

## Henderson County Board of Public Education

### MINUTES

August 4, 2025

The Henderson County Board of Public Education held a meeting on Monday, August 4, 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; Beth Campbell; Blair Craven; Shelia Dale; Amy Lynn Holt; Alyssa Norman

Board Members Absent: Robert Bridges, Vice Chairperson

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

Attorney Present: Cynthia Lopez

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 she led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

#### *Acknowledgement of Bereavement*

Superintendent Mark R. Garrett took a moment to honor and reflect on the lives of three members of the HCPS Family who passed away over the summer. Evadora Grace Jones passed away on July 8, 2025, surrounded by her loving family. Evadora Grace recently graduated from Glenn C. Marlow Elementary School and was looking forward to attending Rugby Middle School with her brother. She was a gifted student who adored animals, especially her dog Lucy, and dreamed of becoming a veterinarian like her granddaddy. She also loved music, golfing, tubing down the river, and arts and crafts. Geoffrey James Kinsey passed away on July 17, 2025 surrounded by the love & support of his large family. Mr. Kinsey was a dedicated and beloved teacher for 15 years, touching the lives of so many lucky fourth graders who passed through his classroom at Glenn C. Marlow Elementary. He loved the outdoors and the environment, craved big adventures, and took great pride in his family and their genuine and deep love and respect for each other. Mr. Robert Bridges passed away earlier today (8/4/25). Mr. Bridges has served as a member of the Board of Education since 2020, most recently as Vice Chair. Before joining the Board, he had a long, distinguished career as an HCPS educator. Mr. Bridges began his teaching career at Dana Elementary in 1968 moved to Rugby Junior High, Flat Rock Junior High and retired from East Henderson High School in 1998. During his 30 years with the district, Mr. Bridges was a teacher, counselor, and administrator. He was a fierce advocate for students and public education.

#### 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.

Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mrs. Shelia Dale seconded the motion.

*(Unanimously approved)*

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT - Starting the 2025-2026 School Year Strong

Dr. Shannon Marlowe, the Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, presented to the board on professional development for teachers and everyone getting ready for a strong school year. The week of July 29 - July 31st, beginning teachers and new-to-HCPS teachers participated in several events and professional development opportunities. Dr. Marlowe shared information regarding our new NC Student Information System (NCSIS). *No action was taken.*

## BOARD MEMBERS' OBSERVATIONS

Beth Campbell wanted to thank Mr. Bridges and his family for serving our community and his heart for students. She also wanted to thank supporters of HCPS who give out school supplies and resources.

Dr. Kathy Revis shared that she was deeply saddened to hear of Mr. Bridges' passing. Having known him since the 90s, she reflected on the community's wise decision in electing him to the Board of Public Education. Dr. Revis affirmed that Mr. Bridges served with dedication and had the district's best interest at heart until his final days.

Shelia Dale brought a cross that Mr. Bridges had made for her and offered her heartfelt condolences to his family, honoring the memory of a man who meant so much to so many.

Alyssa Norman offered words of tribute, sharing what an honor and privilege it was to serve alongside Mr. Bridges. As a new board member, she was especially grateful for his kindness, guidance, and generosity.

Blair Craven reflected on Mr. Bridges' consistent presence at school and community events. He emphasized how deeply Mr. Bridges cared for the district and its students, demonstrating his commitment through his actions and support.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 4:22 p.m. Dr. Kathy Revis opened the meeting for public comment. Nine people addressed the Board. Public comments ended at 4:51 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, September 8, 2025, 4:00 p.m., (Boardroom)*]
- B. Minutes
  - 1. June 9, 2025 (*Regular Business Meeting*)
  - 2. June 30, 2025 (*Special Called Meeting, End of Year Matters*)
- C. Personnel (*as presented in closed session*)
- D. Student Acceptances/Releases (*as presented in closed session*)
- E. Policy Updates with Minor Changes

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. Mrs. Shelia Dale seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved.*)

## OLD BUSINESS

None

## NEW BUSINESS

A. 2025 Spring Policy Updates – (Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer)

Chief Administrative Officer Carl Taylor presented the following policy updates for approval:

1. Action – Policy 1310/4002 – Parental Involvement
2. Action – Policy 1510/4200/7270 – School Safety
3. Action – Policy 1710/4020/7230 – Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law
4. Action – Policy 1720/4030/7235 – Title IX Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex
5. Action – Policy 1725/4035/7236 – Title IX Sexual Harassment-Prohibited Conduct and Reporting Process
6. Action – Policy 1726/4036/7237 – Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Process
7. Action – Policy 1735/4329/7311 – Bullying and Harassing Behavior Prohibited
8. Action – Policy 2302 – Remote Participation in Board Meetings
9. Action – Policy 2342 – Voting Methods
10. Action – Policy 3225/4312/7320 – Technology Responsible Use
11. Action – Policy 3400 – Evaluation of Student Progress
12. Action – Policy 3420 – Student Promotion and Accountability
13. Action – Policy 3620 – Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations
14. Action – Policy 4023/7233 – Pregnant and Parenting Students and Employees
15. Action – Policy 4040/7310 – Staff-Student Relations
16. Action – Policy 4240/7312 – Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety
17. Action – Policy 4331 – Assaults and Threats
18. Action – Policy 6330 – Insurance for Student Transportation Services
19. Action – Policy 7130 – Licensure
20. Action – Policy 7232 – Discrimination and Harassment in the Workplace

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the 2025 Spring Policy Updates. Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved*).

B. Discussion – Instrument Funding Report – (Board Members)

Dr. Shannon Marlowe, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, gave a presentation to the board on funding for instruments. Dr. Marlowe shared a timeline beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, which was the first year that funding was placed in the capital budget for instrument replacement. The funds did not make it into the final budget due unforeseen expenses for West Henderson High swear project. In the 2020-2021 the Board discussed the replacement of old band and string instruments with the focus of putting new instruments in classrooms. A budget line of \$90,000 was added to the capital budget. Dr. Marlowe shared the funding model given to principals in the 2020-2021 school year. At that time, ESSER funds were allocated into the budget and the Board discussed removing barriers for students unable to afford instruments, starting with giving all 6th grade students who wanted to play an instrument could do so at no cost with the purchase of instruments using ESSER funds. Dr. Marlowe shared a list of instruments purchased for 6th grade and discussed this in detail. Last year, the funds were moved from the capital budget to the operational budget in order to provide flexibility for the band and string teachers to pay for instrument cleaning and repair. The Board discussed the purpose of the instrument fund, emphasizing that its intent is to provide instruments for students who are unable to afford them. Following discussion, the Board directed that instruments be purchased for individual student use, beginning with 7th grade. In cases where larger instruments need replacement, teachers should work with their administrator for purchase approval or submit a capital request for consideration in the spring capital budget. Dr. Marlowe will provide an update at the September meeting on the

remaining funds, as well as cleaning and repair costs, in order to develop a proposed user fee for students utilizing district-owned instruments to support ongoing maintenance. *No action taken.*

- C. Discussion – Carolinas Academic Leadership Network – *(Dr. Kathy Revis, Chairperson)*  
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 stated that if any members were interested in joining this organization, please contact the Board Clerk. *No action was taken.*
- D. Federal Funding Update – *(Mr. Mark Garrett, Superintendent)*  
Superintendent Mark R. Garrett presented to the Board with a federal funding update. The following federal funding FY26 allotments that were under review and have now been released: Title I, Part C (Migrant Education Program): \$343,078; Title II, Part A (Supporting Effective Instruction): \$493,044; Title III, Part A (English Language Acquisition): \$183,173; Title IV, Part A (Student Support and Academic Enrichment): \$279,013 for a total of \$1,298,308.  
Superintendent Garrett stated the district will still have to complete the grant applications to receive these funds, as the process was halted during the review period. State Budget FY26 House Bill 125 establishes the following: Experience step increase, sets hospitalization rate at \$8,500, which is up from \$8,095, sets retirement rate at 24.67% which is up from 24.04%. House Bill 125 is currently awaiting the Governor’s signature. *No action was taken.*

#### 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:
- Card Access Installation - Various Sites - In Progress
  - HVAC Upgrade (F-Hall)- Flat Rock On Hold - Roof Repairs
  - Classroom Flooring Replacement - Clear Creek & Rugby - Completed
  - Stadium Bleacher Replacement (Visitor Side) - East Henderson - In Progress
  - Corridor Flooring Replacement - West Henderson - In Progress
- MRTS:
- 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 - East Henderson (Cafeteria) - West Henderson (Cafeteria and X-Building)- Under Contract -Bonitz

*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 2024-25 fiscal year as of June 30, 2025: Revenues

received totaled \$39,210,534 expenditures made totaled \$39,319,006. Receivables and payables are yet to be posted. Expenditures increased \$2,060,867 over the prior fiscal year and come in at 97.5% of normal budgeted expenditures in the local current expense fund pending Payables.

Chief Finance Officer Bernie Sochia presented the results of operations of the Capital Outlay Fund for the 2024-25 fiscal year as of June 30, 2025: Revenues received for the year were \$2,221,804, and expenditures for the year totaled \$1,651,913. \$978,266 is for work on the regular Capital Outlay project list for FY25 and some carryover from FY24. \$702,295 is for work involving insurance claims, including Helene. \$352,195 is the accounting entries for the school bus replacements. Additional amounts will be added to FY25 for completed MRTS projects when those figures are finalized by the county. Results of operations of the Enterprise Fund for the 2024-25 fiscal year as of June 30, 2025:

a. Child Nutrition received \$8,031,634 in revenues (pending June USDA receivables) and had \$9,073,532 in expenditures for the year.

b. Child Care received \$1,196,355 in revenues (pending DSS and DHHS receivables) and had \$1,425,570 in expenditures for the year.

Results of operations of the Local Current Expense and Other Restricted Funds for the 2025-26 fiscal year as of July 31, 2025: Revenues received totaled \$3,634,178 and expenditures made totaled \$3,658,161. *No action was taken.*

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

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

Opening of the 2025-2026 School Year:

- Flex Calendar - July 10, 2025
- Traditional Calendar - August 11, 2025

Calendar of Events:

- August 6: No school for students on Flex Calendar; Required Teacher Workday (District Professional Development)
- September: Attendance Awareness Month
- September 1: Labor Day Holiday; No school for all students and staff
- September 3: HCBPE School Tours, 10:00 a.m. at Bruce Drysdale Elementary, Sugarloaf Elementary, Hendersonville High School
- September 4-5: Annual ‘Class of’ Kindergarten T-Shirt Distribution - Class of 2038
- September 8: HCBPE Regular Business Meeting, 4:00pm, Closed Session, 3:00 p.m. Boardroom
- September 15: National Hispanic Heritage Month begins

*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 6:39 p.m.)*