

Henderson County Board of Public Education

MINUTES

June 13, 2022

The Henderson County Board of Public Education met in a regular business meeting on June 13, 2022 in the Boardroom of the Administrative Offices located at 414 Fourth Avenue West, Hendersonville, N.C.

Board Members Present: Mr. Blair Craven, Chairperson; Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt, Vice Chairperson; Mr. Robert Bridges; Ms. Dot Case; Mrs. Stacey Caskey; Mr. Jay Egolf. Virtually; Dr. Kathy Revis.

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. John Bryant, Superintendent; Dr. Wendy Frye, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Mr. Scott Rhodes, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Mr. Carl Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer; and Mr. Bernie Sochia, Chief Finance Officer

Attorney Present: None

Board Clerk: Mrs. Sharon Walker

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Blair Craven called the meeting to order at approximately 4 p.m. Mr. Craven led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Blair Craven amended the meeting agenda to include; AA. – Protocols for Approving Surveys. Mr. Craven asked for a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Mr. Blair Craven moved that the agenda be approved as amended. Seconded by Amy Lynn Holt. *(Unanimously approved.)*

RECOGNITIONS

Superintendent Dr. John Bryant led the school board in celebrating HCPS School Nutrition Director, Robert Rolfe, for being named the 2022 National Director of the Year by the School Nutrition Association.

Peggy Marshall, HCEF Executive Director, presented Dr. Bryant with a crystal award thanking him for his years of leadership and devotion in service to HCEF and HCPS.

Board Chair Blair Craven presented Dr. Bryant with a memory book with words of appreciation written by the HCPS Family.

BOARD CHAIR OBSERVATION

NONE

BOARD MEMBERS OBSERVATION

Mrs. Stacey Caskey thanked Dr. Bryant for his leadership based on courage and the safety of students.

Ms. Dot Case praised a student who was chosen to play drums at D-Day.

Dr. Kathy Revis thanked Dr. Bryant for always being respectful no matter the issue, always putting children first and foremost.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Blair Craven noted twelve people signed to speak during public comments. Each person will have three minutes to speak. Public comment started at 4:24 pm and ended at 4:45 pm. The breakdown of topics during public comment are as follows: nine concerning Muddy Sneakers survey, one LGBTQ pride month, one African American Parent Alliance, and one thanks and farewell to Superintendent Bryant.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Meeting Schedule

1. HCBPE Special Called Business Meeting (*End of Year Matters*) [Thursday, June 30, 2022, 9:00 a.m., (Boardroom) (Closed Session 8:30 a.m.)]
2. HCBPE Regular Business Meeting [Monday, August 8, 2022, 3:00 p.m., (Boardroom) (Closed Session 3:00 p.m.)]

HCBPE Administrator Visit (*Wednesday, August 10, 2022, 12:00 p.m., Blue Ridge Community College*)

B. Minutes

May 9, 2022 (*Regular Business Meeting*)

May 19, 2022 (*Special Called Meeting*)

C. Personnel (*as presented in closed session*)

D. Student Acceptances/Releases (*as presented in closed session*)

E. Budget Amendment

Amy Lynn Holt made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and amended. Blair Craven seconded the motion. (*Unanimously approved.*)

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

AA. Protocols for Approving Surveys

Mr. Craven noted that the policy on surveys is well spelled out. More guidelines need to be put in place. Dr. Bryant noted that every survey is required to be approved by the administration. Dr. Bryant noted that it is critical to have training for all staff to know that every survey is required to be approved by the administration. The surveys would also be available to all parents and community members for complete transparency. Staff should see the signature of the superintendent on the survey to know that it has been approved. Dr. Bryant asked for the Board's direction and support to draft some tangible and fail safes that can be presented to the board publicly. Mrs. Holt stated that we need to have a contract or MOU with every single organization that we partner with. Mrs. Holt asked the administration to make the language clear and filter it down to the schools. Mr. Craven asked that the leadership team and attorneys worked together to add this language to all contracts with the organizations that are associated with our schools. Mr. Craven asked to have a draft of this language by the August board meeting.

A. Approval – Current Face Covering Guidance and Policy – (*Dr. John M. Bryant*)

Dr. John Bryant presented the current face covering guidance. Action is required on whether to maintain or amend the Board's current face covering policy as required by S.L. 2021-130. Currently, as of February 14, 2022, face coverings are optional for all students, staff, and visitors when indoors in all settings [PreK - G12] and in all school system locations. As of February 25, 2022, face coverings are optional while traveling on buses or other group transportation settings.

Mr. Blair Craven moved that Henderson County Public Education approve the current face covering guidance and policy. Seconded by Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt. (*Unanimously approved*) last month of the requirement.

B. Approval – Resolution Authorizing the Chairman to Execute Contracts and Options for the Acquisition of Property and Memoranda Thereof. – (*Dr. John M. Bryant, Superintendent*) Dr. Bryant presented the resolution to enable the Chairman and Superintendent to execute options on property so that the Board can discuss purchase at a regularly scheduled meeting without the need to call emergency meetings when a unique opportunity becomes available. Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt moved that Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the Resolution Authorizing the Chairman to Execute Contracts and Options for the Acquisition of Property and Memoranda Thereof, seconded by Mrs. Stacey Caskey. (*Unanimously approved.*)

C. Approval – Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AIG) – (*Dr. Wendy Frye*)

Dr. Frye noted that North Carolina has governed gifted education since 1961. In 1996, new legislation for gifted education was passed which provides a state definition for AIG students and mandates identification and services for K-12 gifted education. This new legislation requires LEAs to develop three-year AIG plans to be approved by the local school board and subsequently sent to DPI. In July 2009, the State Board adopted six AIG standards with sets of practices that clarify the standard, describe what an LEA should have, and guide LEAs to improve their programs. All standards and practices were addressed in this AIG plan.

During the 2021-22 school year, stakeholders met and revised the plan for 2022-2025 that follows state legislation while also meeting the needs of local students. Each of the 45 practices in the AIG plan is addressed through an explanation of what is currently done in Henderson County and what is planned for during the next three-year span.

Some highlights of the plan include:

- Updating the pathways to identification. This will allow students more opportunities to be identified.

- The continuation and strengthening of the nurturing program in the K-8 grades, especially looking at individual school demographics.
- Continued support in STEM and STEAM-based opportunities at all schools.
- Revising the AIG Google Classroom for classroom teachers.

The AIG Program Standards help ensure that the needs of AIG students are met and the potential of AIG students is developed. The 2022-2025 plan is designed to work within Henderson County's instructional framework while meeting the needs of our local students.

Mr. Robert Bridges moved that Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the Academically and Intellectually gifted Plan as presented. Seconded by Mr. Jay Egolf. *(Unanimously approved.)*

D. Approval – Career and Technical Education Annual Performance Plan – *(Dr. Wendy Frye)*

Dr. Frye noted that with the adoption of the Perkins V federal legislation, districts are obligated to conduct a Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) every two years in order to inform the CTE Local Application for the upcoming biennium. Our CLNA process was conducted during the 2021-22 school year. This process involved CTE staff gathering feedback from a variety of stakeholders to determine the effectiveness of our CTE programming in six major areas:

- Student Performance
- Labor Market Alignment
- Program Size, Scope, and Quality
- Progress Toward Implementing Career Pathway Programs of Study
- Recruitment, Retention, and Training of CTE Teachers

Using information from the CLNA process, the CTE Local Application for the 2022-2023 school year was created. Some highlights of this plan include:

- A systematic approach to every 6th grader in the district completing a career interest inventory through Virtual Job Shadow.
- A focused effort to increase communication about the myriad work-based learning opportunities available to our students
- An intentional and focused effort to increase the number of students earning post-secondary workplace credentials.
- A focused attempt to return to pre-pandemic proficiency levels in Math
- An intentional effort to increase Non-Traditional enrollments within our CTE programs
- A redoubled effort to recruit CTE teachers more reflective of our student body.

This application reflected the data analyzed and needs assessed in Henderson County Public Schools, leading our graduates to being more prepared and informed as they enter the workforce or postsecondary education.

Mrs. Stacey Caskey moved that Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the Career and Technical Education Annual Performance Plan as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt. *(Unanimously approved.)*

E. Approval – Lego Education Sole Source Purchase with Federal Funds – *(Dr. Wendy Frye)*

Dr. Frye noted (\$63,400) Sole source request for our Summer Bridge program. We are requesting to use PRC 176, ESSER funds specifically designated for Summer Bridge programs, to purchase from Lego Education, a robotics kit called LEGO Education Spike Prime Set. This resource uses LEGO bricks, a programmable, multi-port Hub, and coding language based on Scratch and STEAM learning units. Rising 6th and 9th grade students.

Dr. Frye noted that our goal is to use these to engage students regardless of their learning level in thinking critically, analyzing data and solving complex problems with real-world relevance.

- One kit for every two students
- Reusable at schools after Summer Bridge

Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt moved that Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the Lego Education Sole Source Purchase with Federal Funds as presented. Mrs. Stacey Caskey seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.)*

F. Approval – Inter-Unit Student Transfer Agreements– *(Mr. Carl Taylor)*

Mr. Taylor noted the agreements between Henderson County Public Schools Board of Public Education and Polk County Board of Education and the Rutherford County Board of Education are the same as in previous years under which both

parties have cooperated for years.

Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt moved that Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the Request for Board Action Shared Use Agreement between Henderson County Public Schools and Henderson County as presented. Mr. Robert Bridges seconded the motion. *(Unanimously approved.) Rutherford and Polk*

G. Approval – 2022-2023 Revised Flex Calendar – *(Mr. Carl Taylor)*

Mr. Taylor presented the proposed revised 2022 – 2023 Flex calendar for HCPS students includes the following changes:

- January 2, 2023 from a required teacher workday to a student day.
- March 21, 2023 from a student day to an optional teacher workday.
- March 22, 2023 from a student day to a required teacher workday.

Amy Lynn Holt moved that Henderson County of Public Education approve the 2022-2023 Revised Flex Calendar. Seconded by Mr. Jay Egolf. *(Unanimously approved.)*

H. Approval – Contracts Over \$90,000 – *(Mr. Bernie Sochia)*

Mr. Sochia noted that pursuant to board policy 6420, Contracts with the Board, any contract in excess of \$90,000 must be approved by the Board. The following is a list of contracts for approval of execution:

- Helping Hand Developmental Day Center
- CDW-G
- Clarity
- Sharing the Warmth
- Bayada
- InkJet
- PCG

Mrs. Stacey Caskey made motion that the Henderson County Board approve the contracts with the certified vendors. Seconded by Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt. *(Unanimously approved.)*

I. Approval – 2022-2023 Child Nutrition Meal Prices – *(Mr. Robert Rolfe, Child Nutrition Director)*

Mr. Rolfe noted that due to upcoming changes in the school meal reimbursement by USDA, he is requesting a meal price increase for the school year 2022-23. We have benefited from universal free meals under special waivers from USDA for the past two (2) years. These waivers will expire June 30th, 2022 (barring any last-minute legislation). We do not know what the meal reimbursement rate will be for the fiscal year 22-23. We do anticipate it will be lower than the current rates of 2.605 for Breakfast and 4.5625 for lunch. The two largest expense categories for our program have increased significantly over the past 2 years with food increasing from \$2,597,346 to \$3,315,403 up 28%. Labor has increased from \$3,034,117 to \$3,339,641 up 10% with an additional 7.5% increase forecast for the coming year. These numbers are to the end of May and do not reflect the addition of June expenses. The meal plate cost report for the year-to-date end of May is attached. Breakfast cost is \$1.72 and Lunch cost is \$3.44. Mr. Rolfe noted that these costs will edge up with the addition of June expenses. It is apparent that in order to maintain a viable School Nutrition program in Henderson County we will need to raise prices to cover these expenses. Mr. Rolfe therefore recommended a price increase for Breakfast to \$1.75 and an increase in lunch prices as follow; \$3.50 K-5, \$3.75 6-12 and \$4.00 for the Mega Meal. Mr. Rolfe thanked the Board for their consideration of this matter.

Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt moved that Henderson County Board of Public Education approve the 2022-2023 Child nutrition meal Prices. Seconded by Mrs. Stacey Caskey. *(Unanimously approved.)*

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

A. RETURN TO LEARN

Dr. John Bryant presented the Return to Learn update:

- Plans will continue to be fluid models and contingent on local health data.
- We will continue to work in close coordination with the Henderson County Department of Public Health and local partner agencies.

- We will respond to questions, concerns, and updated direction from NCDPI, NCDHHS, and other state governing bodies.
- We will continue meeting the instructional obligation to all students every day.

B. ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF (ESSER)

Dr. John Bryant presented the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) update.

Highlighted Allocations to Date:

- HB82 Legislated Summer Learning
- 2021-2022 Retention Bonus to All HCPS Employees to be paid in February 2022 [\$2000/\$1000]
- Additional School Nurse Positions [5]
- MTSS TAs (formerly quarantine TAs) [23]
- Bus Driver Overtime Pay
- Substitute teacher and bus driver incentive pay
- Phase 1 of 3 for Chromebook replacement

Proposed Future Allocations:

- Additional support personnel
- Future retention bonuses
- Technology upgrades
- Classroom instructional technology replacement

C. CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Mr. Carl Taylor presented the construction update.

Project Updates:

- Paving On Going
- Roof Replacement On Going
- Board of Education Auditorium Seating Completed
- HCPS Warehouse Construct Building
- HCPS Video Management Install Cabling in Progress
- East High and West High Auditoriums
- East Henderson Stadium (ADA)

Mr. Taylor noted that architects are in place for the new Bus Garage and West Henderson renovation and addition.

D. EQUITY UPDATE

Dr. Wendy Frye presented the Equity Update.

Goals for 2022 Summer Learning Program:

- Expand opportunities for students; Summer Bridge and Career Accelerator
- Increase Community Partnerships; Add additional community partnerships/activities; Intentional communication with parents regarding activities and grade level standards
- Shortened school day for students (8:00-3:00)

Summer Learning Update:

Community Partners

2021 partners: 20

2022 partners: 42

Field Trips and School Site Learning Activities

2021 opportunities completed 133

2022 opportunities planned 240

E. CHILD CARE SERVICES UPDATE

Mr. Scott Rhodes presented the Child Care Services update.

Financial Projections for May 2022:

- Revenues: \$115,716.00
- Expenses: \$77,801.73
- FY Operational Profit/(Loss): \$37,914.27

F. FINANCIAL STATEMENT– LOCAL CURRENT EXPENSE/OTHER RESTRICTED FUNDS *(as of May 31, 2022)*

Mr. Bernie Sochia reported Results of operations of the Local Current Expense and Other Restricted Funds for the 2021-22 fiscal year as of May 31, 2022: Revenues received total \$32,313,158 and expenditures made total \$25,880,424. 98% of budgeted revenues have been received with the balance in potential Fines and Forfeitures, ABC revenues, and Medicaid

reimbursements remaining. Expenditures remain up \$2.5 million from this point point last year. Mr. Sochia noted as a reminder, June will see the second half of the local supplement which will be approximately \$4 million including FICA and retirement costs.

G. GENERAL OPERATIONS

Superintendent John Bryant thanked the board for the kind words and support that they have provided to him. Dr. Bryant stated that it has been an honor and privilege to work with each and every one of you.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mrs. Amy Lynn Holt moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Mr. Jay Egolf.
(Unanimously approved at 6:50 pm.)

Minutes approved: August 8, 2022