



Better together.

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Our Mission

Ensuring Success for EACH Student

Our Vision

Building a Culture of Personalized Learning

Our Belief

All Learners will Excel in an Environment Centered on RIGOR, RELEVANCE and RELATIONSHIPS



HCS BOARD OF EDUCATION MONTHLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Vol. 1, No. 8 - August 13, 2018

Henry Celebrates!

Welcome back to school for the 2018-19 school year! It is great to have everyone back, including the nearly 42,000 students ready to learn from the many teaching talents that exist across our dynamic district employees.



This month's meeting started with a welcome from Superintendent Davis in which she took the opportunity to share her enthusiasm for the start experienced so far by our school community members. There was recognition given to the many people responsible for ensuring the smooth start to the year. The grand collective efforts of administrators, facilities and maintenance staff, teachers, support staff and everyone in between provided a great introduction for many students while providing a re-introduction to our returning families. Superintendent Davis also detailed the many interactions with board members and families during Open House and the First Day of School. To illustrate this, a video of inspiration from the board was shared with the audience. [Click here view the video.](#)

Milestones Report

Melissa Morse, Chief Learning & Performance Officer, and Aaryn Schmuhl, Chief Leadership Officer, presented the 2018 Georgia Milestones results along with the steps the district is taking to improve results moving forward.

This district's performance on the Georgia Milestones has fallen below state averages with regards to proficient and above levels resulting in a strong sense of action and response by the district leadership team. The team has laid out a plan that includes clarifying:

- What we teach and what students learn
- How we teach and how students learn through a personalized learning model
- How we know students are learning
- District resources available for teachers and students

The Henry Teaching and Learning Standards, accompanying Henry Learning Progressions, and a strong emphasis on literacy are just a few of the major components to have been rolled out so far as a part of the overall plan.

[Click here for a detailed report on the GA Milestones data for Henry County Schools.](#)

The Board Shares Core Beliefs & Commitments


Over the past several months, the Board-Superintendent Governance Team has been working toward defining the Governance Model for Henry County Schools. This process began with a meeting June 4-5 at which members began the process of establishing their core beliefs and commitments. This work included the concept behind this process and why the core beliefs and commitments were so important, as well as looking at several examples of high-functioning boards and high-performing districts from around the country.

The board announced their core beliefs and commitments during the August Business Session after establishing them during a previous meeting in July:

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These HCS core beliefs and commitments were established on July 10, 2018.

- 1 Core Belief** | We believe each student can learn at or above grade level and will have an equal opportunity to do so.
Commitment | Each student will learn at or above grade level and have an equal opportunity to do so.
- 2 Core Belief** | We believe family and community involvement is critical to student success.
Commitment | We will foster connections for families and community to support student learning.
- 3 Core Belief** | We believe all learning environments should be supportive, safe, and secure.
Commitment | All school environments will be supportive, safe, and secure.
- 4 Core Belief** | We believe effective teachers and leaders produce excellent results.
Commitment | We will recruit, support, retain, and recognize results-driven teachers and leaders.

 **HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS**
HCS BOARD OF EDUCATION

The process for defining a Governance Model starts with the board's clarity and articulation of core beliefs and commitments. This work is followed by:

- Identifying aligned student performance metrics (prior to the district leadership developing its strategic plan for the coming years)
- Facilitating a comprehensive Strategic Planning process to determine the plans necessary to accomplish the student performance metrics set out by the Board of Education
- Finally aligning the core beliefs and commitments, student performance goals, a strategic plan to achieve those goals, and an agreed upon governance framework that solidifies roles of both the board and the superintendent to pursue unprecedented student achievement.

Safety & Security

There has been much discussion since the first part of February in response to the tragic mass shootings on school campuses nationwide. Safety has been at the forefront of most every conversation concerning schools and keeping kids as safe possible. There were multiple meetings held locally to gauge the public's interest throughout this re-evaluation process around safety and security. (continued)



Safety & Security (continued)

Of note, some of the safety and security items shared and developed are free for the district to implement. Things like locking doors, wearing name badges, addressing individuals who do not have a name badge, and various trainings are just a few items that the district is undertaking at the moment. These items fall under the first phase of security and safety updates for Henry County Schools.

There are some investments that have been made and need to be made to raise the level of security and safety for all members of the Henry County Schools community. There was a solid partnership established with the county sheriff's office and HCS to ensure that we would have a 1-to-1 ratio of law enforcement officials for all secondary schools. Henry County Schools funds five of the seven new school resource officer positions for this year.

The greatest enhancement and investment that was ultimately approved through the vote on allocation of E-SPLOST IV funds was the modification of our high schools to utilize a single-point entryway. All safety and security measures suggested by the operations division and superintendent's offices will be covered over the coming year.

Leadership Appointments

Name	New Position/Location	Former Position/Location
Darius Freeman	<u>Assistant Principal</u> Union Grove High School	<u>Assistant Principal</u> Heritage High School (Rockdale Co.)
Kelli Smith	<u>Assistant Principal</u> Union Grove High School	<u>Online Education Facilitator/AD</u> Union Grove High School

Awards and Recognition for Teachers and Staff



Awards and Recognition (continued)



FBLA - Stockbridge H.S.



FBLA - Union Grove H.S.



Nat'l. History Day - H.C.M.S.



Nat'l. History Day - Impact Acad.



Communities in Schools



Raise Me Up Foundation



Operation Lunchbox



GACTE - Ga. United Credit Union

BOARD MEMBER REMARKS



District 1 - Dr. Pam Nutt

- As a part of the Back-to-School visits board members were able to take during the first week of school, Dr. Nutt recalled her visit to play volleyball with the Henry County HS girls' team. She celebrated the many talents of the Lady Warhawks' after sharing her appreciation for them allowing her and Superintendent Davis to participate in their practice.
- She also got to attend the farewell tour of Henry County HS and encouraged alumni to attend homecoming this year as it is the final year of Henry County High School and the school utilizing the current facility. She shared how lucky she was to sign the final piece of steel for the new McDonough High School.



District 2 - Mr. Josh Hinton

- Mr. Hinton closed the meeting by sharing that Wellstar Medical's Morrow office gave 250 free sports physicals to start the year.
- It was also shared that Ms. Lazarus, Algebra I and Analytic Geometry teacher at Dutchtown Middle School, ranked #1 in GA with the highest Analytic Geometry EOC scores (80% distinguished).
- Mr. Hinton detailed that Hampton Elementary Charter School was selected to present at the Georgia STEM/STEAM Forum in Athens October 22nd and 23rd. The school will share the authentic learning experience where all students, Pre-K through grade 5, plant vegetables in their raised garden beds during their STEAM Class, research the history and recipes for using their vegetable during their Media Center class, and build a website sharing their research during their Computer Lab Class.
- Athletic Director Curt Miller was also recognized for his appointment to the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Associations Coaches Education Committee.



District 3 - Mrs. Holly Cobb

- Ms. Cobb congratulated everyone on a successful opening to the school year. She shared information about her visit to Timber Ridge Elementary and the no-cost security features she is already noticing in the district. She shared that her visit to schools on the first week were a bit of a surprise as she saw high levels of learning taking place like one might find in the middle of the school year.
- Ms. Cobb also discussed a special moment at Tussahaw Elementary pertaining to a student and counselor supporting each other through medical treatment for cancer.



District 4 - Dr. Donna McBride

- Dr. McBride gave kudos to Eagle's Landing Middle School and the Academy for Advanced Studies for an exceptional open house. She noted the excitement and hard work of the teachers and students.
- Kudos were also given to Mrs. Morse for her department's work in guiding/leading learning. She rounded out her highlights by congratulating the students who earned recognition this evening.



District 5 - Mrs. Annette Edwards

- Ms. Edwards thanked everyone for attending. She was impressed by many schools on her visits during the first week of school. She notes that teachers and students were doing a great job. She wants people to get behind the district in support of an excellent year. She welcomed all students back.



Superintendent - Mary Elizabeth Davis

- Supt. Davis thanked everyone for the opening to the school year and inspiration they provide as she has seen them in action all across the district. She talked about how this is the best time of year and what all that goes into making it the best time for students and families.
- She acknowledged that there is work to do to increase student achievement levels, but now is an exciting time for everyone to be a part of the work. She gave high praise to the board members for the work they have taken on to establish a high-functioning board-superintendent governance team in order to ensure a high-performing district.