

Henderson County Board of Public Education

MINUTES

February 9, 2026

The Henderson County Board of Public Education held a meeting on Monday, February 9, 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: Amy Lynn Holt, *Chairperson*, Dr. Kathy Revis, *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: Cynthia Lopez

Board Clerk: Tawana Clayton

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Amy Lynn Holt called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. Mrs. Holt requested everyone present to stand as the North Henderson High School Air Force JROTC presented the colors. Mrs. Holt led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

Mrs. Holt asked those present to remain standing and take a moment of silent reflection.

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

Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, Dr. Shannon Marlowe recognized 10 educators who have earned their National Board Certification from the National Board for Professional Standards.

Jessica Jenkins (Clear Creek Elementary), Caitlin Gearing (Sugarloaf Elementary School), Shelby Lewis (Hendersonville High School), Kelly Kenney (Fletcher Elementary School), LaTonya Kennedy (Dana Elementary School), Deana Hall (Etowah Elementary), Trevor Reising (North Henderson High School), Amy Lindsey (Etowah Elementary School), Nikki Grasso (Sugarloaf Elementary), Katie Warren (West Henderson High School)

Dr. Marlowe also recognized educators who recertified their credentials in 2025:

Lynne Fender (Etowah & Fletcher), Cynthia Haney (Etowah), Cody Merriman (Glenn C. Marlow), Joanne Rickert (Upward Elementary)

Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, Dr. Shannon Marlowe celebrated Hendersonville High School as a 2025 AP Honor Roll School. HHS earned recognition on the AP School Honor Roll as a Silver School, meeting key criteria that expand college access and readiness for students.

- 56% of the Class of 2025 took at least one AP course (Silver Status).
- 47% earned a score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam, supporting college credit attainment (Gold Status).
- 11% completed five AP courses during high school, including at least one in 9th or 10th grade (Gold Status).

Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, Dr. Shannon Marlowe also shared that HCPS had the Highest Graduation Rate (Medium School District) and was a Top Ten School District for Highest Graduation Rate. The graduation rate last year was 93.6%.

SCHOOL FEATURES – Fletcher Elementary, Glenn C. Marlow Elementary, Mills River Elementary
Each month, this spotlight will give the opportunity to showcase unique programs, traditions, and successes happening across all 23 of our schools.

Fletcher Elementary School - GLOW Club (Girls Leading Our World)

Ms. Lynne Fender, along with three student representatives, shared an overview of GLOW — Girls Leading Our World. This character-building program serves fifth-grade girls and is similar in structure to the GEM program. Six to eight teachers volunteer their time to mentor and invest in 20 students. The program focuses on building confidence, grit, leadership skills, and lasting friendships. Through activities such as goal setting, dream boards, and team-building experiences, students are encouraged to grow as leaders within their school community.

Glenn C. Marlow Elementary School - K Kids

Ms. Jan Clark, Ms. Hadley McCutcheon, Ms. Kieran Dalton, Ms. Lisa Malaquin-Prey, and several students highlighted the impact of the school's K-Kids program, sponsored by Kiwanis. Founded in 2016, this student-led service organization now includes 86 members. Students lead and participate in numerous service initiatives, including Blue Ridge Honor Air, Socktober, Charlie's Angels Animal Rescue, Kiwanis Youth of the Year, IAM, the Veterans Day Ceremony, Field of Flags, and filling bird feeders for the school campus. The program emphasizes leadership, service, and civic responsibility.

Mills River Elementary School - Drama Class & Spring Musical

Ms. Erin Stachura and several students shared about Mills River's drama class, offered as a special, and the school's annual Spring Musical production. The presentation concluded with a live student performance showcasing selections from this year's production of Frozen, highlighting the talent, creativity, and confidence developed through the program.

BOARD MEMBERS' OBSERVATIONS

Mrs. Beth Campbell shared that a recent West Henderson High School graduate completed training at Parris Island, and she had the opportunity to attend the graduation. She expressed her appreciation for the educators and staff across our schools who play such an important role in shaping and preparing students for success beyond high school.

Mrs. Stephanie Cantwell shared highlights and celebrations from several elementary, middle, and high schools across the district, recognizing the outstanding work happening throughout HCPS.

Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt thanked the maintenance, custodial, and transportation teams, as well as principals and school staff, for their dedication and teamwork in navigating the recent inclement weather.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 4:34 p.m. Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt opened the meeting for public comment. Eleven people addressed the Board. Public comments ended at 5:04 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, March 9, 2026 4:00 p.m., (Closed Session at 3:00 pm Room 1A)(Boardroom)*]

B. Minutes - January 12, 2026 (*Regular Business Meeting*)

- C. Personnel *(as presented in closed session)*
- D. Student Acceptances/Releases *(as presented in closed session)*
- E. Budget Amendment
- F. Authorization to Submit McKinney-Vento 2026 Homeless Education Subgrant Application

Dr. Kathy Revis moved that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. Mrs. Alyssa Norman seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Action – 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 board 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 2026-2027 school year should increase by \$120.00 from \$2,580 to \$2,700.

Mrs. Stephanie Cantwell moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the increase of Out of County tuition to \$2,700.00 for the 2026–2027 school year. Mrs. Shelia Dale seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

- B. Action – Contracts/Purchases in Excess of 90,000 – *(Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer)*

Chief Finance Officer Bernie Sochia presented the contracts and purchases in excess of \$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. Vendor purchase from CDW-G is presented for approval. This purchase includes the hardware and installation of 1,200 wireless access points that will replace existing equipment and provide Wi-Fi coverage for all instructional facilities in HCPS. The purchase will be \$1,191,330, and is being completed through the federal E-Rate program, which begins a new five-year funding cycle on July 1. The actual purchase and installation will occur during the 2026–2027 school year. Pricing was obtained, evaluated and selected through the NC E-Rate mini-bid process.

Dr. Kathy Revis moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the CDW-G purchase as presented. 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
 - Phone System Transition - District - In Progress
 - Water Cutoff - East Henderson - In Progress
 - Bridge Replacement - Rugby - In Progress
 - Air Handler Unit Upgrade - West Henderson - In Progress
 - Classroom Unit Upgrade (X-1) - West Henderson - In Progress
- MRTS:
 - New Construction - Bus Garage
 - Next Steps:

- Site Surveys (Environmental & Boundary)
 - RFQ for Construction Manager at-Risk
 - Visit Rutherford Bus Garage (February 13)
 - HVAC System - Atkinson - Awaiting DPI approval
 - HVAC Controls Replacement - Sugarloaf, Middle Schools, NHHS, WHHS - In Progress
 - Roofing Flat Rock (F-Hall), East Henderson (C-Hall, Media Center)- 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 January 31, 2026: Revenues received totaled \$26,714,745 and expenditures made totaled \$22,766,487. For the year, revenues are \$156,427 more and expenditures are \$99,038 more than last year at this point. Through seven months (58% of the fiscal year) expenditures are at 55% of the budgeted amount. Results operations of the Enterprise Funds for the 2025-26 fiscal year as of December 31, 2025:

- a. For Child Nutrition, revenues received of \$4,472,425 and expenditures made of \$4,412,214 resulted in a net positive of \$60,210 for the year. A decrease of \$144,651 from the previous month.
- b. For Child Care, revenues received of \$594,028 and expenditures made of \$638,192 resulted in a net negative of \$44,163 for the year. This is a positive change of \$111,155 from this point last year, and only a \$1,195 change from the previous month. *No action was taken.*

C. Fall 2025 Testing Updates – (Dr. Shannon Marlowe, Assistant Superintendent)

Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, Dr. Shannon Marlowe gave an update regarding the Fall 2025 testing results. *No action was taken.*

2025 Fall EOC Testing
Testing with Retesting



HCPS	Fall 2025 Proficiency Before Retesting	Increase Percentage	Fall 2025 Proficiency After Retesting
Biology	64.00	6.00	70.00
English II	66.80	1.90	68.70
NC Math 1	66.30	3.80	70.10
NC Math 3	80.10	1.60	81.70

Values represent the percentage of total proficiency achieved

2025 Fall EOC Testing
Compared to past years



HCPS	Fall 2025 Proficiency	Fall 2024 Proficiency	Fall 2023 Proficiency	Fall 2022 Proficiency
Biology	70	55.5	59.4	63.5
English II	68.7	65.9	58.9	65.7
NC Math 1	70.1	54.2	56	46.9
NC Math 3	81.6	71.3	66.9	64

Values represent the percentage of total proficiency achieved

D. Instructional Hours Update – (Mr. Mark Garrett, Superintendent)

Superintendent Mark Garrett provided the Board with an update regarding instructional hours following several school closures due to inclement weather. He reported that the state requires a minimum of 1,025 instructional hours. The district’s original calendar included 179 instructional days, totaling 1,074 scheduled instructional hours.

Superintendent Garrett explained that eight student days were missed due to inclement weather, including five remote learning days and three days with no instruction. As a result, the district experienced a net loss of 26 instructional hours. This total included 20 hours due to missed instructional days and one two-hour delay, three hours from the early release day at the end of the first semester, and three hours from the early release day scheduled for the final student day. Additionally, the conversion of March 3 to a non-student day/required workday resulted in a net loss of six instructional hours.

Superintendent Garrett reported that the district currently has 1,042 instructional hours scheduled for the school year, which is 17 hours above the state-required minimum.

As a potential option, Superintendent Garrett presented the possibility of converting March 13 from an optional teacher workday to a student day, which would recapture six instructional hours and increase the total scheduled instructional hours to 1,048, or 23 hours above the required minimum.

Following discussion, the Board agreed to maintain March 13 as an optional teacher workday. However, the Board noted that if Henderson County Public Schools misses an additional student day due to inclement weather, March 13 will be converted to a regular student day. The district will communicate this possibility to families in advance to ensure awareness. *No action was taken.*

E. General Operations – (Mr. Mark R. Garrett, Superintendent)

Superintendent Mark Garrett shared upcoming dates and events shared:

- February: National Black History Month, Love the Bus Month, Career & Technical Education Month
- February : Kindergarten Registration is open for the 2026-2027 school year
Ready to Shine - Class of 2039!
- February 15: School Resource Officer Appreciation Day
- February 19: HCBPE Budget Work Session, 9:00 a.m., Boardroom
- February 20: Required Teacher Workday (District Professional Development)
No school for students
- March: Arts in our Schools Month
- March 1-7: School Social Worker Week
- March 2-6: National School Breakfast Week
- March 4: HCBPE School Tours, 10:00 a.m. at Edneyville Elementary, Etowah Elementary, North Henderson High School
- March 9: HCBPE Regular Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Boardroom; Closed Session 3:00 p.m. Conference Room 1A

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Blair Craven moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Stephanie Cantwell seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved at 5:52 p.m.)*

Minutes approved: March 9, 2026