

Henderson County Board of Public Education

MINUTES

September 9, 2024

The Henderson County Board of Public Education held a meeting on Monday, September 9, 2024, 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: Jay Egolf, Chairperson; Kathy Revis, Vice Chairperson; Robert Bridges; Stacey Caskey; Blair Craven; Shelia Dale; Alyssa Norman

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

Administrative Staff Absent: Mr. Scott Rhodes, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer

Attorney Present: Cynthia Lopez

Board Clerk: None

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Mr. Jay Egolf called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. Mr. Egolf requested everyone present to stand as the North Henderson High School JROTC presented the colors. Mr. Egolf led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

Chairperson Mr. Jay Egolf asked those present to remain standing and take a moment of silent reflection.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Jay Egolf acknowledged receipt of the meeting agenda and asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Blair Craven moved that the agenda be approved as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Stacey Caskey. *(Unanimously approved.)*

RECOGNITIONS

Rugby Middle School

Principal Dr. John McDaris recognized Brandon Hamblin for earning BRONZE in the T-Shirt Design competition at the 2024 SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference in June. Brandon qualified for the national event by winning 1st place at the North Carolina State Conference.

West Henderson High School

Principal Luke Manuel recognized West Henderson FCCLA who went to the National Conference in June.

Teacher: Ms. Brittany Willis

- Kaia Hendrix was a top 10 finalist in the Repurpose and Redesign event, transforming a wheelbarrow into a chair with handmade cushions from repurposed materials.
- Linda Bryant earned a gold medal in the Job Interview event, impressing judges with her 30-page portfolio and interview skills.
- Monica Fuentes received a bronze certificate in the Public Policy Advocate event, advocating for increased and varied physical education in schools.
- Sara Kim, as the NC FCCLA State Vice President of National Programs, played a crucial role at Nationals, attending business sessions and voting on important bylaws and officer candidates.

Kenan Fellows Program for Teacher Leadership

The Kenan Fellows Program offers teachers immersive summer experiences in industry and research settings and supports them in turning this industry exposure into instructional resources and programs for their schools, districts, and communities.

- Christine Coren - Henderson County Career Academy - Computational Thinking
 - Mentors: Shelly Martinez and Tina Whitfield, Harrah's Cherokee Casino
 - Sponsor: NCDPI
- Adam Chacon-Hendersonville High School Meta Western NC
 - Mentors: Julianne Johnson and Pam Torlina, Conserving Carolina
 - Sponsor: Meta

Deputy Shawn Metcalf - NC Association of School Resource Officers (SRO) Award of the Year

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT – NTC PROJECT GLAD

Ms. Simone Wertenberger, Director of ESL & Migrant Education presented to the board information about HCPS Project GLAD. Henderson County Public Schools has partnered with OCDE Project GLAD and is now a certified regional training center. Project GLAD is a rigorous professional development model that uses current brain research, cultural responsiveness and language acquisition processes to design learning opportunities to help ensure student success. Our model is beneficial for all academic language learners, but is essential for our multilingual learners.

- What teachers say
 - “Thank you for inviting me to this training. I haven't been so inspired by a training...ever. I'm so excited to try these new strategies with my class. This is exactly what I've been missing”.
 - “Throughout the training one thought kept going through my mind..these strategies are not just for my English learners but for ALL students...”.
 - “I finally feel good about how my GLAD Classroom will have a different timeline but still the same rich content and way more meaningful interactions with all of my students”.
- Project GLAD® Henderson County Team
 - Ann Corbin, HCPS GLAD Coach
 - Omar Lemus, AP Upward Elementary
 - Annah Lord, AP East Henderson HS
 - Simone Wertenberger, Director ESL/MEP
 - Bridget Grant, Data Manager ESL/MEP
 - Nikki Conti, ESL Teacher at BDS
- HCPS Regional Training Center Timeline
 - 2013- First HCPS teachers trained in Project GLAD® (trainers from the NTC in Orange County, CA) in cooperation with WRESA (cost to HCPS)
 - 2015- First HCPS Project GLAD® trainer (on a team with WRESA) certified by the NTC (cost to HCPS)
 - 2018- Second team of HCPS trainers certified in Orange County, CA (able to offer training in HCPS at no cost)
 - 2023- HCPS Project GLAD® team begins work to become a regional training center due to increased demand for trainings in house
 - 2024- HCPS Project GLAD® RTC established in March (able to offer training at cost to other districts)
 - November 2024- First HCPS RTC trainer certification- Bridget Grant and Nikki Conti
- HCPS is 1 of 4 Regional Training Centers in the country (1 of 2 training centers east of the Mississippi)
 - Visit <https://ntcprojectglad.com/>

BOARD MEMBERS' OBSERVATIONS

Ms. Stacey Caskey spoke to how much joy it brought her to hand out kindergarten t-shirts at Glenn C. Marlow last week.

Ms. Shelia Dale shared the excitement surrounding last week's kindergarten t-shirt distribution and gave a big shoutout to the SRO program in Henderson County. She also noted the launch of the Henderson County Pathfinders Program at East Henderson on Monday. During her recent visit to West Henderson, she mentioned the cell phone and dress code policies and expressed interest in further discussing them.

Mr. Robert Bridges assisted with handing out t-shirts at Clear Creek Elementary last week. He also gave a big shout out to the custodial and child nutrition staff at Upward Elementary, following his recent school visit. He remarked that everything was running smoothly.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 4:55 p.m. Mr. Egolf opened the meeting for public comment. Six people addressed the Board. Public comments ended at 5:21 p.m. No action was taken.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Jay Egolf 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 [*Tuesday, October 15, 2024 4:00 p.m., (Boardroom)*]
- B. Minutes
 - 1. August 19, 2024 (*Regular Business Meeting*)
 - 2. August 26, 2024 (*Special Called Meeting*)
- C. Personnel (*as presented in closed session*)
- D. Student Acceptances/Releases (*as presented in closed session*)

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

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Policies for Adoption – (*Second Reading*) – (*Mr. Mark Garrett, Superintendent*)
 - 1. Action – Policy 4140 – Foreign Exchange Students
Superintendent Mark Garrett presented policy 4140 – Foreign Exchange Students for Board approval. This policy addresses the admission of foreign exchange students with J-1 visa status and is intended to support 4120-R Foreign Exchange Students.
 - 2. Action – Policy 5023/6128/7268 – Emergency Administration of Naloxone
Superintendent Mark Garrett presented policy 5023/6128/7268 – Emergency Administration of Naloxone for Board approval. This policy addresses the emergency use of naloxone on school property.

Mrs. Stacey Caskey moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve Policy 4140 – Foreign Exchange Students and Policy 5023/6128/7268 – Emergency Administration of Naloxone for second reading as presented. Mrs. Shelia Dale seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved.*)

NEW BUSINESS

A. Action – 2024-2025 Budget – *(Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer)*

Chief Finance Officer Bernie Sochia presented the 2024-25 Henderson County Public Schools' Initial Budget Resolution for approval. Mr. Sochia stated this serves as the beginning budget for all funds for subsequent amendments. The total Local Current Expense and Capital Outlay Funds are consistent with the 2024-25 Preliminary Budget previously approved with adjustments made to reflect the County appropriation and legislative and budgetary impact from the State budget and allotments. The State Public School Fund reflects the most current dollar and position allotments as directed by the State. Likewise, the Federal Grants Fund reflects the budgets as approved by DPI to date. The Child Nutrition and Child Care Enterprise Funds reflect continuation budgets with adjustments for all legislative and Board approved changes.

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the Initial Budget Resolution for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Mrs. Shelia Dale seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved)*

B. Action – ESSER Procurement Waiver & \$90,000 purchase – *(Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer)*

Chief Finance Officer Bernie Sochia presented the ESSER Procurement Waiver & 90,000 purchase. 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. The following vendor was presented by Bernie Sochia for approval of the listed purchase: Anatomage

- Interactive virtual anatomy tables. <https://anatomage.com/table/>
- Anatomage tables will provide an opportunity for re-engagement after COVID in several content areas, including CTE Health Occupations, biology, and animal sciences. This opportunity for high-interest instructional programming will encourage better attendance across each of these areas, as well as attracting non- traditional students to the CTE fields they may not currently be aware of as engaging.
- The purchase is: (4) Anatomage Tables (EHHS, HHS, NHHS, WHHS)- Clinical using ESSER funds and (1)Anatomage Table (Innovative High School)- Convertible using ESSER and IPG funds.

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the purchase with Anatomage as presented. Mrs. Shelia Dale seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved)*

C. Discussion – Board Vacancy

Mr. Jay Egolf will be stepping down from the board this year. Attorney Cynthia Lopez cited Board Policy 2115: Unexpired Term Fulfillment, which states that all vacancies in the membership of the board of education caused by death, resignation, or otherwise will be filled immediately by a person appointed by the remaining members of the board to serve the remainder of the unexpired term. The board discussed the next steps and will take action once Mr. Egolf provides a resignation date. They have flexibility in the process, whether it involves conducting interviews or making an appointment to fill the vacancy. The interview process would be public if the board decides to go that route. No action taken.

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. CAPITAL UPDATE – *(Mr. Mark Garrett, Superintendent)*

Superintendent Mark R. Garrett provided the board with status updates on the construction and facility projects currently underway or planned in the near future:

- HCPS Projects:
 - Gymnasium HVAC - EHHS - In Progress
 - Gymnasium HVAC - NHHS - Completed

- Gymnasium HVAC - WHHS - In Progress
- MRTS:
 - HVAC Replacement (Phase 1) - Atkinson - In Progress
 - New Front Office & Building Connection - West Henderson - In Progress

No action was taken.

B. ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT – (Dr. Shannon Marlowe, Assistant Superintendent)

Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Dr. Shannon Marlowe updated the board on the 2023-2024 state accountability results released last week. Dr. stated that 17 of 23 schools met or exceeded growth targets (17 of 23 last year), 9 Schools Exceeded Growth (6 schools last year):

- Bruce Drysdale Elementary +3.44
- Hendersonville Elementary +3.74
- Mills River Elementary +2.79
- Upward Elementary +2.16
- Flat Rock Middle School +2.03
- *Hendersonville High School +3.26
- *North Henderson High School +9.57
- *West Henderson High School +2.80
- *Early College High School +4.04

*Exceeded last year as well

The General Assembly requires districts to assign grades to schools. The formula used to determine the school grade is 80% proficiency and 20% growth.

HCPS:	A	B	C	D
2023-2024	1	8	7	6
2023-2022	1	9	6	6

- 1 - A
- 8 - B
- 7 - C
- 6 - D
- Elementary School Grades
 - B: Atkinson; Hendersonville Elementary; Glenn C. Marlow; Mills River
 - C: Bruce Drysdale; Clear Creek; Etowah; Fletcher; Sugarloaf
 - D: Dana; Edneyville; Hillandale; Upward
- Middle School Grades
 - B: Rugby
 - C: Hendersonville Middle
 - D: Apple Valley; Flat Rock
- High School Grades
 - A: Early College
 - B: Hendersonville High; North Henderson; West Henderson
 - C: East Henderson

Maintaining = The Career Academy

Dr. Marlowe shared the overall proficiency for Western North Carolina districts, Henderson County is ranked 30th in the state based on proficiency, which is an increase from last year. Dr. Marlowe shared the 4 year cohort graduation rate.

4 Year Cohort Graduation Rate

	2023-24	2022-23
Henderson County Early College	100.0%	100.0%
West Henderson High School	94.4%	93.5%
North Henderson High School	93.2%	89.2%
Hendersonville High School	93.1%	96.6%
Henderson County Public Schools	92.8%	90.3%
East Henderson High School	89.6%	82.6%
Career Academy	87.8%	88.0%

The following schools are designated as Targeted School Improvement (TSI): Dana, Edneyville, Apple Valley Middle, Flat Rock Middle, Hendersonville Middle, Rugby Middle, East Henderson High, North Henderson High School. Hillandale Elementary is no longer a TSI school. The following schools are designated as Low Performing Schools: Dana, Edneyville, Hillandale and Apple Valley Middle. Upward Elementary and Flat Rock Middle are no longer low performing schools. Dr. Marlowe answered questions from the Board. No action was taken.

C. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – (Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer)

Chief Finance Officer Bernie Sochia presented the financial statements. Results of operations of the Local Current Expense and Other Restricted Funds for the 2024-25 fiscal year as of August 31, 2024: Revenues received totaled \$7,226,281 and expenditures made totaled \$5,508,267. Relative to last year, revenues and expenditures are \$415,788 and \$517,482 higher respectively. No action was taken.

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

Superintendent Mark Garrett shared the following upcoming events and dates:

- September: Attendance Awareness Month
- September 12: Superintendent Teacher Advisory Council meeting, 3:30 p.m. & Superintendent Parent Advisory Council meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- September 15-October 15: National Hispanic Heritage Month
- September 16-October 4: Intersession break for Flex calendar
- October: National School Principal Month & National Physical Therapy Month
- October 2: National Custodial Workers Recognition Day
- October 9: HCBPE School Tours, 10:00 a.m. at Bruce Drysdale Elementary, Mills River Elementary and Flat Rock Middle School
- October 10: World Mental Health Day
- October 14: Annual HCEF Golf Classic, Champion Hills
- October 14-18: National School Lunch Week
- October 15: HCBPE Regular Business Meeting, 4:00 pm; Closed Session, 3:00pm
- October 14: Optional Teacher Workday, No school for students on Traditional & Early College Calendar
- October 15: Required Teacher Workday (District PD), No school for students on Traditional & Early College Calendar
- October 21-27: NC Countdown to College! College Application Week

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Blair Craven moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Stacey Caskey seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved at 6:46 p.m.)*

Minutes approved: October 15, 2024