BOARD MEMBERS' OBSERVATIONS

Mrs. Beth Campbell shared highlights from her board tour of Apple Valley Middle School, which was entirely student-led. Students confidently guided the tour, offering thoughtful, detailed insights about their school from their own perspectives. Clear expectations were visible throughout the building, reinforcing a strong culture of student ownership and accountability.

Mrs. Stephanie Cantwell shared about her board tour of Innovative High School, where she saw impressive instructional technology, including the Anatomage Table. She also congratulated East Henderson High, Hendersonville High, and West Henderson High for competing in the NCTC Theatre Festival and West who is going to the National competition. She also gave a shout out to the West Henderson JV and Varsity cheerleading teams for their recent accomplishments.

Mrs. Alyssa Norman shared about her first board visit to Clear Creek Elementary, noting how much she enjoyed the experience and echoing the positive impressions she continues to have from school visits across the district.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 4:48 p.m. Dr. Kathy Revis opened the meeting for public comment. Ten people addressed the Board. Public comments ended at 5:18 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, February 9, 2026, 4:00 p.m., (Closed Session at 3:00 pm)(Boardroom)*]
- B. Minutes
 1. December 8, 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

- A. Action – 2026-2027 Flex Calendar (*Second Reading*) – (*Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer*)
Chief Administrative Officer Carl Taylor presented for second reading the proposed 2026–2027 Flex Calendar for final approval, with a student start date of July 6, 2026. Mr. Taylor noted no changes were made to this calendar since the first reading.
- Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the 2026 – 2027 Flex Calendar for second reading. Mrs. Alyssa Norman seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved.*)
- B. Action – 2026-2027 Traditional & Early College Calendar (First Reading) – (*Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer*)
Chief Administrative Officer Carl Taylor presented for second reading the proposed 2026-2027 Traditional & Early College Calendar for final approval. The first student day would be August 12, 2026 for traditional schools. Mr. Taylor noted no changes were made to this calendar since the first reading.

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the 2026 – 2027 Traditional/HCEC Calendar for second reading. Mrs. Stephanie Cantwell seconded the motion. Dr. Revis asked for a roll call vote: Cantwell -Yes, Craven - Yes, Norman - Yes, Campbell - No, Revis - No. (*Motion passes 3 to 2*)

- C. Action – 2027-2028 Flex Calendar (*Second Reading*) – (*Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer*)
Chief Administrative Officer Carl Taylor presented for second reading the proposed 2027-2028 Flex Calendar for approval, a student start date of July 8, 2027. Mr. Taylor noted no changes were made to this calendar since the first reading.

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the 2027 – 2028 Flex Calendar for second reading. Mrs. Alyssa Norman seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved.*)

- D. Action – 2027-2028 Traditional & Early College Calendar (*Second Reading*) – (*Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer*)
Chief Administrative Officer Carl Taylor presented for second reading the proposed 2027-2028 Traditional & Early College Calendar for final approval. The first student day would be August 12, 2027 for traditional schools. Mr. Taylor noted no changes were made to this calendar since the first reading.

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the 2027 – 2028 Traditional/HCEC Calendar for second reading. Mrs. Stephanie Cantwell seconded the motion. Dr. Revis asked for a roll call vote: Cantwell -Yes, Craven - Yes, Norman - Yes, Campbell - No, Revis - No. (*Motion passes 3 to 2*)

NEW BUSINESS

A. Action – 2025-2026 Calendar Adjustment – (*Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer*)

Chief Administrative Officer Carl Taylor presented the 2025-2026 Revised Traditional/HCEC and Flex Calendars for approval. Mr. Taylor stated that March 3, 2026, is the statewide primary Election Day. The originally approved school calendars designated this date as a regular student instructional day. Since eleven schools serve as polling sites, the revised 2025-26 Traditional/HCEC and Flex Calendars designate March 3 as a non-student day and a required teacher workday to support campus safety. Mr. Taylor stated that there is flexibility built into the calendar in the event of winter weather later in the year, and the options of remote learning days and other adjustments to consider.

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the 2025-2026 Revised Traditional/HCEC Calendar and the 2025-2026 Revised Flex Calendar as presented. Mrs. Alyssa Norman seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved.*)

B. Child Nutrition Review – (*Mr. Scott Rhodes, Assistant Superintendent*)

Assistant Superintendent Scott Rhodes provided an update regarding the HCPS Child Nutrition program. The current meal price for breakfast for elementary, middle and high schools is \$1.25, lunch prices for elementary schools is \$3.50 and \$3.75 for middle and high schools. Mr. Rhodes stated Child Nutrition has generated a small profit from August through November but continues to anticipate that Child Nutrition will end the school year operating at a deficit. The financial pressure points are increased labor costs, inflated food prices and federal reimbursement rates. The leadership team will continue to monitor the Child Nutrition finances from December through March and use all available data to make a recommendation to the board in April. *No action was taken.*

C. Discussion – Lunch Charge Donations

Superintendent Mark Garrett opened discussion of a lunch charge donation fund. Peggy Marshall, Director of the Henderson County Education Foundation, said they could set one up for the community to donate toward lunch charge donations. Mr. Garrett wanted the Board to discuss how they would like it set up. After discussion, the Board would like a centralized location for the donation fund with clear advertising. Mr. Garrett will work with Ms. Marshall on what this may look like. *No action was taken.*

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. CALENDAR for 2026-2027 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT – Per Board Policy: 8100, Budget Planning and Adoption – (*Mr. Mark Garrett, Superintendent*)

Superintendent Mark Garrett provided the Board with the following dates for the 2026-2027 budget overview process. Proposed Calendar for 2026-2027 Budget Development:

- January 21: Board of Commissioners Budget Workshop Presentation
- February 19: Board of Education Budget Workshop
 - 8:30
- April 30: Board of Education Budget Workshop
 - 8:30
- May 11: Board of Education final approval of proposed budget
- May 15: Deadline for budget submission to the Board of Commissioners(NC G.S. 115c-429)

No action was taken.

B. 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 - Completed
 - Phone System Transition - District - In Progress
 - Softball Field Sinkhole - Hendersonville Middle - In Progress
- MRTS Projects
 - New Construction Bus Garage
 - Kickoff Meeting: December 17, 2025
 - Next Steps:
 - Site Surveys (Environmental & Boundary)
 - RFQ for Construction Manager at-Risk
 - HVAC System - Atkinson - Awaiting DPI approval
 - HVAC Controls Replacement - Sugarloaf, Middle Schools, NHHS, WHHS - In Progress

No action was 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 December 31, 2025: Revenues received totaled \$22,899,923 and expenditures made totaled \$20,229,822. For the year, expenditures are \$52,502 more and revenues are \$45,777 more than last year at this point. Through six months (50% of the fiscal year) expenditures are at 49% of the budgeted amount. 2. Results of operations of the Capital Outlay Fund for the 2025-26 fiscal year as of December 31, 2025: Revenues received totaled \$1,625,979 and expenditures made totaled \$1,312,237. Second quarter expenditures of \$405,279 were focused on finishing the bleachers at East (\$81,172); hallway flooring at West (\$172,675); Technology vehicle (\$40,220); and paving at East (\$46,545). 3. Results operations of the Enterprise Fund for the 2025-26 fiscal year as of November 30, 2025: a. For Child Nutrition, revenues received of \$3,792,534 and expenditures made of \$3,587,673 resulted in a net positive of \$204,861. Currently, there is \$54,048 additionally encumbered for equipment purchases. b. For Child Care, revenues received of \$495,611 and expenditures made of \$538,579 resulted in a net negative of \$42,968. This is a positive change of \$48,205 from this point last year. *No action was taken.*

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

Superintendent Mark Garrett shared upcoming dates and events shared:

January: School Board Recognition Month

January 19: Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday; Optional Teacher Workday, no school for students

January 22: Superintendent Teacher Advisory Council, Central Office, 3:30 p.m. Superintendent Parent Advisory Council, Central Office, 5:30 p.m.

January 25-31: National School Choice Week

February: National Black History Month, Love the Bus Month, Career & Technical Education Month

February 2: Kindergarten Registration opens for the 2026-2027 school year Class of 2039!

February 2-6: National School Counseling Week

February 4: HCBPE School Tours, 10:00 a.m. at Fletcher Elementary, Hillandale Elementary, East Henderson High School

February 9: HCBPE Regular Business Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Boardroom; Work Session, 2:00p.m., Conference Rm 1A; Closed Session, 3:00 p.m., Conference Rm 1A

Superintendent Mark Garrett introduced Pete Barnet to the board as the new School Safety Director for Henderson County Public Schools, following Scott Masington's retirement in December.

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 6:19 p.m.)*

Minutes approved: February 9, 2026